



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**INTP-586 – Approaches to 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

**Please note: The assessment for this course includes a final exam, which will take place during the examination period for trimester 1. Students must be available for the whole of the examination period.**

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Alexander Bukh

Room No.: Murphy 509

Email: Alexander.Bukh@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesdays 16:00-17:00 or by appointment

**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:** Wednesdays 17:10-20:00

**Lecture Venue:** Murphy 103

### **Teaching/learning summary**

The course is taught via a weekly seminar over one trimester. There is a final examination that will occur during Trimester 1 examination period. The exact date for the examination will be released during Trimester 1.

### **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 fundamental concepts (e.g. state, sovereignty, anarchy, imperialism, international norms) and theoretical debates (e.g. realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, feminism) within International Relations. Subsequently, core issues of contemporary relevance in world affairs are considered (e.g. global governance, security, aid and development, humanitarian intervention, and global civil society). 60% internal assessment, 40% examination.

### **Course content**

The aim of the first part of this course is to introduce students to the main concepts in the discipline of International Relations (IR), as well as the main theoretical approaches. We will explore debates over these theoretical approaches, and we shall also examine the contested nature of the concepts used. During the second part of the course we will critically examine the ways theories are applied to particular empirical case studies. A full reading list is provided below.

### **Learning objectives**

A student who has achieved a standard of work and understanding sufficient to pass the course will:

- Understand some of the key theoretical and practical issues that are presently debated in the International Relations discipline;
- Have some empirical knowledge of events and circumstances that are referenced by debates in the discipline;
- Be able to critically analyse issues and events in IR;
- Be able to use both parts of the course to make the connection between theoretical frameworks for the study of IR and international practice; and
- Be able to use terminology and concepts introduced in both parts of the course to interpret contemporary international issues and events.

## 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 300 hours to the course throughout the trimester.

## Readings

### Set texts:

Any standard textbook on international relations will cover aspects of the course, but the course content will follow the assigned readings lists, which will be available on Blackboard or through the library web pages.

For a general overview of IR, you may wish to refer to the following texts:

Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George, *Introduction to International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

Joshua Goldstein, *International Relations*, Brief 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., (Pearson Longman, 2005)

Scott Burchill, et al., *Theories of International Relations*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)

Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, (Oxford University Press, 2005)

David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, *Introduction to International Political Economy*, (Prentice Hall, 1996)

Theodore H. Cohn, *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., (Pearson, 2005).

Cynthia Weber's *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge 2009) is an excellent critical and non-conventional introduction to IR theories. Highly recommended!

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](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 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: (list)**

You should get to know and keep a watchful eye on the following periodicals and papers. Some are available in the University library, including:

*International Organization*

*European Journal of International Relations*

*World Politics*

*International Security*

*Millennium: Journal of International Studies*

*International Studies Alternatives*

*Foreign Policy*

*Foreign Policy Analysis*

*Foreign Affairs*

*Review of International Political Economy*

*New Left Review*

*Quarterly Review of International Studies*

### **Assessment requirements**

- 2 assessed oral presentations (worth 20% (2x10%) of the final grade)
- 1 essay proposal **1500 words due on March 27<sup>th</sup> 4 pm** (worth 10% of the final grade)
- 1 long essay **6000 words due on June 6<sup>th</sup>** (worth 30% of the final grade)
- 1 x 3-hour exam (worth 40% of the final grade)

Each student is expected to conduct two presentations, each no longer than 15 minutes. One presentation will be a critical analysis of a recent op-ed from a leading media outlet (newspapers such as The Guardian, The New York Times, Washington Post etc... or journals such as Newsweek, Time, etc...). The second presentation will be on the topics discussed in class. Presentation topics will be assigned during the first class. For this presentation, you should either provide a brief hand-out for the class or produce Power Point slides to accompany your presentation.

The essay is designed to test students' ability to conduct in-depth research and analysis on a particular topic in international relations theory and to develop their writing skills in the format of a longer essay. There are no set questions for the essay but the students should consult with the course coordinator (Dr Bukh) when choosing the topic for their essay. One hard copy of the 1500 words essay proposal should be handed during the class on March 27. It should be typed in 12 point type, 1.5 or double spaced. A single paper copy of the 6000

word essay should be handed in during the class on June 6th, typed in 12 point type, 1.5 or double spaced. Students should also upload an electronic copy of their essay to Blackboard. 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:

- 1) 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);
- 2) Conduct the two oral presentations
- 3) Take the final exam

### **Return of marked course work**

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Floor 5, Murphy Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

### **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.

### **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](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://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](http://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/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic).

## Course Programme

### 6 March - Introduction: International Relations as an Academic Discipline

This session provides an introduction to the MIR degree and the core course. It will cover course logistics, materials, assessment, presentations' assignment and expectations of students. We will also start to think about some basic questions about the discipline. What is IR? What is the 'proper' scope of IR? What should it be? Why do we study IR? How should we study it?

**Reading:** Richard Devetak "An introduction to international relations: the origins and changing agendas of a discipline" in Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George (eds.) *An Introduction to International Relations* (Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2012)

#### Additional Reading on 'the discipline of IR':

Rosenberg, Justin, 'International Relations — The 'Higher Bullshit': A Reply to the Globalization Theory Debate', *International Politics*, Vol. 44.4 (Summer 2007) 450-459  
Bull, Hedley, 'Society and Anarchy in International Relations', in Butterfield, H., and Wight, M., eds., *Diplomatic Investigations: Essay in the Theory of International Politics*, London: George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1966, 35-50

Buzan, Barry and Richard Little, 'Why International Relations Has Failed as an Intellectual Project and What to Do About It', *Millennium*, 2001, 30(1): 19–39

Walker, R. B. J., 'International Relations and the Concept of the Political', in Booth, K., and Smith, S., eds., *International Relations Theory Today*, London: Polity Press, 1997, pp. 306-327

Tooze, R., & Murphy, C., 'The Epistemology of Poverty and the Poverty of Epistemology: Mystery, Blindness and Invisibility,' in: *Millennium*, Vol. 25, No. 3, 1996

Price, R., 'Interpretation and disciplinary orthodoxy in international relations', in: *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 2, April 1994

Krombach, H., 'International Relations as an Academic Discipline', in: *Millennium*, Vol. 21, No. 2, Summer 1992

Lapid, Y., 'The Third Debate: On the Prospects of International Theory in a Post-Positivist Era,' in: *International Studies Quarterly*, 33, 3, 1989, 235-5

Xiaoming Huang, 2007. "The invisible hand: modern studies of international relations in Japan, China, and Korea" *Journal of International Relations and Development* 10(2): 168-203

### 13 March – IR Theory: The Hegemony of Realism and Neo-Realism

This session is devoted to the dominant theoretical tradition in IR-realism. In the first part of the session we will look into some of the basic concepts of realism such as anarchy, rational actor, relative gains, balance of power and security dilemma. We will explore the shift from realism to neo-realism and discuss the question of agency and structure. During the second part of the session we will critically examine the way realism is applied in empirical case studies.

**Reading:**

Guzzini, S 'The Different Worlds of Realism in International Relations', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 30, 1 (2001)

Waltz, K. *Theory of International Politics*, Esp. Chapters 5 & 6 (1979)

Ross, R 'Balance of Power Politics and the Rise of China: Accommodation and Balancing in East Asia', *Security Studies* 15, 3 (2006)

Waltz, K 'Why Iran Should get the Bomb', *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2012)

**20 March-IR Theory: Liberalism and Neo-Liberalism**

In this session we will examine the main theoretical contender to realist hegemony. In the first part of the session we will look into some of the basic concepts of the liberal tradition such as cooperation, absolute gains, institutions, democratic peace, norms and regimes. In the second part of the session we will critically look into the ways liberalism is applied in IR.

**Reading:**

Moravcsik, A 'Taking preferences seriously: a liberal theory of international politics', *International Organization*, 51 (4) (1997)

Nye, J. S. 'Neorealism and Neoliberalism', *World Politics*, (40) (1988)

Emmerson, D, 'Security, Community, and Democracy in Southeast Asia: Analyzing ASEAN', *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 6 (2) 2005: 165-85.

Goldsmith, B 'A Liberal Peace in Asia?', *Journal of Peace Research*, 44(1) (2007)

**27 March- Constructivism**

This session will introduce the constructivist school of IR theory. In the first part of the session we will examine some of the basic concepts of constructivism such as social construction, socialization, identity and ideational structures.

**Reading:**

Wendt, A 'Anarchy is What States Make of It', *International Organization*, 46(2) (1992)

Checkel, J 'The Constructivist Turn in International Relations Theory", *World Politics*, 50 (1999)

Berger, T 'From Sword to Chrysanthemum', *International Security* 17(4) (1993)

Hemmer C and Peter J Katzenstein 'Why is There No NATO in Asia? Collective Identity, Regionalism, and the Origins of Multilateralism', *International Organization* 56(3), (2002)

**April 10-Post-Structuralism**

In this session we will look into the 'critical' constructivist theory and look into its understanding on identity, construction and power.

**Reading:**

Campbell, D 'Poststructuralism' in Dunne, Kurki & Smith (eds) *International Relations theories: discipline and diversity*, Oxford University Press,(2006)

Doty, RL 'Foreign Policy as a Social Construction', *International Studies Quarterly* 37(3) (1993)

Rumelili, B 'Constructing Identity and Relating to Difference', *Review of International Studies* 30 (1), (2004)



### **April 17-Gender**

This session will look at the gender approach to IR and explore its theoretical tenets as well as its utility in explaining international relations.

#### **Reading:**

Tickner JA and Laura Sjoberg 'Feminism' in Dunne, Kurki & Smith (eds) (2006)  
Elshtain, J. B. 'Women and War Ten Years After' *Review of International Studies* (24) (1998)  
Tickner, JA 'You Just Don't Understand: troubled engagements between feminists and IR theorists', *International Studies Quarterly*, (41) (1997)

### **May 1-Critical Theory and IR**

This session focuses on the neo-Marxist approach to IR. We will start by reviewing the Marxist theory and its relevance to IR. We will continue by examining the way the Marxist approach was revived by scholars like Robert Cox and Andrew Linklater. During the second part of the session we will look into the ways neo-Marxist theory has been applied in IR (broadly defined) scholarship.

#### **Reading:**

Cox, R 'Social Forces, States, and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory', *Millennium*, (10) (1981)  
Linklater, A 'The Question of the Next Stage in International Relations Theory: A Critical Theoretic Approach', *Millennium*, (21) (1992)  
Callinicos, A 'The Grand Strategy of American Empire' *International Socialism Journal* 97, (2002)  
Anderson, P 'Two Revolutions', *New Left Review*, 61 (2010)

### **May 8- Globalization**

This session will look at the various approaches to globalization and examine the three main schools of thought: hyperglobalists, sceptics and transformationalists.

#### **Reading:**

Martell, L 'The Third Wave in Globalization Theory', *International Studies Review* 9(2) (2007)  
Held, D 'Reframing Global Governance: Apocalypse Soon or Reform?', *New Political Economy* 11(2) (2006)  
Aran, A 'Foreign Policy and Globalization Theory: The Case of Israel', *International Politics* 48 (2011)

### **May 15-Empire and International Relations: The question of US Hegemony**

In this session we will look into the various ways the IR scholarship (broadly defined) has dealt with the question of the hegemonic role of the US in world affairs.

#### **Reading:**

Weber, C *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*, Chapter 7  
Hassner, P *The United States: the empire of force or the force of empire?* Chaillot Papers, No. 54 (September 2002)  
Eland, I 'The Empire Strikes Out: The "New" Imperialism" and its fatal flaws', *Policy Analysis*, No. 459, November 26, 2002

### **May 22- The Decline of the West and the Rise of China**

This class will be devoted to examining the various implications of China's rise.

#### **Reading**

Kristof N, 'The Rise of China', *Foreign Affairs* 72(5) (1993)

Ikenberry, GJ 'The Rise of China and the Future of the West', *Foreign Affairs* 87(23) (2008)

Ma L, 'Thinking of China's Grand Strategy: Chinese Perspectives', *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 13(1) (2013)

### **May 29-Soft Power in International Relations**

During this session we will critically examine the notion of "soft power" popularized by Joseph Nye and look into the various ways this concept has been applied in IR scholarship.

#### **Reading:**

Nye, S 'Soft Power', *Foreign Policy*, 80 (1990)

(Also skim through Nye's *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*)

Mattern JB, 'Why Soft Power Isn't So Soft', *Millennium* 33(3) (2005)

Lam PE, 'Japan's Quest for "Soft Power"', *East Asia* 24(4) (2007)

Kurlantzick, J, *China's Charm: Implications of Chinese Soft Power*, Carnegie Endowment Policy Brief 47 (June 2006)

Breslin, S *The Soft Notion of China's "Soft Power"*, Chatham House (2011)

### **June 5-Transnational Civil Society**

In this class we will discuss the notion of "global civil society" and its implications for IR.

#### **Reading:**

Kaldor M, 'The Idea of Global Civil Society', *International Affairs*, 79(3) (2003)

Anheier, H, Marlies Glasius and Mary Kaldor *Global Civil Society Yearbook 2001*, Chapters 1 and 2

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/internationalDevelopment/research/CSHS/civilSociety/yearBook/contentsPages/2001.aspx>

Keck, M and Kathryn Sikkink, 'Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics', *International Social Science Journal* 51(159) (1999).