



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP 113: Introduction to International Relations

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 1 July 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 5 June 2015

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 3–19 April 2015

Study period: 8–12 June 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 12 June to 1 July 2015

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/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lecture Times (Stream 1): Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 11:00-11:50

Venue (Stream 1): Monday and Thursday: SUMT228, Student Union Building
Wednesday: MCLT 103, Maclaurin
Lecture Times (Stream 2): Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 14:10-15:00
Venue (Stream 2): COLT122, Cotton

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Joe Burton
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Lecturer: AProf David Capie
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Lecturer: Dr Kate Schick
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Lecturer: Dr Jason Young
Room No: Murphy 512
Phone: 04 463 5172
Email: jason.young@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday/Tuesday 12-12.50 pm

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 is an introduction to the principal concepts, issues and theoretical debates within the field of International Relations. Topics covered include: power, diplomacy, the United Nations, arms control, terrorism, developmental politics, civil society and international political economy. Upon completion of the course, students should have a good basic understanding of international relations and a solid foundation for taking upper-level courses on the subject.

Course content

Are international relations anarchically or hierarchically ordered? Does self-interest dominate international relations or do laws, values and

ideals matter? Is war between states inevitable? Or can states organise themselves institutionally – regionally and/or multilaterally - to address global problems? What is the changing nature of conflict in the international system, and what are the prospects for human rights? How has globalisation impacted upon the international system? And what actors, aside from states, take part in globalisation? This course will examine these and related questions, providing students with an understanding of the different approaches that International Relations scholars have developed to make sense of what is happening in world politics.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate a critical understanding of the core theoretical approaches to international relations;
2. demonstrate a critical understanding of the core actors, events and debates within international relations;
3. develop their capacity for critical engagement with texts and other sources of information;
4. prepare and structure an essay that is cogent and persuasive;
5. conduct independent research;
6. test theories using empirical data.

Teaching format

There are three lectures and one tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the second week of the trimester. It is important that you prepare for the tutorials so that you are able to contribute constructively to the discussions. This means doing background readings or research on the topic for discussion and preparing presentations when asked. The tutorial questions for each week can be downloaded from Blackboard before each tutorial. Sign up online for a tutorial as soon as possible at <http://signups.victoria.ac.nz>

S-Cubed

Using S-Cubed: - All students must sign up for one tutorial

Use your internet browser to go to: <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>

Enter your normal *student login* and *password* to sign into S-Cubed.

Click on INTP 113 and you will see a list of tutorial sessions for your course. Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the “*sign up*” button.

Please note: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. If you have problems please see the School Administrator, Room 518, Murphy Building.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least 9 out of 11 tutorials
2. submit both of the essays in hard copy and electronic format by the due date (with the proviso noted below under 'Penalties')
3. sit the final examination for the course.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes – 4 hours per week attendance at lectures and tutorials plus 4 hours per week preparation for lectures and tutorials (4+4x12=96 hours)

Essay 1 – 26 hours, including research and writing.

Essay 2 – 31.2 hours, including research and writing.

Examination – 46.8 hours, including reading and revision, essay answer and short answer planning, and sitting the exam itself.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Essay One - 1500-2000 words	25%	1, 4, 5	Thu 16 April
2	Essay Two - 2000 words	30%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Fri 15 May
3	Final Examination - 3 hours	45%	1, 2, 6	Between 12 June and 1 July

Marking criteria

Below are the main factors considered during the process of essay marking:

Overall presentation and writing style

- Correct spelling and grammar
- Essay title, your name and student ID, date, name of paper, etc.
- Double-spaced

- Specify word count
- Name of tutor

Introduction and Thesis Statement

- Concise, relevant
- Clear thesis statement or question that guides the rest of the essay

Analysis and Arguments

- The essay contains analysis, not just description
- Balanced arguments, i.e. arguments for **and** against your thesis statement

Research

- Original research (not just from textbook)
- Book and article sources (not just from the Internet)

Bibliography and Referencing

- Bibliography including **all** sources cited in your essay
- In-text references, footnotes **or** endnotes
- Consistent referencing (don't switch between styles)

Conclusion

- Repeat the thesis statement
- Brief discussion of findings

Submission and return of work

All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in **HARD COPY** at the School Office (MY518) in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. You must **ADD** the name of your tutor and the course code. We reserve the right to ask for an electronic copy of any assessable work for checking in Turnitin.com (see www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin).

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, and then returned to the School Office, MY 518, where they can be collected between the hours of 2.00-3.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances. In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

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. Extensions on deadlines for written work will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

Early Alerts (Course Signals)

This course is using the Early Alerts (Course Signals) System which aims to help students to be successful in their study at Victoria University. The system is designed to help students assess their progress in their study, so that they can adjust their work effort or seek support early in the semester, to help them succeed.

Students will receive a traffic light signal through the course Blackboard page:



Green tick means high likelihood of succeeding in the course (if your progress does not decline).



Yellow triangle means potential problem with succeeding in the course (if your progress does not improve); and



Red cross means high likelihood of failing the course (if your progress does not improve);

Students will also receive email messages from their Course Coordinator via their Blackboard email address, which by default is their @myVUW account.

Information on resources and support services are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support

Set texts

Jeffrey Haynes, Peter Hough, Shahin Malik and Lloyd Pettiford, *World Politics*, Pearson 2011

Copies of this will be available at Vic Books: www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard and/or E-Reserve

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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz