



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

POLS 356: Political Sociology

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

Final Test: 18 October 2013

Note: all students must be available to sit the class test on 18th 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: Fridays 14.10-16.00

Lecture Venue: Murphy Lecture Theatre 220

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Hilal Ahmed

Room No: MY 506

Phone: Best contacted by email

Email: ahmed.hilal@gmail.com

Office hours: Friday 16.00-17.00 or by appointment

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.

Prescription

This course studies patterns of power distribution within societies and explanatory theories of political and social change. The course looks at the development of the modern state, the role and limits of state power, and contending theories about the appropriate relationship between the citizen and the state. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

This course introduces students to political sociology as an interpretive intellectual framework for making sense of the complex configuration of social issues. The course is divided into two components: theoretical orientations and political manifestations. The first lecture introduces the course followed by three lectures on certain *big questions*-state, identity and contestation. To underline the limit of these universal claims of theoretical kind, the next three lectures lead to complex particularities of postcolonial critique of universalising projects of modernity, religion/secularism in a global age and above all political Islam. The discussion thus moves towards the fragmented nature of political sociology and therefore the question of social resources of politics becomes very essential. The lectures on caste and monuments represent this concern. Finally, the last lecture tries to provide a common thread to the entire discussion by reflecting on the social and political manifestation of intellectual practices.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the core themes of political sociology - the relationship between society and the state and the political nature and activities of various social groupings
2. Analyse the historical creation of particular kinds of social and political identity and evaluate their political significance
3. Analyse the social resources and political strategies available to contemporary social movements in different contexts
4. Choose a research project, select appropriate sources, critically evaluate those sources and synthesise them into a coherent and credible extended argument.

Teaching format

The two-hour weekly lectures will include some lecturing, plus discussion, informal group assignments, and time for questions. There are no tutorials for this course. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit the research proposal and research paper on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
2. Sit the final test on the specified date.

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, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Assessment

Details of assessments and marking criteria will be provided to students in a separate document, delivered by the course coordinator in the first lecture and placed on Blackboard

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal (1500 words)	15%	1,2,3,4	16/08/2013
2	Research Paper (2500 words)	45%	1,2,3,4	27/09/2013
3	Final Test (2 hours)	40%	1,2,3	18/10/2013

Submission and return of work

Research proposals and research papers should be submitted through Blackboard and in hard copy, together with completed cover sheet available on Blackboard or from the School office (MY518).

Assignments will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their assignments from the School Office, Room 518, Murphy Building between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

Penalties

Political Science and International Relations Programme policy stipulates that late submission of assignments is penalised – a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. After 8 days, the assignment can be accepted for mandatory course requirements, but will not be marked. Extensions may be granted in exceptional circumstances, but **require the student to provide documentation**. If granted an extension, students must agree to a new due date. Contact your lecturer as soon as a problem emerges.

Set texts and recommended reading

These will be provided to students by the course coordinator in a separate document in the first lecture and also 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

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/phil-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/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/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