



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP/POLS/PHIL 261

Political Philosophy and International Relations

TRIMESTER 1 2013

4 March – 3 July 2013

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 4 March to 7 June 2013

Easter break: 28 March to 3 April 2013

Mid-trimester break: 22–28 April 2013

Study week: 10–14 June 2013

Examination/Assessment Period: 14 June to 3 July 2013

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

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

Names and contact details

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Office hours: by appointment (available most days at reasonable hours when not teaching)

Find me also on twitter @marquezxavier. I write often on themes relevant to the course at <http://abandonedfootnotes.blogspot.com>

Class times and locations

Can be found on the Victoria website at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue>

It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

Lecture Time: Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-10:50 am

Lecture Venue: EA (Easterfield) LT206

Tutorial/Seminar:

For Tutorial/Seminar times and venue see the website below

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/2013%20Academic%20Timetable%2020121211.html>

Teaching/learning summary

This course is taught by means of two weekly lectures of one hour each, one weekly tutorial of one hour, and an online component (primarily on the course website on Blackboard).

The lectures clarify and expand on the ideas of the writers we discuss in the course, and they provide the historical background necessary to understand the texts. The lectures may include interactive exercises, such as formal debates, and reasonable participation is expected.

Tutorials provide the opportunity to critically discuss enduring ideas about conflict and see how these ideas help us make sense of current issues and debates. Participation in tutorials, though optional, is therefore highly encouraged.

The online component of the course consists of weekly participation in a course discussion board. This ensures that the student will be generally engaged with the material covered in class and able to relate it to current events.

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the Course Blackboard site.

Course prescription

This course surveys the historical and philosophical development of international relations theory and political theory. It will examine foundational texts drawn from thinkers across the range of western political theory, from ancient Greece to the twentieth century.

Course content

This course aims to introduce students to the development of Western ideas about international affairs. It explores such themes as the justice or injustice of war, the nature of sovereignty, international law and the place of power in international life, and ethical obligations across borders, through a broad historical survey of some of the classic texts of Western political theory. These texts address questions concerning the ultimate causes of human conflict and the best approaches for dealing with such conflict. The course thus aims to provide students with a basic grasp of the ideas that have shaped and continue to shape current thought and practice in international relations, while increasing their ability to interpret and critically engage with these ideas in context.

The course follows a broadly chronological discussion of ideas about international affairs in the Western tradition of political thought, starting with Ancient Greece and Rome, moving on to discuss Medieval and Renaissance ideas, the Enlightenment, and various thinkers of the 19th century. The chronological approach should help students understand the sources

of our current ideas about international affairs as well as some important challenges to these ideas that have been historically significant.

These ideas, however, are also thematically grouped. We will thus discuss ancient Greek ideas about the nature of politics, medieval ideas about just war, new conceptions of politics in the early modern era, and 18th and 19th century ideas about democracy and intervention and about the possibility of perpetual peace.

Lectures will place this material in historical context, explain some of the more difficult passages, and provide the intellectual scaffolding for making connections among these disparate thinkers and applying their ideas to concrete cases. However, students are expected to actively participate in the construction of their own knowledge of these ideas by taking part in class discussions and activities, during both the lectures and the scheduled tutorials.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should:

1. Be familiar with some of the main ideas about international affairs in the Western canon of political theory
2. Be able to trace the basic development of these ideas in the Western tradition and to describe their context
3. Be able to draw on classic texts and on concrete historical examples to make cogent arguments about such topics as:
 - a. The nature of political community
 - b. The justice of war
 - c. The nature of sovereignty and political authority
 - d. The possibility and desirability of democracy in various cultural contexts, as well as the ethics of intervention for purposes of democracy promotion
 - e. The possibility and desirability of “perpetual peace”
4. Be able to make useful comparisons between contrasting views by various thinkers on any of these topics

Graduate attributes

As with all Political Science and International Relations 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. For more details please consult our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#grad-attributes>

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to INTP/POLS/PHIL 261 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, and tutorial/seminars, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Readings

Essential texts:

Copies of Aristotle's *Politics*, Machiavelli's *Prince*, Rousseau's *Second Discourse* and Kant's *Political Writings* are available at Vicbooks. Downloadable versions of all the readings in the public domain will also be available via Blackboard, or you may wish to find them directly on the internet. These are:

- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, available at <http://classicpersuasion.org/pw/thucydides/thucydides-jowetttoc-b.htm>
- Plato, *Laws* (books 1-3), available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1750>
- Aristotle, *Politics*, available at <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>
- Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, available at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>
- Vitoria, *On the American Indians*, available at http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/De_Indis_De_Jure_Belli/
- Machiavelli, *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*, available at <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm> and <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/machiavelli/niccolo/m149d/>
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, available at <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>
- Rousseau, *Second Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*, available at <http://records.viu.ca/~Johnstoi/rousseau/seconddiscourse.htm>
- Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, available at <http://www.constitution.org/kant/perpeace.htm>
- Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*, available at <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/prconten.htm>
- Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>
- Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, available at http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/mill/john_stuart/m645r/

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre Foyer from 11 February to 15 March 2013, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from vicbooks' new store, Ground Floor Easterfield Building, Kelburn Parade. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks, Easterfield 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.

Recommended reading:

Articles or books useful for understanding the authors and topics studied in this course are listed here: <http://www.citeulike.org/user/xmarquez/tag/pols261>

Assessment requirements

Assessment for this course has three major components:

1. Two out of five possible short essays, of **about** 2000 words, due on the dates specified in the schedule (50%, or 25% each). You may submit all five essays (or however many you wish to submit); your grade for this component will consist of the grades for your two best essays. **You MUST turn in one of the first two essays (opportunity 1 or 2 listed below)**. (Learning objectives 1-4).
2. Discussion board contributions (20%). You need to contribute weekly to the discussion board, starting on the second week of the course. These contributions are due every Thursday before the lecture (i.e., before 10am). (Learning objectives 1, 3)
3. A final examination during the examination period (30%). (Learning objectives 1-2)

Short essays

There are five possible opportunities for submitting short essays (about 2000 words – 8 or 9 double-spaced pages). **More is not necessarily better!**

These essays test your familiarity with the thinkers we are studying in this course and your ability to read them critically and apply their insights. They also test your ability to write a coherent argument and defend a particular interpretive position with textual and other evidence.

The topics for these essays are listed and described in more detail on Blackboard; **make sure to look there before beginning to write your essay!**

The due dates are as follows:

- **Essay opportunity 1: Ancient conceptions of politics.** Due date: **Friday 12 April at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 2: Just war in Medieval political theory.** Due date: **Friday 19 April at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 3: New conceptions of politics.** Due date: **Friday 3 May at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 4: The state of nature.** Due date: **Friday 17 May at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 5: Democracy, Intervention and Progress.** Due date: **Friday 7 June at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.

Discussion board contributions

Studies show that the best ways to learn are active, participatory and social, rather than passive and purely individual. Studies also show that the best way to learn course material and participate effectively in class discussions is to remain engaged with such material over the course of the term rather than to cram at the end for an exam or an essay. In order to further these objectives, this course requires weekly contributions to an online discussion board.

Like any discussion board, the course discussion board is fairly informal. Not every posting needs to raise a question, though you may wish to raise questions about class content; and your contributions can be in comments to other people's postings. You can, for example:

- Raise questions about issues that are unclear from the class
- Comment on, and link to, articles relevant to the discussions in the class
- Raise issues that you think ought to be discussed in class
- Discuss possible answers to various study questions raised by the instructor
- Summarize parts of the readings, and raise questions about them

The instructor will be contributing to the discussion board frequently, but the main responsibility is on the students to make it a useful learning resource. The instructor will also use the issues raised in the discussion board for tutorial discussions or address them in lecture.

Your contributions will be assessed on a weekly basis, according to the following scheme:

- 0 points. No contribution to the discussion board, or no e-mail sent
- 1 point. Minimal contribution (e.g., minimal comment on another person's post in the discussion board, discussion board posts that do not show that you have done the reading or that are not sufficiently on topic)
- 2 points. Regular contributions (e.g., contributing study questions, answers to study questions, and other substantial contributions to the discussion board, raising or answering interesting questions in the discussion board, posts showing that you have done the reading for the week, etc.)
- 3 points. Exceptional contributions (e.g., excellent study questions or answers, outstanding participation in the discussion board, posts making an unusually perceptive point about one of the readings for the week, etc.)

You need to accumulate 20 points over the course of the trimester to obtain your full 20% mark for this assessment component, starting in the second week of the term. On average, therefore, you need to be accumulating a bit less than 2 points per week (there are eleven opportunities for participation), though you may miss a week occasionally. You will be given credit for all contributions you make; so, for example, if you end the term with 16 points, this will translate into 16% of your final grade.

Final examination

The final examination is cumulative, integrative, and closed book, and will last **2 hours**.

The examination period for the first trimester 2013 is from 14 June – 3 July 2013.

Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **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 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. 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:

- 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);
- Sit the two-hour examination

Submission of work (optional)

All written work must be submitted electronically via the appropriate Blackboard link (or via e-mail if Blackboard is not working). **NO HARDCOPY IS NECESSARY.** Please make sure that you keep a copy of your work somewhere accessible, in case anything goes wrong, and back everything up!

The course expects students to submit their assignments on time. Requests for **extensions** should be made with the lecturer in person with proper documentation *before* the due date. Extensions are normally given only to those with a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control.

Return of marked course work

All essays will be returned **electronically** with comments within a reasonable time. No physical copies are needed and none will be collected, but you need to ensure I have an e-mail address that you check regularly so that you can read any comments I or the tutor make on your essays.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, 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.

Statement on legibility

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

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>

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 (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic.

Schedule of lectures and readings

Date	Readings	Assignments
Tuesday, 5 March	Introduction (no reading).	
Thursday, 7 March	Ancient Conceptions of Politics. Thucydides, 1.21-3, 2.34-46 (Funeral Oration), 2.50-54 (The Plague), 3.36-49 (The Mytilenian Debate), 5.84-116 (The Melian Dialogue).	
Tuesday, 12 March	Thucydides continued.	
Thursday, 14 March	Plato, <i>Laws</i> , Books 1-2.	1st contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 19 March	Plato, <i>Laws</i> , Book 3.	
Thursday, 21 March	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Book 1 (1252a1-1260a25).	2nd contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 26 March	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Book 3, chapters 1-18 (1274b30-1288b7).	
Thursday 28 March	No class. Extended Easter Break	
Thursday, 4 April	Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> , Book 7, chapters 1-15 (1323a14-1334b27)	3rd contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 9 April	Just War in Medieval Political Theory. Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologiae</i> , II-II, Q 40; II-II, Q 64, articles 6-8.	
Thursday, 11 April	Vitoria, <i>On the American Indians</i> ; Erasmus, <i>Dulce Bellum Inexpertis</i> .	4th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Friday, 12 April		First essay opportunity due at 11:59:59 pm (Ancient Conceptions of Politics topics).
Tuesday, 16 April	New Conceptions of Politics. Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , chapters 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 15-19, 21, 24-26.	

Date	Readings	Assignments
Thursday, 18 April	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> discussion continued and <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , I.2-14	5th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Friday, 19 April		Second essay opportunity due at 11:59:59 pm (Just War in Medieval Political theory topics).
Tuesday 23 April and Thursday 25 April	No class. Midterm break.	
Tuesday, 30 April	Machiavelli, <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , I.16-20, 24-29, 53, 58, II.1-3	
Thursday, 2 May	The State of Nature. Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , chapters 13-14, 17-18, 21.	6th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Friday, 3 May		Third essay opportunity due at 11:59:59 pm (New Conceptions of Politics topics).
Tuesday, 7 May	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse on the Origins of Inequality</i> , part I.	
Thursday, 9 May	Rousseau, <i>Second Discourse on the Origins of Inequality</i> , part II.	7th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 14 May	Democracy, Intervention, and Progress. Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch</i> , pp. 428-455.	
Thursday, 16 May	Hegel, <i>The Philosophy of Right</i> , III.iii.a.i-III.iii.c (paragraphs 272-360, especially 321-360).	8th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Friday, 17 May		Fourth essay opportunity due at 11:59:59 pm (The State of Nature topics).
Tuesday, 21 May	Marx and Engels, <i>Communist Manifesto</i> , entire.	
Thursday, 23 May	Mill, <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i> , chapters 3-4.	9th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 28 May	Mill, <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i> , chapters 6-7."	

Date	Readings	Assignments
Thursday, 30 May	Mill, <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i> , chapters 16 and 18, Mill, "A Few Words on Non-Intervention."	10th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Tuesday, 4 June	Kant, Hegel, Mill and Marx compared. Revision.	
Thursday, 6 June	Revision.	11th contribution to discussion board due before the lecture.
Friday, 7 June		Fifth essay opportunity due at 11:59:59 pm (Democracy, Intervention, and Progress topics).