



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

INTP 363: Empirical Approaches to Human Rights

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2015

Important dates

Trimester dates: 13 July to 15 November 2015

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2015

Mid-trimester break: 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: Mondays 10-12

Venue: Cotton Lecture Theatre (COLT) 122

Tutorials: Please see the Academic Timetable 2015 www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables

Tutorials begin in week 2. Attendance is not compulsory, but I strongly recommend that you attend. Students who attend tutorials typically receive higher marks

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Jana von Stein

Room No: 503, Murphy Building

Email: jana.vonstein@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: TBA

Your first point of contact is your tutor. Be sure to learn his/her name. You can access his/her contact details under “useful links” in Blackboard.

Communication of additional information

I use Blackboard and require all enrolled students to have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please ensure that your account is active (or that you are having your messages forwarded). I will announce any changes by email, Blackboard, and in class. I will always post slides under “course resources” before lecture. Please note that the Frequently Asked Questions page under “course resources” is also very useful.

Prescription

This course is interested in the international human rights regime and its impact on a variety of human rights outcomes such as torture, arbitrary detention, child labour, and racial/gender discrimination. Through the use of basic quantitative data and in-depth case studies, students will learn how to evaluate the design, implementation and effectiveness of human rights policy. Topics include: what experiments teach us and about why people sometimes abuse rights; UN human rights treaties and institutions; the role of domestic institutions and non-state actors; and tensions between cultural relativism and universalism.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. show a solid understanding of the history, principles, and debates surrounding international human rights
2. use concepts and tools from political science, international relations, and international law to understand better the international human rights ‘project,’ why it has sometimes failed, and when it has succeeded.

Teaching format

Lectures (110 minutes, once per week): The lectures are a core foundation for learning.

Tutorials (50 minutes, once per week): The tutorials reinforce the lecture experience.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of trimester and includes attendance at 12 two-hour lectures and a one-hour tutorial each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between tutorial/seminar preparation and making progress on assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. As you become more skilled throughout the trimester, this may take fewer hours each week but in the first instance one hour per reading is worth ‘budgeting’ for.
- Essays and other written assignments may require enough time for location, retrieval and reading of a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft will all be necessary before writing up a final version.

Below is a rough guideline of how many hours you should spend on each aspect of the course. Because each student is different, you should adjust according to your needs:

Lecture attendance	24
Tutorial attendance	11

Required readings	55
Preparation for lectures and tutorials	12
Writing essay 1	30
Writing essay 2	33
Preparation for final examination	35

Assessment

This course is partly internally assessed. More detail on each item, including marking criteria, will be provided in class and via Blackboard.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1 st Essay (2000 words)	25%	1, 2	24 August ¹ 3:00 pm
2	2 nd Essay (2500 words)	30%	1, 2	25 September, 3:00 pm
3	Examination (2 hours)	45%	1, 2	TBA

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box outside the School Office on the 5th floor of the Murphy building. *In addition*, students must submit an electronic copy by uploading to Turnitin through Blackboard. **Essays will not be marked until they are uploaded.** If there is any doubt about when a student submitted his/her essay, the turnitin date and time will be used. Students must indicate their tutor's name on the essay.

Assignments will be returned at times to be advised. If students are unable to attend these times, they may collect their assignments from the School Office (Murphy 518) between 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. However, each student is eligible for a one-time 'no questions asked' extension *if* he/she requests this extension from the tutor 24 hours before the submission deadline. Otherwise, extensions will only be granted in exceptional cases, with documentation. Medical certificates must indicate the dates of impairment. Students should always contact their tutors, rather than the course coordinator, regarding extensions.

Penalties

Points will be deducted for late submission of papers – 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Weekend days count in the calculation of penalties unless a student certifies that a genuine religious practice prohibits work on Saturday or Sunday.

Students should submit late essays to an administrator from the Programme office in 518 Murphy and ensure that he/she dates it. In addition, students should upload their assignments to Turnitin through Blackboard. If the submission day falls on the weekend, the date of upload will be used as the submission date, but students should also submit a hard copy on Monday.

¹ This is during the Study Break. You are welcome to turn your paper in earlier if you would like.

Set texts

There are two types of **required** reading material in this course:

1. *Making Human Rights a Reality* by Emilie Hafner-Burton (2013, Princeton University Press). Students can access an electronic version of the book for free through E-Reserves. The Kindle version goes for US\$15 on www.amazon.com. Vicbooks www.vicbooks.co.nz offers a print version for NZ\$53.95. Finally, various US retailers offer the book for about US\$20, but the shipping costs vary depending on how quickly you need it.
2. A number of chapters and articles, as well as the occasional webpage, posted directly on the course Blackboard page (courtesy of E-Reserves).

Recommended reading

A limited number of webpages, newspaper articles, and so forth will be posted on Blackboard. These will cover 'hot topics' that arise during the course of the trimester. These are 'recommended' rather than 'required' readings. Students who read these pieces are likely to find certain class discussions easier to follow. They are also likely to gain a better overall understanding of how the course themes tie in with current-day events.

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

I obtain evaluations for this course each time I teach it and make adjustments wherever appropriate. Previous students in this course have expressed appreciation for my enthusiasm and ability to put complex ideas in 'plain English.' They felt I created a respectful classroom environment where students' views were valued.

Some students felt there was too little video material; others felt there was too much. People have different preferences over video content and I am hopefully getting it "just right." Students also wanted more case studies and so I have added more of these, for instance with a deeper focus on South Africa.

I take student feedback very seriously, so please contact me directly or through the course representative if you have any concerns. More student feedback information is located here: 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