



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
POLS 432: POLITICAL IDEAS, POLITICAL ACTION
30 POINTS**

FULL YEAR COURSE: 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 2 March to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 2 March to 16 October 2015

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

Mid-year break: 2–12 July 2015

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 24 August to 6 September 2015

Study period: 19–23 October 2015

Examination/Assessment Period: 23 October to 14 November 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

Lectures: Wednesday, 10.00am-11.50am

Venue: MY301

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Margaret Clark

Room No: MY 517

Phone: (04) 463 5262

Email: margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday 9.00am—11.00am

Communication of additional information

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 explores the ways in which political ideas and political action shape political outcomes in a variety of situations. The precise content varies year to year, driven by the interests of the students enrolled in the course but a significant part of the course usually explores issues of New Zealand politics.

Course content

Readings will be distributed each week and each student will comment thereon in the following week's class. In the second trimester each student will be required to give a work-in-progress presentation on their proposed research paper. This offers an important opportunity to present to colleagues their research thus far and to gain important feedback as they complete the research and write the research paper. Students may arrange consultations with the course coordinator to discuss progress with their research papers, discuss drafts, and receive feedback and supervision.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate a grasp of the key theme of political change and collapse as expounded by the various authors studied in the course
2. demonstrate a knowledge of the linkages between political ideas and political action
3. demonstrate an understanding of the subtleties of political discourse and argument.

Teaching format

This course involves a weekly class session of 1 hour 50 minutes. There are no tutorials.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. lead a seminar about their research topic (worth 10% of overall grade);
2. attend a minimum of 80% of classes and contribute to them;
3. submit a research paper (worth 50% of overall grade), and;
4. sit and achieve a minimum of 40% in the examination.

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 year. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes	90 hours
Research Topic seminar	60 hours
Research paper	140 hours
Examination	10 hours

Assessment

1. **Research Seminar & Paper: 60%** in-term work (consisting of one research proposal and seminar, worth 10% of the overall grade and one research paper between 7,500-10,000 words, worth 50% of the overall total grade);
2. **40%** final three-hour examination conducted by the Faculty. The examination period will be from Friday 23 October to Saturday 14 November 2015.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research Proposal (500 words)	10%	1, 2, 3	1 May
2	Research Paper – 6,000- 7,000 words	50%	1, 2 &3	25 September
3	Examination (3 hours)	40%	1 & 2	TBA

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted through the office essay drop-off point, Murphy Room 518, together with completed cover sheet which is available from the office.

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

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Late submission of **assignments** will **not be accepted** unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). 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 is no set text for POLS 432. Course readings will be distributed to students throughout the course, as appropriate.

Recommended reading

Alan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind* (New York, 1987).

Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, (New York 1996)

Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone* (New York, 2000)
Robert Putnam, *Making Democracy Work* (Princeton, 1993)
Leslie Lipson, *The Ethical Crises of Civilization*, (London, 1993)
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, (London, 1991)
John Ralston Saul, *Voltaire's Bastards*, (Toronto, 1992)
James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*, (Yale, 1990)
Jeremy Paxman *The Political Animal* (Penguin, 2007)

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