



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
INTP443: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
(Problems of Knowledge)**

TRIMESTER 1 and 2 2011
28 February to 12 November 2011

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 28 February to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break 1/3: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17–21 October

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

Note: This course is partly assessed by an examination which will take place in the examination period in Trimester Two. Attendance at the examination is compulsory and students who are not available for the whole of the examination period (21 October – 12 November) should not enrol for this course.

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

Dr Robert Deuchars

Room: Murphy 510

Phone: 463 5972

Email: Robert.Deuchars@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Friday 11am-12 noon

Class times and locations

Seminar time: Thursday 14:10 -16:00

Seminar venue: Murphy 401

Course Content

The purpose of this course is to explore problems of knowledge in International Relations Theory. 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.

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 Programme'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.

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 website at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/subjects/pols.aspx#grad-attributes> for more details.

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, the overall workload for this course is 300 hours in total of reading, writing, and researching material. This includes 2 hours of seminar 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 or can email an order or enquiry to 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

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. 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

Research essay (60%)

Final examination (40%) (3 hours, closed book). The final examination will be scheduled during Trimester 2 examination period 21 October to 12 November.

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. These are standard Political Science and International Relations penalties.

Mandatory course requirements

- 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
- c) Submit a research proposal prior to the end of Trimester 1.

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.

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 (Dr Jon Johansson) in advance of the deadline. In 2011 the deadline will be 5 p.m. on **Friday 14 October**. Work not submitted by this deadline will not be taken into consideration when determining final results.

Possible Research Topics:

Free will vs. determinism	Deleuze, complexity and "the global social"
The constructivist challenge in IR theory	The postmodernist challenge in IR theory
Scale in International Relations Theory	Postcolonialism meets Postructuralism
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

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

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study. Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic.

Provisional Seminar Outline 2011

10 March	Course Introduction
17 March	Knowledge and World Affairs What is the world, how do we know the world, who are we to know the world?
24 March	Ontology, Epistemology in IR theories Fifteen ways to tell the truth about “things”
31 March	World Affairs Narratives What are world affairs narratives? Are they important for IR theory?
7 April	Truth Regimes and Regimes of Madness Who gets to tell the “truth”?
14 April	Problems with Realism How realistic is realism?

18 April to 1 May	<i>Easter / Mid-trimester Break</i>
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5 May	Problems with Liberalism Liberalism and the invisible subject?
12 May	Problems with Marxism Whatever happened to the working class?
19 May	IR Constructivism The social construction of what?
26 May	Post-Positivism, Postmodernism and other isms Assuming the doughnut has a hole in it?
2 June	Complexity, Emergence and Uncertainty in IR Theory Simplicity, emergent properties and unintended consequences?

6 June - 10 July	<i>Mid-Year Break</i>
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14 July - 29 September	Individual Student Research Presentations
6 October	Course Overview and Summary
TBA	Final Exam

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