

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
Te Whare Wānanga o te Ūpoko o te Ika a Māui



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

Political Science and International Relations

2008, Trimesters 1 & 2
POLS 421

A Selected Topic in Political Sociology: Political Change

- Course Coordinator:** Professor Margaret Clark
Room 515, Murphy. Phone 463 5262
Email: margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz
- Timetable:** March - August, Friday 9-11 am
- Venue:** MY 404
Any additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on the noticeboard located outside Room MY 501.
- Aim:** The course will consider the ways in which political ideas relate to political action. We shall look at ways in which political systems seek to ensure their stability and their persistence, but also ways in which political systems change or collapse. Theories of group behaviour in the political arena will be discussed, and these discussions will necessarily be historical and cross-cultural. Students seeking to enrol should have a background in political sociology and/or comparative government.
- Preliminary Readings:** Alan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind* (New York, 1987).
Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, (New York 1996)
Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (New York, 2000)
Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton, 1993)
Leslie Lipson, *The Ethical Crises of Civilization*, (London, 1993)
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, (London, 1991)
John Ralston Saul, *Voltaire's Bastards*, (Toronto, 1992)
James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, (Yale, 1990)
Jeremy Paxman *The Political Animal* (Penguin, 2007)
- In-term work:** Research project and regular reports thereon.
- Assessment:** Research project 60%
Final Examination (3 hours) 40% (The final exam will be scheduled in the examination period, 13 October – 9 November).
In the research paper and the final examination students will be expected to demonstrate their grasp of the key theme of political change and collapse as expounded by the various authors studied in the course.

Work Guidelines:	The workload in this course conforms with the University guidelines on workloads.
Mandatory Course Requirements:	Satisfactory (i.e. 80%) attendance at course meetings. Submission of research paper — 5.00pm, Monday 6 October . Achieving minimum of 40% in final examination.
Research Project:	Approximately 10,000 words in total. Written research project proposals should be submitted by 30 May . Students are encouraged to discuss possible research projects with the course organiser before settling upon a topic. The research project must be submitted no later than 5.00pm, Monday 6 October .

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.

Conduct of the Course:

During the first trimester readings will be distributed each week, and each student will comment thereon in the following week's class. The final examination will be based on these common readings. In the second trimester each student will outline their proposed research paper and the class will discuss and give feedback.

Final 3 hour examination:

You should make yourself familiar with the University's rules about cases where illness, personal bereavement, or other exceptional circumstances prevent attendance or impair performance at an examination. These are set out in the University *Calendar*. Students who would benefit from special facilities at examination time because of medical or other reasons, should contact the Faculty's Examinations Officer in the FHSS office on Level Four, Murphy Building or a member of the Student Health or Counselling Services at 2-4 Wai-te-ata Road as soon as possible.

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