



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME STRA 534: SPECIAL TOPIC: NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY 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

Last assessment item due: 5 June 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: Friday 11-1:50

Venue: Cotton LT119

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: David Capie

Room No: MY539

Phone: 4637483

Email: david.capie@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: 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 **if you normally use a different email address please make sure 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 class, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course explores New Zealand's foreign and security policy. Topics covered include NZ's approach to regional issues in Asia and the Pacific, trade, security and defence policy, multilateralism and the UN, key bilateral relationships and cultural and public diplomacy. There will be guest speakers from MFAT and other agencies.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the key issues and actors in New Zealand's foreign relations
2. apply concepts and theories from the wider Strategic Studies and IR literatures to explain developments in New Zealand's international relations
3. critique the strengths and weaknesses of the existing scholarship on New Zealand's foreign relations
4. explain the history and practice of New Zealand's international relations from a range of analytical perspectives.

Teaching format

STRA 534 is delivered in weekly three-hour seminars lectures. These include discussion, debate and other activities as well as occasional guest speakers.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must submit all the items of written assessment and sit the final test.

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, approximately 25 hours a week across the trimester. This total includes attending classes, reading and related preparation, and assignments.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal (2 pages)	10%	1, 2, 4	Friday 27 March
2	Op-ed/blog post/op-doc (800 words/5 minutes)	25%	1, 2, 3	Before 15 May
3	Research Paper (4000 words)	40%	1, 2, 4	Friday May 29
4	In-class test (3 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	Friday 5 June

There are four pieces of assessment for this course. The **research proposal** is designed to help you design an appropriate question for your longer research paper and provide you with helpful feedback early on in the trimester. The proposal should include a question, a short description of the argument you plan to make, and some indicative sources you have found.

The **research essay** builds on the proposal and the feedback you will have received. You may write about any subject related to New Zealand foreign and security policy (broadly understood). I encourage you to talk with me if you have ideas you want to research or you need some suggestions.

The **op-ed/blog post/op-doc** is designed to test your ability to mount a concise but persuasive argument about an issue that relates to contemporary New Zealand foreign or security affairs. An essential requirement of any op-ed, blog post or op-doc is that it should be interesting and engaging and should be able to be understood by someone who is not an expert in the field. Your piece can be about any issue related to New Zealand foreign and security policy, but it must be on a different topic to your research proposal and essay. If you choose to present your argument as an op-doc (opinion documentary), it should not be longer than 5 minutes in length. Op-eds/blog posts/op-docs are typically produced in response to some issue that has come up in the news, a controversy or a particular event. To give you maximum opportunity to respond to 'breaking news' you can submit your op-ed/blog post/op-doc any time during the trimester before 15 May.

The in-class test is designed to provide you with an opportunity to show your understanding of the readings and the discussions and debates we have had in class. More information about the test format and content will be made available closer to the test date.

Submission and return of work

All assignments are due before 5pm on the due date.

Submission: 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 class 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. I will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

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

Readings will be made available through the library's e-journal, e-reserve and Blackboard.

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