



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

**INTP 443: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

**CRN 13563**

**2009 TRIMESTER 1&2**

2 March to 15 November

**LECTURER:** Dr Robert Deuchars  
**ROOM:** MY 510  
**PHONE:** 463 5972  
**EMAIL:** Robert.Deuchars@vuw.ac.nz

**LECTURE TIMES:** MONDAY 11 - 12:50  
**VENUE** EASTERFIELD EA012  
**OFFICE HOURS:** will be announced at the first seminar. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

**Course Delivery**

This course is a conversation based seminar series. 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 in the week prior to presenting. 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.

**Communication of additional information**

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in seminars and posted on the Department's notice board. A voluntary class email list will also be set up.

**Learning 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. 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.

### **Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 9 hours per week to INTP 443. This includes 2 hour[s] of seminar-time per week.

### **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 (1996), *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Oxford, Oxford 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 [1690] (1959), *An essay concerning human understanding*, New York, Dover Publications

David Hume [1751] (1900) *An enquiry concerning the principles of morals*, Chicago, Open Court Publishing. Co.

Customers can order textbooks online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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 requirements**

Research essay (60%)

Final examination (40%) (3 hours, closed book). In trimester 2 2009, the final examination will be scheduled during the examination period 27 October - 14 November 2009.

An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

### **Return of assignments**

Research essays and exam scripts can be collected from the lecturer in accordance with standard University guidelines.

### **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 (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

### **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 mandatory course requirement.

- 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 2009 the deadline will be 5 p.m. on **Monday, 12 October**. Work not submitted by this deadline will not be taken into consideration when determining final results.

**Possible Research Topics:**

Free will vs. determinism	DeLanda, complexity and “the global social”
The constructivist challenge in IR theory	The postmodernist challenge in IR theory
Scale in International Relations Theory	Realism vs. Idealism
Feminist International Relations	Poststructuralism and IR theory
Critical Realism in IR Theory	Marxism and phenomenology
Nietzsche, Foucault and IR theory	Culture, contingency and connectivity
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	Deleuze and flat ontology

**Statement on the use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

**Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

This website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates.

## **Provisional Seminar Outline 2009**

<b>12 March</b>	<b>Course Introduction</b>
<b>19 March</b>	<b>Knowledge and World Affairs</b> What is the world, how do we know the world, who are we to know the world?
<b>26 March</b>	<b>World Affairs Narratives</b> What are world affairs narratives? Are they important for IR theory?
<b>2 April</b>	<b>Epistemologies and IR theories</b> Fifteen ways to tell the truth
<b>9 April</b>	<b>Truth Regimes</b> Who gets to tell the “truth”?

<b>13-26 April</b>	<b><i>Easter / Mid-trimester Break</i></b>
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<b>30 April</b>	<b>Problems with Realism</b> How “real” is realism?
<b>7 May</b>	<b>Problems with Liberalism</b> Liberalism in theory and in practice.
<b>14 May</b>	<b>Problems with Marxism</b> Are there “laws” in history?
<b>21 May</b>	<b>IR Constructivism</b> Is reality what we make of it?
<b>28 May</b>	<b>Post-Positivism, Postmodernism and other isms</b> New directions in IR theory: Problems and Prospects
<b>4 June</b>	<b>IR theory versus the Future</b> Forget IR Theory? Or Forget “ <i>Forget IR Theory</i> ”?

<b>8 June - 13 July</b>	<b><i>Mid-Year Break</i></b>
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<b>16 July - 15 October</b>	<b>Individual Student Research Presentations</b>
<b>8 October</b>	<b>Course Overview and Summary</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

<b>16 October</b>	<b><i>End of Second Semester</i></b>
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