



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLS 114: Introduction to Comparative Politics

TRIMESTER 1 2012

5 March to 4 July 2012

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: **5 March to 8 June 2012**
Mid-trimester break: **6-22 April 2012**
Study week: **11-15 June 2012**
Examination/Assessment period: **15 June to 4 July 2012**

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

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

Course coordinator and Lecturer: Terence Green
Email: terence.green@vuw.ac.nz
Room no.: MY (Murphy) 506
Phone no.: 463 9495
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 11-12pm or by appointment

Class times and location

Lecture times: Monday, Thursday, Friday 3:10 – 4pm
Lecture venue: MCLT101

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 Prescription

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 countries and be able to apply this knowledge as evidence to support theoretical arguments;
- 4) develop their capacity to question as they read, critically engaging with arguments rather than accepting them 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 case studies; and
- 7) construct persuasive arguments and express these clearly and concisely.

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. 3rd edition, 2010.
- 2) Book of Readings: POLS 114: Introduction to Comparative Politics. Trimester 1, 2012.

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 Book of Readings pack for this course costs \$12.60.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 13 February to 16 March 2012, while postgraduate textbooks and Books of Readings will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

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

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 **Thursday 5 April at 5pm**

Critically discuss three major and distinct 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 **Monday 14 May at 5pm**

*EITHER: Compare the type of regime currently in place in **two** countries of your choice* and identify two causal factors that help to explain why one regime is more democratic than the other. The causal factors may be the same or different for each country (e.g. leadership, wealth, ethnic differences etc.).*

*OR: Compare the type of regime in place in **one** country of your choice* at two different periods in the 20th century and identify two causal factors that help to explain why one regime was more democratic than the other. The causal factors may be the same or different for each country (e.g. leadership, wealth, ethnic differences etc.).*

The essay must do the following:

1. **briefly** identify the institutions, behaviours, culture or other factors which justify the claim that one regime is more democratic than the other (e.g. Regime A holds free and fair elections, while Regime B holds elections that are rigged). Provide evidence to support your argument.
2. **in detail**, identify and critically discuss two causal factors which you believe have led to the differences between the regimes (e.g. Country A had a leader who carried out democratic reforms, while Country B had a leader who strengthened an authoritarian regime).

*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 15 June – Wednesday 4 July 2012. 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 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, by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- b) Sit the final examination for the course;
- c) Attend a minimum of nine of the eleven tutorials.

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.

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, with the exception of the Griffin reading which is located on Blackboard.

Lecture date	Topic	Reading
5 March	Introduction to comparative politics	
8 March	Comparative Politics as a science	O'Neil chapter 1
9 March	State, nation and regime	O'Neil chapter 2 + pp. 47-57
12 March	State scope and state capacity	Fukuyama
15, 16 March	Challenges to state capacity and autonomy	O'Neil chapter 9
19, 22 March	Example: political violence	O'Neil chapter 10
23 March	Case study: Sri Lanka	DeVotta
26 March	Example: globalisation	O'Neil chapter 11
29, 30 March	Democratic regimes	O'Neil pp. 109-113, 118-128 Diamond
2 April	Case study: Botswana	Bauer and Taylor
5 April	TBA	TBA
Essay One due Thursday 5 April		
<i>Mid-trimester break: 6 April-22 April</i>		
23, 26 April	Political rights and civil rights in democracies contd	Griffin, chapter 14
27 April	Case study: Colombia	Bejarano and Pizarro
30 April, 3 May	Authoritarian regimes	O'Neil chapter 6
4 May	Communism	O'Neil pp. 197-210
7 May	Case study: North Korea	Snyder Chang, Haggard and Noland
10, 11 May	Democratisation	O'Neil pp. 115-118, 210-229

Essay Two due Monday 14 May		
14, 17 May	Case study: Spain	Share
18 May	Consolidating democracy	Rupnik
21, 24 May	Case study: Turkey	Baran
25, 28 May	Economic liberalisation and political liberalisation	O'Neil chapter 4 Zakaria
31 May	Hybrid regimes	Levitsky and Way
1, 4 June	Case study: Iran	Chehabi Afshari and Underwood
7 June	Course review	
<i>Study period: 11 – 15 June 2012</i>		
<i>Examination Period: 15 June – 4 July 2012</i>		