



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

Political Science and International Relations Programme

INTP249: Culture and International Relations

2009 TRIMESTER 2

13 July to 16 October 2009

LECTURER: Dr Robert Deuchars
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LECTURE TIMES: Tues, Fri 11-11:50 + 1 Weekly Tutorial
VENUE EA 206

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays, 11-12. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in seminars.

Course Delivery

The course will comprise bi-weekly lectures and one tutorial.

The exam will be held during the “examination period”, 27th October to 14th November.

PLEASE NOTE: TUTORIALS WILL COMMENCE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF TERM

Communication of additional information

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in tutorials.

Course content

This course will introduce students to the cultural dimension of world affairs. Its primary focus will be on Rationalism as the dominant ideology of western modernity, cast as a cultural and ongoing project. Within this cultural project and context, the course will cover theoretical and practical issues related to the way cultural practices affect a range of issues, from the constructed nature of the states-system itself, liberal capitalism and the individualist sense of self that modernity as a cultural project promotes. Students will also be exposed to counter-currents in modernity in the form of politico-cultural resistance to hegemonic forms of discourse and practices.

Learning objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive introductory understanding of the interaction between culture and contemporary international relations.

Graduate attributes

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

As with all POLS and INTP courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and leadership. Please consult the Programme Prospectus 2009, p. 10, for more details or on our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/pols/>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to this course. This includes 2 hour[s] of lectures per week.

Readings

Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Assessment requirements

Essays: Two essays each worth **25%** (Word limit not to exceed 2,500). Detail of essay topics will be given in lectures. The essays are for you to develop your analytical capabilities and your research skills at greater length/time. A list of topics will be provided early in the course but you can also choose your own topics in consultation with the course co-ordinator. No late submissions will be accepted unless approved by the course co-ordinator. You are also required to attach the Programme's 'Assignment Cover Sheet' to your essays.

1st essay due **11th August**. 2nd essay due **25th September**.

Final examination (**50%**) (3 hours, closed book), The exam will be held during the exam period, 27th October to 14th November. The exact date and location will be announced nearer the time.

Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

The essays 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 culture and international politics.

Return of assignments

All assignments will be returned in lectures.

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)

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>

The AVC (Academic) 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. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/Publications.aspx>

Outline of Lecture Topics and Readings

Introduction (Week 1: 14 July)

*Ernest Gellner (1992), *Reason and Culture: The Historic Role of Rationality and Rationalism*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.1-29

What does culture have to do with International Relations? (Week 2: 21 July)

*Terry Eagleton (2000), *The Idea of Culture*, Ch 1, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.1-31.

*Gordon Matthews (2000), *Global Culture/Individual Identity*, Ch1, London, Routledge, pp.1-29.

Cultural Foundations of the Enlightenment/Modernity (Week 3: 28 July)

*Terry Eagleton (1990), "The Kantian Imaginary", in *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.70-101.

*Charles Darwin [1859] (1999), *The Origin of Species by means of natural Selection or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, Ch3, New York, Bantam, pp.52-67.

Culture and Contemporary International Relations (Week 4: 4 August)

*Yale Ferguson (1998) "Looking Backwards at Contemporary Politics", in Dominique Jacquin-Berdal et al, *Culture in World Politics*, London, Macmillan, pp.11-33.

*Edward W. Said (1994), *Culture and Imperialism*, Ch1, London, Vintage, pp.1-21.

Liberalism (Week 5: 11 August)

*Guy Debord (1983), *Society of the Spectacle*, Ch8, Detroit, Black and Red, (fragments), no.180-211.

*Alberto Melucci (1989) *Nomads of the Present: Social Movements and Individual Needs in Contemporary Society*, Ch5, London, Century Hutchinson, pp.103-118.

Marxism (Week 6: 18 August)

* Karl Marx (1961), "Existence and Consciousness", in *Selected Writings in Sociology and Social Philosophy*, Harmondsworth, Penguin, pp.82-101.

* Theodor Adorno (1981) "Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda", in *The Culture Industry*, London, Routledge, pp.132-157.

* Antonio Gramsci (1991), "Politics and Culture", in *Selections from Cultural Writings*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard university Press, pp.16-51.

Nationalism (Week 7: 8 September)

* Johann Herder [1784-91] (1968), (extracts) *Reflections on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind*, Chicago, Chicago University Press.

* Benedict Anderson (1983), "Census, Map, Museum", in *Imagined Communities*, London, Verso, pp.163-185.

The Cultural Logic of Capitalism (Week 8: 15 September)

*Frederic Jameson (2003), *Postmodernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, Ch8, Durham, Duke University Press, pp.260-278.

*Michael Parenti (2006) *The Culture Struggle*, Ch12, New York, Seven Stories Press, pp.111-143.

Cultural Debates - Indigeneity (Week 9: 22 September)

*Karena Shaw (2001), "Indigeneity and the International: Repoliticizing Decolonization", paper presented for ISA conference 20-24 Feb, Chicago.

*Nick Higgins (2005), "Lessons from the indigeneous: Zapatista poetics and a cultural humanism for the twenty first century, in Cathereine Eschele and Bice Maiguashca (eds.), *Critical Theories, International Relations and 'the Anti-Globalisation Movement'*", London, Routledge, pp.87-102.

Cultural Debates – Religion/Sacralism (Week 10: 29 September)

*Pascal Boyer (2002), *Religion Explained*, Ch8, London, Vintage, pp.303-340.

*Michael Scheuer (2004), "Bin Laden Views the World: Some Old, Some New and a Twist", in *Imperial Hubris: How the West is Losing the War on Terror*, pp.127-161.

Cultural Debates - Postmodernism and International Relations (Week 11: 6 October)

* Jean Baudrillard (2001), "Consumer Society", in *Jean Baudrillard Selected Writings*, 2nd ed., Standford, Stanford university Press, pp.32-59.

* Umberto Eco (1986), "Reports from the Global Village", in *Travels in Hyper Reality*, San Diego, Harcourt Brace & Company, pp.151-172.

Overview (Week 12: 13 October) International Relations and "World" Culture?