

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

**POLS 114: Introduction to Comparative Politics**

**TRIMESTER 1 2010**

1 March to 4 July 2010

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates:	1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break:	5 April to 18 April 2010
Study week:	7 June to 11 June 2010
Examination/Assessment period:	11 June to 4 July 2010

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Name and contact details**

<i>Course coordinator and Lecturer:</i>	Hilary Pearse
<i>Email:</i>	Hilary.Pearse@vuw.ac.nz
<i>Room no.:</i>	MY (Murphy) 506
<i>Phone no.:</i>	463 9495
<i>Office hours:</i>	Tuesday and Wednesday 3-4 or by appointment

**Class times and location**

Lecture times:	Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 2:10 – 3pm
Lecture venue:	Student Union MT 228 (Memorial Theatre)

**Course delivery**

This course has three lectures and one tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the second week of the trimester. Sign up online for a tutorial as soon as possible at:

<https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>

**Communication of additional information**

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students via class Blackboard.

**Course content**

What can we learn by comparing the politics and government of different countries? This course examines competing explanations for democratic and authoritarian regimes including economic, cultural and institutional theories of state development. These theories are illustrated using seven case studies: Sri Lanka, Botswana, Colombia, North Korea, Spain, Turkey, and Iran. See the lecture schedule at the end of this course outline.

## **Learning objectives**

Students passing this course will

- 1) understand theories of state and regime development;
- 2) identify the purpose and limitations of the comparative method and be able to use this method in their own research to analyse cause and effect;
- 3) be familiar with the political regimes of selected country cases and be able to apply this knowledge as evidence to support theoretical arguments;
- 4) develop their capacity to question as they read, rather than accepting arguments and evidence without challenge;
- 5) distil and synthesise definitions of key concepts and interpretations of central ideas from lectures, tutorials and readings;
- 6) conduct independent research on their own country cases; and
- 7) construct persuasive arguments and express these clearly and concisely.

## **Graduate attributes**

As with all POLS courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis and rational and ethical decision-making.

## **Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Science guidelines, the overall workload for this course is 200 hours in total.

## **Readings**

### **Essential texts:**

- 1) Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2010.
- 2) Student Notes for POLS 114: Introduction to Comparative Politics. Trimester One, 2010.

The O'Neil text costs \$89.95. Alternatively, an electronic version can be purchased at vicbooks for \$52.95, which will give you access to the same content online. Copies of the text are also available at the library on Closed Reserve and Three Day Loan. The student notes pack for this course costs \$12.60.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes 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. Customers will be contacted when they are available. Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

### **Assessment requirements**

Students must submit two essays in both hard copy and electronic format and sit a final examination for this course.

#### **Essay One** (25% of final grade)

1,500 – 2,000 words due in class on **Tuesday 30 March at 2:10 pm**

*Identify three major challenges to state capacity faced by a country of your choice\* over the last decade.*

\*DO NOT write on the countries that we study in this class: Sri Lanka, Botswana, Colombia, North Korea, Spain, Turkey or Iran.

#### **Essay Two** (25% of final grade)

1,500 – 2,000 words due in class on **Tuesday 11 May at 2:10 pm**

*EITHER: Compare the type of regime currently in place in **two** countries of your choice\* and identify two factors that help to explain why one regime is more democratic than the other.*

*OR: Compare the type of regime in place in **one** country of your choice\* at two different periods in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and identify two factors that help to explain why one regime was more democratic than the other.*

\*DO NOT write on the countries that we study in this class: Sri Lanka, Botswana, Colombia, North Korea, Spain, Turkey or Iran. However, you may use the country from essay one for this essay.

#### **Final Examination** (50% of final grade)

A three hour written examination will be held during the examination period: Friday 11 June until Saturday 4 July 2010. The date and location of the examination will be announced when the exam timetable becomes available, which is typically half way through the trimester.

#### **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.

#### **Return of assessed work**

Essays are submitted at the beginning of the lecture on the due date but are marked by your tutor and will be **passed back in your tutorial.** Any essays that have not been collected by the end of the trimester will be available for collection from the lecturer. Examination scripts are marked by the lecturer. Examination scripts are not automatically returned to students

but these can be requested at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Office on Level 4 of the Murphy Building.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit both essays in hard copy and electronic format, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- b) Sit the final examination for the course.

### **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

### **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>

### **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.

### **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\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

### **Lecture Schedule**

This schedule is a guide to lecture content and may be modified during the trimester. All readings that are not from the O'Neil textbook are contained in the student notes pack for this course.

<b>Lecture date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
2 March	Introduction to comparative politics	
3, 5 March	State, nation and regime	O'Neil chapter 2 + pp. 47-57
9 March	State scope and state capacity	Fukuyama
10, 12 March	Challenges to state capacity	O'Neil chapter 9
16 March	Example: political violence	O'Neil chapter 10
17, 19 March	Case study: Sri Lanka	DeVotta
23 March	Example: globalisation	O'Neil chapter 11
24, 26 March	Democratic regimes	O'Neil pp. 109-113, 118-128 Diamond
<b>Essay One due Tuesday 30 March</b>		
30, 31 March	Case study: Botswana	Bauer and Taylor

<i>Mid-trimester break</i>		
20 April	Political rights and civil rights in democracies	O'Neil pp. 128-140
21, 23 April	Case study: Colombia	Bejarano and Pizarro
27, 28 April	Authoritarian regimes	O'Neil chapter 6
30 April	Communism	O'Neil pp. 197-210
4, 5 May	Case study: North Korea	Snyder Chang, Haggard and Noland
7, 11 May	Democratisation	O'Neil pp. 115-118, 210-229
<b>Essay Two due Tuesday 11 May</b>		
12, 14 May	Case study: Spain	Share
18 May	Consolidating democracy	Rupnik
19, 21 May	Case study: Turkey	Baran
25, 26 May	Economic liberalisation and political liberalisation	O'Neil chapter 4 Zakaria
28 May	Hybrid regimes	Levitsky and Way
1, 2 June	Case study: Iran	Chehabi Afshari and Underwood
4 June	Course review	
<i>Study period: 7 June – 11 June</i>		
<i>Examination Period: 11 June – 4 July</i>		