



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
2008 TRIMESTER 1/2**

**INTP 443: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
CRN 13563**

LECTURER: Dr Robert Deuchars
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LECTURE TIMES: THURSDAY 10 - 12 NOON
VENUE MURPHY BUILDING (MY) 103
OFFICE HOURS: will be announced at the first lecture. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in lectures and posted on the Department's notice board.

COURSE AIMS

The purpose of this course is to explore problems of knowledge in International Relations Theory. Students taking this course will be exposed to the underlying philosophical issues surrounding the major and minor theories that attempt to describe, explain and prescribe in policy terms world politics, as they are currently understood. Much of world politics depends upon what we think we know about the objects and processes of our analyses. We will study competing interpretations of issues such as war, political resistance, liberal individualism, propaganda and free markets. Students taking this course will gain a deeper and better appreciation of the complexities underpinning contemporary thinking about International Relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to provide students with an advanced understanding of the epistemology and ontology of International Relations Theory and to enable them to comprehend and articulate contemporary and historical debates regarding the use and abuse of theory within the discipline.

COURSE CONTENT

As there is no textbook for the course, readings will be distributed to the class each week during the first trimester. In the following week all students in class will conduct a discussion/debate centred on the readings. In the second trimester each student will present their research proposal and the class will discuss it. The presentations should be between 30 and 40 minutes in length, and students can expect to answer questions from their colleagues at the end of their presentation. Students may prepare a written summary of their presentation for distribution to the rest of the class. Students are encouraged to come and see me prior to their presentation to discuss their chosen topic, and any questions that they may have about it.

COURSE READING

Preliminary Readings:

Michel Foucault (1980) *Power/Knowledge*, New York, Pantheon Books.

Mary Poovey (1998) *A History of the Modern Fact*, Chicago and London, University of Chicago Press.

Peter L. Berger and Thomas Luckmann (1967) *The social construction of reality: a treatise on the sociology of knowledge*, Harmondsworth, Penguin.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1996) *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Gilles Deleuze (1986), *Nietzsche and Philosophy*, New York, Columbia University Press.

Recommended Reading:

Stephen Toulmin (1990), *Cosmopolis*, New York, Free Press.

Derek Sayer (1991), *Capitalism and modernity: an excursus on Marx and Weber*
London and New York, Routledge.

Graham Burchell et al, (1991), *The Foucault Effect: studies in governmental rationality*, Hemel Hempstead, Harvester Wheatsheaf.

Andrew Barry, Thomas Osborne and Nikolas Rose (eds.) (1996), *Foucault and Political Reason: Liberalism, Neo-Liberalism and Rationalities of Government*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Lewis Carroll (1971), *Alice's adventures in Wonderland; and, Through the looking-glass and what Alice found there*, London and New York, Oxford University Press.

Noam Chomsky (1989), *Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies*, London, Pluto Press.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1998) *Twilight of the Idols*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Friedrich Nietzsche (2001), *The Gay Science*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1958), *The Blue and Brown Books*, New York Harper & Row.

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1953), *Philosophical Investigations*, Oxford, Blackwell.

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1969), *On Certainty*, Oxford, Blackwell.

Umberto Eco (1986), *Travels in Hyper Reality*, San Diego, New York, London, Harcourt Brace.

Ken Booth and Steve Smith (1995), *International Relations Theory Today*, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania University Press.

Scott Burchill and Andrew Linklater (1996), *Theories of International Relations*, New York, St. Martin's Press.

Nelson Goodman (1973), *Fact, Fiction and Forecast*, Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill.

Auguste Comte (1875), *The Positive Philosophy*, London, Trubner.

Jürgen Habermas (1990), *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*, Cambridge, Mass., MIT Press.

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno (1997), *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, New York, Continuum.

Felipe Fernández-Armesto (1997), *Truth: A History and a Guide for the Perplexed*, London, Black Swan.

Jonathan Dancy (1985), *Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology*, Oxford, Blackwell.

Andrew B. Scheodinger (ed.) (1991), *Introduction to Metaphysics: The Fundamental Questions*, New York, Prometheus Books.

Immanuel Kant [1781] (1956), *Critique of Pure Reason*, London, J.M. Dent

Jonathan Potter (1996), *Representing reality: discourse, rhetoric and social construction*, London, Sage.

Dominique Lecourt (1975) *Marxism and epistemology: Bachelard, Canguilhem and Foucault*, London, NLB.

Ludwik Fleck (1979), *Genesis and development of a scientific fact*, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Georges Canguilhem (1991), *The Normal and the Pathological*, New York, Zone Books.

Herbert Marcuse (1987), *Hegel's ontology and the theory of historicity*, Cambridge Mass., MIT Press.

G.W.F. Hegel [1837] (1953), *Reason in History*, Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill.

Shirley R. Pike (1986), *Marxism and Phenomenology*, London, Croom Helm.

Herbert Spiegelberg (1994), *The Phenomenological Movement*, Dordrecht, Boston, London, Kluwer Academic Publishers.

John Locke (1959), *An essay concerning human understanding*, New York, Dover Publications

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays)

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays.

Phone: 463 5515

ASSESSMENT

Research essay (60%)

Final examination (40%) (3 hours, closed book). In trimester 2 2008, the final examination will be scheduled during the examination period 13 October - 9 November 2008.

Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

The research essay and exam are designed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the subject matter, their ability to conduct independent research, and their skills in written presentation. The assessment will allow them to identify how well they understand the theoretical literature and the strengths and weaknesses of their analyses of international politics.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- b) Attend all seminars, unless specific arrangements are made, with the agreement of the course co-ordinator

Students will be required to contribute to class discussions throughout the first part of the course, and present short summaries of the required readings. This participation will not be graded, nor will it count towards the final grade, but is none the less considered an integral part of the course, and students cannot expect to make satisfactory progress in the course without participating. Satisfactory attendance at the weekly seminars is a terms requirement in all honours papers.

- c) The research essays should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words in length. You are required to submit **two** copies of your essay. The research essay will constitute 60% of the student's final grade. The exam will constitute 40% of the grade. You are also required to attach the Programme's 'Assignment Cover Sheet' to your essay.

There is a uniform deadline for the final submission of all written in-term work (including research papers) for honours courses. Students are advised that this deadline will be firmly adhered to; extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, under the conditions stipulated in Victoria University's aegrotat regulations. Extensions must be approved by the Honours Coordinator (Professor Stephen Levine) in advance of the deadline. In 2008 the deadline will be 5 p.m. on **Monday, 6 October**. Work not submitted by this deadline will not be taken into consideration when determining final results.

Possible Research Topics:

Free will vs. determinism
 Positivism vs. post-positivism
 The constructivist challenge in IR theory
 The postmodernist challenge in IR theory
 Multiple modernities?
 Realism vs. Idealism
 Feminist International Relations
 Poststructuralism and IR theory
 Critical Realism in IR Theory
 Marxism and phenomenology
 Nietzsche, Foucault and IR theory
 Rationality and Reasonableness
 Agency-Structure Debate in IR theory
 Environmentalism in IR theory
 Kant, Enlightenment and IR theory
 Christianity and Liberalism
 The Role of Narrative in IR theory

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 18 hours per week to the course. This includes contact hours.

AEGROTATS

Please note that under the revised Examination Statute (Sections 6-10) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of **second** trimester courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 15 September**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Examination Statute 6-10 for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

INTP 443: International Relations Theory

Provisional Seminar Outline 2008

6 March	Course Introduction
13 March	Knowledge and World Affairs What is the world, how do we know the world, who are we to know the world?
20 March	World Affairs Narratives What are world affairs narratives? Are they important for IR theory?
27 March	Epistemologies and IR theories Why is there no universal IR theory?
3 April	Truth Regimes Who gets to tell the “truth”?
10 April	Problems with Realism How “real” is realism?
14-27 April	<i>Easter / Mid-trimester Break</i>
1 May	Problems with Liberalism The illiberal world of the liberal?
8 May	Problems with Marxism Are there “laws” of history? and other sundry items concerning teleology
15 May	IR Constructivism “Ideas All the Way Down”?
22 May	Post-Positivism, Postmodernism and other isms New directions in IR theory: Problems and Prospects
29 May	IR theory versus the Future Forget IR Theory? Or Forget “ <i>Forget IR Theory</i> ”?
2 June - 6 July	<i>Mid-Year Break</i>
10 July - 2 October	Individual Student Research Presentations
9 October	Course Overview and Summary
TBA	Final Exam
13 October	<i>End of Second Semester</i>