



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP 370: Special Topic: The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers

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

Last assessment item due: 5 June 2015

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

Lectures: Friday 15:10-17:00

Venue: Cotton LT122

Workshops: Thursday 15:10-16:00

Venue: New Kirk LT301;

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Manjeet S. Pardesi

Room No: 201, 16 Kelburn Parade

Phone: x5394

Email: manjeet.pardesi@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursday (1600-1700hrs) and by appointment.

Communication of additional information

I will be communicating with you over the course of the trimester through Blackboard. Please make sure that you have updated your email address on Blackboard to receive my emails in a timely fashion.

Prescription

The rise of China, Japan and India is making the politics of great powers central to world politics. This course aims to analyse great power politics and international order from theoretical and historical perspectives. What is the relationship between the rise and fall of great powers, war, and the global economy?

Course content

This course is divided into **three** parts. In the first part, students will be introduced to the very concept of “great powers” and their importance to world politics. More specifically, we will analyse how the great powers create international order – security order, institutional/normative order, and economic order. The second part of the course will begin with an analysis of the United States (the current system leader) as a great power around the start of the 20th century to its status as the “unipole” after the end of the Cold War. We will then go on to analysing the rise of an entire region – Asia – in recent decades. In particular, we will study the region’s three most important rising powers – China, Japan, and India – to understand their international ambitions. The third and the final section explores what the rise of China, Japan, and India means for the emerging order in the region and beyond. We will also briefly discuss the future of liberal democracy and free-market capitalism in this regard.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. analyse the concept of a great power
2. examine the historical and theoretical literature on the rise and fall of the great powers
3. explain how great powers create (or fail to create) international order
4. critically analyse great power behaviour, especially as it pertains to warfare and the global economy
5. critically evaluate political arguments made by some of the leading scholars in the field
6. choose a research project, select appropriate sources, critically evaluate those sources and synthesise them into a coherent and credible extended argument.

Teaching format

The course will consist of one 2-hour long lecture/discussion per week AND one 1-hour long workshop. Students are expected to actively participate in the lectures and workshops.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least 8 lectures
2. attend at least 8 workshops
3. complete all the assignments mentioned below by the specified dates (subject to provisions for late work)
4. sit the in-class test.

Workload

This course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the semester.

Please note that it is an important part of your skills development in working out how much time you should allocate to each of the following tasks. But here are some very rough guidelines on what to expect:

Preparation for (including reading) and attendance at lectures/workshops:	75 hours
Preparation for and writing assignment 1:	35 hours
Preparation for and writing assignment 2:	55 hours
Studying for and writing the end-term test:	35 hours

Assessment

You will be assessed for **four** different items for this course. To begin with, 10% of your overall grade comes from participation in workshops. This includes actively partaking in the discussions. There may be surprise tests/quizzes during the workshops as well. In addition to this you are required to do two written assignments. The first assignment is an exercise in critical analysis and involves a short-essay (~1,500 words). The second essay is a research essay that assesses your ability to independently work on an issue that interests you (~2,500 words). The fourth and final item of assessment is **an in-class test based on the material covered in the second-half of the trimester (after the mid-trimester break)**.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Participation in workshops	10%	1, 2, 3, 5	weekly
2	Assignment 1 – Essay (Critical Analysis) (~1,500 words)	25%	1,2,3,4	5 April 2015
3	Assignment 2 – Research Essay (~2,500 words)	40%	4,5,6	24 May 2015
4	End-trimester in-class test	25%	1,2,3,4	5 June 2015

Participation in Workshops:

These workshops are interactive sessions. You are expected to have done the readings for the **previous** lecture as well as the assigned reading for the workshop of the day. I will raise questions related to these readings. We will have discussions and debates based on these questions. We may even have surprise tests or quizzes based on these readings.

Assignment 1 – Essay (Critical Analysis) ~1,500 words

Choose any **one** of the assigned readings (either from the lecture or the workshop **from the first five weeks**) and write a short report analysing the core argument of the reading. The essay should cover the following items –

1. a concise summary of the reading; its main argument and how the argument is made
2. a critique of the reading in the context of the scholarly discussion. (This may or may not require a **limited** amount of research)
3. a discussion of how this reading helps you understand (some aspect of) great power politics.

Assignment 2 – Research Essay (~2,500 words)

In this second assignment, you are asked to write a substantive research paper. I will provide you with a list of questions during the very first lecture. You are free to choose any **one** of these questions to work on.

Alternatively, you can set your own research question but it needs to be approved by me first. (**NOTE:** If you are interested in choosing your own research question then you must discuss this with me in the first three weeks of the class and the question must be approved before the mid-term break. The sooner the better!) Here are the general guidelines for choosing your own research question:

1. The topic has to be relevant to great power politics.
2. It can focus on any one great power's foreign policy in general **OR** a great power's relationship with one or more great powers **OR** a great power's relationship with a non-great power. (In the case of a great power's relationship with a non-great power, you will need to specify why your research question matters for great power politics.)
3. You may choose to write on contemporary issues.

This assignment allows you to demonstrate your ability and analytical skills to conduct independent research on a relevant topic.

Marking Criteria

Each of your pieces of written work will be assessed on the basis of whether you have

- a) Answered the question correctly
- b) Developed clear and well-substantiated arguments
- c) Linked your arguments together in a clear logic that flows through the assignment
- d) Reflected an awareness in your writing of the literature on the subject
- e) Written a style that is easy to follow and communicates your point clearly and effectively
- f) Observed relevant scholarly conventions.

Submission and return of work

Please note that you are required to submit your essays to me through Blackboard. (You may email me your essays should you have issues with Blackboard). **Essays submitted after 5pm on the due date will be considered “late” by one day.**

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

It is important to keep-up with the readings (and research) and to submit your assignments in a timely fashion. Requests for extensions should be made with the lecturer in-person with proper documentation before the due date. Extensions are normally given only to those with a medical certificate, or of other evidence of forces beyond your control.

The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook.

(See: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf).

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.

Set texts

There are no set texts for this course. There are three “required” readings every week (normally 2 for the lecture and 1 for the workshop) available on Blackboard.

Recommended reading

You are encouraged to look at the following journals to refer to articles/issues that interest you – *International Security*, *Security Studies*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Survival*, and *The Washington Quarterly*. This is not an exhaustive list and you may refer to other region-specific or issue-specific journals depending upon your interests.

In addition to this, it is important to keep up with current global developments by following important news media outlets such as the *BBC* and *The New York Times*.

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