



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
POLS 355: Special Topic: The European Union in the Asia Pacific
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

Last assessment item due: 17 October

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

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

Class times and locations

Lectures: Thursday 2.10 – 4.00pm

Lecture Venue: EA 101

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: John Leslie

Room No: MY512

Phone: +64 +4 463 9494

Email: john.leslie@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursday 12-2pm

Other teaching staff: *Katharine Vadura*

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Communication of additional information

All students will be given access to online course resources on a homepage 'EU in the Asia Pacific', this web page gives access to all course material and will mirror the Canterbury University course online resources on LEARN. Students will all be given access to this site at the start of the course. This site will provide students with course resources, access to lectures and online tutorials, readings, as well as any course notices. The *online resources and discussion forums* will provide students with further opportunities to interact not only with each other but also with the academic experts involved in the teaching of the course.

This course will also use 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.

Prescription

The course is divided into blocks around the central idea of the European Union in the Asia Pacific: EU political presence; EU business identity; and EU values and perceptions. The content of the course incorporates introductory elements, then develops key themes and ideas about the EU in the Asia Pacific. 100% internal assessment.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. develop and improve academic writing, referencing and library skills and practice accuracy and clarity in written expression and sound logic in development of a written argument
2. develop and improve basic presentation skills and practice clarity in oral expression and sound development of an argument
3. interpret new facts and their applications in the field of EU studies, incorporate knowledge of research skills and develop attitudes of intellectual curiosity.

Teaching format

This course will be taught as a *virtual lecture* using interactive video conferencing technology. The *lectures* will introduce the key concepts, issues and theoretical underpinnings for the topics presented in the course and expand and develop deeper understanding of the role of the EU in the Asia Pacific region. In addition, the *online resources and discussion forums* will provide students with further opportunities to interact not only with each other but also with the academic experts involved in the teaching of the course.

It is expected that students will have completed the required readings prior to attending the lectures and tutorials as this will facilitate informed discussion and debate.

A number of learning resources will be made available to students and it is expected that students regularly consult these:

- a course web site incorporating all the text-based learning resources for the course
- an online discussion forum / blog for students to interact and also to prepare their collaborative presentations

Students should note the following features that distinguish POLS 355 as a *virtual course* from more conventional course offerings:

- participation and attendance at lectures presented virtually in video conferencing format
- completion of initial introductory online tutorial for the course

- attendance and presentation at intensive session at the end of the course
- communication with course coordinator via email

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Attend all lectures and tutorials unless an absence is pre-arranged with the instructor or a certified excuse for absence is presented.
2. Submit *all* written work specified for this course on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
3. Submit their *research paper* and *research essay* to Turnitin.com.

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/seminars 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	2000 word Research Paper and Presentation	40%	1,2,3	22 Aug
2	In class test (online)	15%	3	10 Oct
3	3500 word Research Essay	35%	1,3	17 Oct
4	Active participation in group discussions online	10%	3	Weekly

1 Research paper and Presentation (40%)

Research paper (20%):

- Students will write a short research paper (2000 words) on a topic from the list under 'Presentation' below.
- This short research paper will give students the opportunity for independent research.
- As part of this written piece students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts and present a critical analysis of key issues related to their chosen topic.
- These short papers are designed to provide students with some preliminary research and basic structure for their arguments which will be detailed in their group presentations.

Presentation (20%):

- Topics will be chosen from one of the following course themes:
 - Crisis and development of EU external action in the Asia Pacific
 - Human rights and the EU's external initiatives in the region
 - Common Agricultural Policy – implications for individual countries in the Asia Pacific
 - Is the EU a model for regional integration in the Asia Pacific
- Students may work collaboratively on their presentations if they are working on the same topic but will be assessed on their final presentation individually.
- Final presentations are to be submitted to the LEARN site in ppt format in week 6.

2 Online test (15%):

- Multiple choice and/or short answer test based on key concepts covered in the course. Students will complete this test on the online LEARN site within a defined time limit.
- The test will be available online in week 11.

3 Research Essay (35%):

- Participants of the class will be asked to choose and write one research essay (3500 words).
- Essay topics are suggested by the contributing lecturers, and students are free to research and present a topic of their choosing upon consultation with the course convenor and a contributing lecturer.
- Research essays should incorporate the following: clearly presented and defended argument; demonstrated analysis of the issues or concepts; critical evaluation of theoretical debate(s); logical planning and sequence; and demonstrated use of relevant literature and proper acknowledgment of documentation and use of bibliographic convention.

4 Contribution to online discussion (10%):

- Ongoing participation each week in the group discussion online.
- Comments and responses to discussion questions should be limited to a maximum of 200 words each week.
- Contributions to the weekly discussion should reflect a deeper level of engagement with the key concepts and readings set for the weekly topic.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box outside the School office on the fifth floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy. For this course, please submit an electronic copy of your work to Turnitin.com on the same due date for your hardcopy submission. An email copy **will not** constitute a formal submission and it will not be marked.

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 School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

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.

Set texts

There is no single textbook for the course. A collection of selected readings will be available for students prior to each tutorial online via the LEARN site. Students are strongly encouraged to form their own bibliographies. Readings will be selected from these and additional resources and will be provided to students in electronic format via the online course resources homepage '*EU in the Asia Pacific*'.

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 has included further developments based on feedback from students in previous years particularly related to structure and context of lectures, as well as reshaping of assessment to better reflect conceptual linkages and build on analytical and research skills.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: 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
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclifelife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz