



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

#### *POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME INTP 448 IDENTITY AND WORLD POLITICS 30 POINTS*

**TRIMESTER 3 2015**

### **Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 16 November 2015 to 21 February 2016

**Teaching dates:** 16 November 2015 to 21 December 2015

**Last assessment item due:** 21 December 2015

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

### **Class times and locations**

Class times:

Wednesday 11:00 – 13:50

Venue: Murphy 103

Friday 11:00 – 13:50

Venue: Cotton 228

### **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Fiona Barker

Room No.: Murphy 538

Phone: 463 5759

Email: [fiona.barker@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:fiona.barker@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Wednesday 14:00 – 15:00 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 seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in class, and posted on the INTP 448 Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course introduces concepts, theories and empirical research on the role of individual and collective identities in political life. Topics include: the political impact of "traditional" identities like language, ethnicity, religion; how state actors shape our identities; national identity and norms in international relations; sport as arena of identity contestation.

## Course content

The concept of identity has grown in importance in the social sciences both as an explanatory variable and as an independent subject of analysis. This course introduces concepts, theories and empirical research on the role of individual and collective identities in political life. It first surveys different concepts of identity, as well as theories of individual and collective identity formation, and methods of measuring identity in politics. It then examines the politics of identity via case studies including national identity, group-based political representation, the politics of language, religious identity and state shaping of citizens' identity.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students passing the course should be able to:

1. explain the different ways in which the concept of identity is used in the social sciences, as well as the means of measuring the concept.
2. evaluate the main theoretical arguments about what shapes individual and collective identities in social and political life.
3. summarise how individual and collective identities are argued to influence political and social outcomes, and critically assess the different arguments.
4. demonstrate understanding of the political uses of different types of identities (e.g. religious, linguistic, national, ethnic) in historical and contemporary case studies.
5. apply the knowledge gained through course-work to research and write a well-structured, theoretically-informed essay on a topic related to the origins, evolution and consequences of individual or collective identities in national and/or global politics.

## Teaching format

This course is taught by way of two three-hour seminars per week. Each seminar will include a combination of analysis of readings, class discussion, group activities in relation to readings and research projects, and student presentations. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion, as well as in giving, and providing feedback on, presentations.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. give a presentation on readings/current issues
2. submit a credible attempt at the research proposal and research paper
3. sit and make a bona fide attempt at the in-class test
4. attend at least 7 out of 10 class meetings (excluding absences for valid & documented reasons).

The mandatory course requirements are designed to ensure students maintain active participation in this intensive Trimester 3 course, and to ensure they complete the main pieces of assessment. Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

## 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. As this is only a 5-week

course the average workload per week is much higher than that of a standard 12-week course. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is given below:

Attendance at classes:	30 hours
Readings and preparation for class:	52 hours
Research proposal:	32 hours
Position papers and presentation:	32 hours
In-class test preparation:	60 hours
Research essay:	94 hours

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research Question and Proposal (5 pages maximum, including bibliography)	15%	1, 2, 5	30 November
2	Three briefing papers (2 pages max per briefing paper)	15%	1, 2, 3, 4	TBA
3	Presentation (15 minutes)	10%	1, 2, 3	TBA
4	In-class test (2 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	9 December
5	Research paper (4000 words)	35%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	21 December

This course contains regular small items of assessment throughout this course in order to ensure that you stay up to date with the course content and to give you credit for activities (e.g. briefing papers) that will be helping you to prepare for the test and research paper.

The **Research question and proposal (15%)** are due on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Students also have the opportunity to submit a research question by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November and I will give feedback on the question by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Research Question and Proposal can be up to 5 pages in length. The proposal should state a clear research question, explain why the question is worth studying, explain how the question will be researched and provide a tentative outline. A bibliography should be attached.

During the course of INTP448 you will write **three briefing papers of 1-2 pages each**. Each briefing paper is worth 5% of the overall course grade. The course schedule at the end of the Course Outline notes the sessions for which you can choose to write a briefing paper. The briefing papers should do one of the following things: a) discuss two readings from the session in relation to each other; b) critique at least one reading for the session and raise your own questions and position in relation to the reading; or c) discuss at least one reading from the session in the context of a contemporary social or policy identity issue. The briefing paper element is intended to help you understand and evaluate the readings and to write concise papers. **You may not write a briefing paper for the session in which you give a presentation.**

You will also give one **presentation** to the class. Similar to the briefing paper, the presentation should address key themes and questions for that session. You may choose to discuss key problems or themes from one of the readings, or you might prefer to take a recent issue in political life or in the media and discuss it in relation to the topic and readings of the week. The goal of the presentation is for you to show that you understand the themes and/or readings for the session and that you can link them to current debates or events in political life. **You may not write a briefing paper for the session in which you give a presentation.**

A two-hour **in-class test** part-way through the course (9 December) is designed to test your understanding of key theories and concepts relating to identity and the deployment of different identities in political life.

The 4000 word **research paper** is due on Monday 21 December. The earlier assignment of developing a research question and proposal will feed into the research paper. The research paper will test your ability to identify an interesting question related to the themes of the course, undertake secondary and/or primary research into the question, apply appropriate political science and international relations theories to the question, and develop an interesting argument in response to the question. It will also test your ability to write clearly and articulate an argument clearly.

Marking criteria for all assessment will be provided on Blackboard in the first week of the course.

## **Submission and return of work**

The **research question and position papers** should be submitted in class in the relevant session. Please submit the **research proposal** and **research essay** to the INTP 448 essay box outside Murphy Room 518, together with completed cover sheet, which is available on Blackboard and/or from the office. The research proposal and research essay must also be submitted electronically, to the appropriate folder on Blackboard.

The position papers, research question, proposal, essay and test will be returned at times to be advised. Alternatively, students may collect their essay from the Office, Murphy Room 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

## **Extensions and penalties**

### **Extensions**

Extensions will be granted in extraordinary circumstances and require appropriate documentation (e.g. presentation of a medical certificate). If you think you may need consideration for an extension, please contact the course coordinator prior to the due date.

### **Penalties**

Students will be penalised for late submission of the research proposal and research paper. 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 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. Please note that any research papers submitted after the due date of 21 December can only be submitted via Blackboard as the University will be closed. In this case, you would need to: a) advise the Course Coordinator prior to the deadline; and b) ensure that a scanned and signed copy of the cover sheet is included in the electronic submission to Blackboard.

### **Set texts**

All required readings for INTP 448 will be made available electronically on the course Blackboard site.

### **Recommended reading**

A list of recommended readings for the course will be posted in the Course Resources section of 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.

### **Student feedback**

Feedback from the previous offering of INTP448 was generally positive and supportive of course content and themes. Based on feedback, some of the readings have been reconsidered and updated. Course topics and assessment have been revised in 2015 to suit the structure and timescale of INTP448 as a Trimester 3 course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)