

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

POLS 421

A Selected Topic in Political Sociology: Political Change

Trimesters 1 & 2

9 March to 15 November 2009

- Course Coordinator:** Professor Margaret Clark
Room 515, Murphy. Phone 463 5262
Email: margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz
- Timetable:** March - August, Monday 9-11 am
- Venue:** MY 402
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, 27 October.–14 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 12 October . Achieving minimum of 40% in final examination.
Research Project:	Approximately 10,000 words in total. Written research project proposals should be submitted by 29 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 12 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 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.

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.

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.