



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

POLS/INTP 363: Human Rights

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

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

Lecture time Mondays, 10-11:50 am

Lecture location Hugh MacKenzie LT 002

Names and contact details

Course coordinator Dr Jana von Stein

Office Murphy 515. Office hours TBA.

Email jana.vonstein@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

I use Blackboard and require all enrolled students to have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please ensure that your account is active (or that you are having your messages forwarded). I will announce any changes by email, Blackboard, and in class.

Prescription

This course explores the evolution of the international human rights regime, focusing particularly on post-World War II developments. Topics include: the existing body of international law and institutions, enforcement and compliance challenges, various aspects of globalisation, and tensions between cultural relativism and universalism.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Show a solid understanding of the history, principles, and debates surrounding international human rights
2. Use concepts and tools from political science, international relations, and international law to understand better the international human rights 'project,' why it has sometimes failed, and when it has succeeded.

Teaching format

This course meets once per week. It combines traditional lecture with in-class discussion and some in-class group interaction.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit both essays
2. Sit the final examination

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, students are expected to devote 200 hours to this course throughout the trimester. This includes completion of all set weekly readings, course attendance, research and writing for written assignments, and preparation for the exam.

Assessment

This course is partly internally assessed. More detail on each item will be provided in class and via Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 st Essay (due by 5pm)	25%	1, 2	23 August
2	2 nd Essay (due by 5pm)	30%	1, 2	27 September.
3	Examination	45%	1, 2	TBA

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 5th floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached. *In addition*, students must also submit an electronic copy. Please upload to Blackboard on the same due date as your hardcopy submission.

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 (Murphy 518) between 2 and 3 pm from Monday to Friday.

Penalties

Points will be deducted for late submission of papers – 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Penalties will be waived only if there are valid grounds such as illness or similar other contingencies. In all such cases, credible documentation is required.

Late essays should be received and dated by an administrator from the Programme office.

Set texts

There are two types of **required** reading material in this course:

1. *Making Human Rights a Reality* by Emilie Hafner-Burton (2013, Princeton University Press). Students can access an electronic version of the book for free through E-Reserves. The Kindle version goes for US\$15 on www.amazon.com. Vicbooks www.vicbooks.com offers a print version for NZ\$53.95. Finally, various US retailers offer the book for about US\$20, but the shipping costs vary depending on how quickly you need it.
2. A number of chapters and articles, as well as the occasional webpage, posted directly on the course Blackboard page (courtesy of E-Reserves). The benefit of this approach is that these materials are free and can be read on a computer, ipad, etc. The drawback (as compared, for instance, to Student Notes) is that you will need to print these readings out if you prefer hard copies. A poll will be conducted mid-trimester to see how well you think the E-Reserves approach works.

Recommended readings

A limited number of webpages, newspaper articles, and so forth will be posted on Blackboard. These will cover 'hot topics' that arise during the course of the trimester. These are 'recommended' rather than 'required' readings. Students who read these pieces are likely to find certain class discussions easier to follow. They are also likely to gain a better overall understanding of how the course themes tie in with current-day events.

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 taught by a new Academic Staff member. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism tool that compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Your essays, as well as any handwritten work (in this case, exams) are subject to an academic integrity check on this search engine. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but no other party(ies) gain access to the full text of submissions.

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
- 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