



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP 586: APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

30 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

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

Seminar Time: **Mondays 17:10-20:00**

Venue: **KK 202**

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Alexander Bukh

Room No: Murphy 509

Phone: 04 463 9450

Email: alexander.Bukh@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Thursdays 1-2 pm 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 surveys the fundamental concepts (e.g. state, sovereignty, anarchy, imperialism, international norms) and theoretical debates (e.g. realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism,

feminism) within International Relations. Subsequently, core issues of contemporary relevance in world affairs are considered (e.g. global governance, security, aid and development, humanitarian intervention, and global civil society).

Course content

A detailed schedule will be provided during the first class.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. understand some of the key theoretical and practical issues that are presently debated in the International Relations discipline
2. demonstrate some empirical knowledge of events and circumstances that are referenced by debates in the discipline
3. critically analyse issues and events in IR
4. make the connection between theoretical frameworks for the study of IR and international practice and be able to use terminology and concepts introduced in the course to interpret contemporary international issues and events.

Teaching format

The course is taught via a weekly seminar over one trimester. Students are expected to do all the set readings for each of the classes and to participate in the discussion. There is an in-class test that will occur during the last week of Trimester 1.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. attend at least 9 of the classes unless approved by the course coordinator
2. submit all written work, sit test and give oral presentation.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 300 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: | 75 hours |
| Research paper: | 150 hours |
| Presentation: | 10 hours |
| Preparation for and attendance of in-class test: | 65 hours |

Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------|
| 1 | Essay Proposal (1500 words) | 15% | 1, 2,3, 4 | 30 March |
| 2 | Long essay (6000 words) | 40% | 1, 2,3, 4 | 25 May |
| 3 | Oral presentation (15 mins) | 15% | 1, 2,3, 4 | 9 March- 15 May |
| 4 | In-class test (2 hours) | 30% | 1, 2,3, 4 | 3 June |

Submission and return of work

Proposals are to be handed to the course coordinator during the class on the 30th of March. Essays are to be submitted via Blackboard. After grading they will be emailed to students with comments from the course coordinator. In-class tests will be collected by the course coordinator after the test. Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions (mainly for medical reasons) of not more than two weeks may be given by the course coordinator.

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

Any standard textbook on international relations will cover aspects of the course, but the course content will follow the assigned readings lists, which will be available on Blackboard.

For a general overview of IR, you may wish to refer to the following texts:

Richard Devetak, Anthony Burke and Jim George, *Introduction to International Relations* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012)

Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010)

Joshua Goldstein, *International Relations*, (Pearson Longman, 2005)

Scott Burchill, et al., *Theories of International Relations*, 3rd Ed.,(Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)

Baylis and Smith, *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, (Oxford University Press, 2005)

David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, *Introduction to International Political Economy*, (Prentice Hall, 1996)

Theodore H. Cohn, *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 3rd Ed., (Pearson, 2005).

Cynthia Weber's *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* (Routledge 2009) is an excellent critical and non-conventional introduction to IR theories. Highly recommended!

Recommended reading

Students should get to know and keep a watchful eye on the following periodicals and papers. Some are available in the University library, including:

International Organization

European Journal of International Relations

World Politics

International Security

Millennium: Journal of International Studies

International Studies Alternatives

Foreign Policy

Foreign Policy Analysis

Foreign Affairs

Review of International Political Economy

New Left Review

Quarterly Review of International Studies

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