



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**POLS 114: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2013**

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Study period:** 21–25 October 2013

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 25 October to 16 November 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:** Refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

**Class times and locations**

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 15:10 – 16:00

Lecture Venue: MT 228 (Memorial Theatre)

Tutorials: Please sign up online for a tutorial as soon as possible at:  
<https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>

**Names and contact details of course coordinators:**

Dr Fiona Barker

Room No: MY538

Phone: 463 5759

Email: [fiona.barker@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:fiona.barker@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Monday 4 – 4:45pm; Wednesday 4 – 4:45pm

Dr Kate McMillan

Room No: MY532

Phone: 463 9595

Email: [kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Wednesday 11 - 12

## **Head tutor:**

Name: Dr Terence Green  
Email: [terence.green@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:terence.green@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: TBA

## **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 tutorial programme will be announced in lectures and posted as Announcements on Blackboard.

## **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 then applied to several case studies.

## **Course learning objectives (CLOs)**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

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
7. Construct persuasive arguments and express these clearly and concisely

## **Teaching format**

This course is taught by way of 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>. Both tutorials and lectures are essential aspects of the course and the primary means by which course content is delivered. Students are expected to attend lectures regularly, participate in tutorial discussions and keep up with the weekly readings. The lectures introduce students to key concepts and theories in comparative politics, using empirical evidence from case studies to support the learning. The tutorials are intended to consolidate students' understanding of the key concepts, assigned readings and case studies. Many tutorials will involve group work and discussion, both in small groups and via plenary discussion. The final examination will be held during the Trimester 2 examination period, which runs from 25 October to 16 November 2013.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. 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);
2. Sit the final examination for the course;
3. Attend a minimum of eight of the eleven tutorials.

## Workload

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

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay One (1200 – 1500 words)	25%	1, 3, 4, 6, 7	Wednesday, 21 August
2	Essay Two (1200 – 1500 words)	25%	1 – 7	Friday, 27 September
3	Final 3-hour examination	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	TBA

### Essays One (25%) and Two (25%)

Each of the essays will require students to gather material on a specialised topic related to the course themes, analyse relevant data and ideas, and present an essay in a literate, clearly argued and structured form. Details on the essay questions, as well as guidelines for carrying out your research and writing your essay, will be provided in the first week of the trimester and posted on Blackboard.

### Final Examination (50% of final grade)

A three-hour written examination will be held during the examination period: 25 October to 16 November 2013. The date and location of the examination will be announced when the exam timetable becomes available, which is typically half way through the trimester.

### Submission and return of work

Your research essay must be submitted in **hard copy** in the POLS114 essay box placed outside the School office on the fifth floor of the Murphy building. Your essay must have a signed Programme cover sheet attached.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hard copy. This will involve uploading your essay via the Turnitin Assignment tool on Blackboard. This function on Blackboard utilises Turnitin, which is an online plagiarism detection tool. For more information on Turnitin, please see the link provided in the section Other Important Information below.

Essays are marked by your tutor and will be returned in tutorials at a time to be advised. If students are not present, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 518, between 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

## Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of the essay – **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 will 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). You must contact the head tutor, Dr Terence Green, **prior** to the essay deadline if you think you have valid grounds for waiving lateness penalties.

## Required reading

The essential texts for this course are:

1. Patrick H. O’Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York, W. W. Norton & Company. 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013.
2. Patrick H. O’Neil et al, *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013.

You should purchase both of these texts, which can be bought as a package. Please note that this course uses the new, 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook used in previous years.

These texts are available for purchase as a joint package from VicBooks, which includes *Essentials of Comparative Politics* in hard copy format and access to an online e-folder containing *Cases in Comparative Politics*. This package will be sold for \$137. See [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for further details on when and where to buy or order textbooks.

A limited number of copies of both texts will be made available on Closed Reserve in the Glass Room of the Victoria Kelburn Campus library.

Additional required readings will be available electronically in a folder in the Course Resources section of the POLS 114 Blackboard page. A list of the weekly lecture topics and required readings will be provided in the first lecture and posted on Blackboard.

## Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course

## Student feedback

This course is being co-taught by two lecturers this year. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)

- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclfe/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)