



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

Political Science and International Relations Programme

POLS 418
Special Topic: Political Change
Trimesters 1 & 2

2011

TRIMESTERS 1 and 2
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

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

Course Coordinator: Professor Margaret Clark
Room 515, Murphy. Phone 463 5262
Email: margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz

Venue: MY 617

Timetable: Wednesdays 9:00-10:50am

Course Delivery:

This course involves a weekly class session of 1 hour and 50 minutes from 9 March to 17 August. There are no tutorials. 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.

Communication of additional information:

Any additional information will be provided in class and/or posted on the noticeboard located outside Room MY 501.

Course Content:

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 enroll should have a background in political sociology and/or comparative government.

Learning Objectives:

Students passing this course should be able to demonstrate their grasp of the key theme of political change and collapse as expounded by the various authors studied in the course.

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)

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

Assessment:**1) Research project-** (approximately 10,000 words) **worth 60% of final grade**

A written **research project proposal** should be submitted by **4 May**. Students are encouraged to discuss possible research projects with the course organiser before settling upon a topic.

The final research project must be submitted no later than **5.00pm, Friday 23 September**.

2) Final Examination (3 hours)- worth 40% of the final grade

Students must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period 21 October to 12 November.

Mandatory Course Requirements:

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) attend 80% of course sessions
- b) submit Research Project by Friday 23rd September
- c) Sit the final exam at the end of the course.

Penalties:

Students are advised that deadlines 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 given. Work not submitted by the deadline will not be taken into consideration when determining final results.

Class Representative:

A class representative will be elected in the first class. This person's name and contact details will be made available in 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.