



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

### *INTP 360: SPECIAL TOPIC: US STRATEGY TOWARDS ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST 20 POINTS*

**TRIMESTER 1 2016**

#### **Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 29 February to 29 June 2016

**Teaching dates:** 29 February to 5 June 2016

**Easter break:** 24–30 March 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 April to 1 May 2016

**Study period:** 6–9 June 2016

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 10–29 June 2016

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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds).

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

#### **Class times and locations**

Lectures: Tuesdays 4:10pm-6:00pm

Venue: Hugh Mackenzie Lecture Theatre LT002

#### **Tutorials**

There will be 1 hour per week from week 2, and a range of times will be offered.

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables).

#### **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Robert Ayson

Room No: 205, 16 Kelburn Parade (available by appointment only; please email or call to arrange a time)

Phone: 04 463 6445

Email: [robert.ayson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:robert.ayson@vuw.ac.nz)

## 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 tutorial programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course compares recent American strategy towards Asia and the Middle East, both important regions. It considers US approaches to regional security issues including Asia's territorial disputes and the Middle East peace process, and the competitive demands the two regions place on Washington's finite military and diplomatic resources.

## Course content

The dates and topics for the weekly lectures in this course are as follows:

1 March 2016: Session 1: The Nature of US Strategy  
8 March 2016: Session 2: America's Response to a Rising China  
15 March 2016: Session 3: Japan, India & the US: Balancing China?  
22 March 2016: Session 4: Nuclear North Korea, Allied South Korea

*24-30 March: Teaching Break*

5 April 2016: Session 5: Southeast Asia: Renewed Area of Contestation?  
12 April 2016: Session 6: Australia, New Zealand & the South Pacific  
19 April 2016: Session 7: Iran: Before and After the Nuclear Deal

*25-29 April: Mid-Trimester Break*

3 May 2016: Session 8: Israel, Palestine & Multiple Peace Processes  
10 May 2016: Session 9: Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States: Stable Allies?  
17 May 2016: Session 10: After The Arab Spring: Egypt, Libya & Syria  
24 May 2016: Session 11: From Iraq to ISIS: The Role of American Force  
31 May 2016 Session 12: A US Pivot from the Middle East to Asia?/Exam review

Topics for tutorials (which will begin in the second week) will be made available through Blackboard from the first teaching week.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. depict the main features of American strategy, and its relevance to different parts of the international system
2. analyse the changes and continuities in US strategy towards Asia with reference to US relations with particular regional countries
3. analyse the changes and continuities in US strategy towards the Middle East with reference to US relations with particular regional countries
4. evaluate the likelihood and sustainability of a shift in US strategic priorities.

## Teaching format

This course is taught in 12 weekly sessions to allow for step-by-step consideration of the curriculum. Lectures are interactive with students having frequent opportunities to ask questions as the lecturer

moves through the material for each class. Normally powerpoint presentations will be used. Each of the two hour sessions will be broken up into two parts with a short break half way through. Lectures will often begin with a consideration of developments in US strategy over the last week.

The one-hour tutorials (each student will attend one of these from a series of optional times) will provide an opportunity for students to discuss the readings and to seek greater background information where needed on points of detail in the course.

## Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote a total of 200 hours to INTP 360 across the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks, and the preparation for and sitting of the final examination. Please note it is an important part of your skills development in working out how much time you should allocate to each of these tasks. But here are some very rough guidelines on what to expect:

Preparatory reading and attendance at classes	55 hours
Research and Preparation of short essay	30 hours
Research and Preparation of long essay	55 hours
Study for & sitting of final examination	60 hours
Total	200 hours

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	1,500-word short written assignment	15%	1,2	29 March 2016 at 5pm
2	3,000-word essay	35%	2,3	13 May 2016 at 5pm
3	Final examination (3 hours)	50%	1-4	TBA

There are three pieces of assessment for this course:

**1. A first and shorter written assignment (15%) to be submitted to the Blackboard site for INTP 360.** Please write **1,500 words** on ONE of the following topics:

- Can the United States have a strategy in Asia which is not based on military sources of power?
- If the United States wishes to remain strong in Asia does the containment of China become necessary?
- You are an adviser to the new American President who comes into office in early 2017. Write the President a memo explaining whether Japan or India is a bigger strategic asset for the United States in Asia.
- Should American strategic thinkers be more concerned about a collapsing North Korea than North Korean nuclear threats?

**2. A second and longer written assignment (35%) to be submitted to the Blackboard Site.** Please write **3,000 words** on ONE of the following topics:

- Does the United States risk dividing Southeast Asia by the approach it is taking towards China over the South China Sea?
- Has a revived ANZUS arrived all but in name?

- (c) You are a foreign policy advisor for a Republican Presidential candidate who has surprised you by asking for a memo explaining why the cancellation of the Iran nuclear deal would be a bad idea. Write a memo (where you are welcome to take whatever position you think is best).
  - (d) 'You can't blame the Obama Administration for the stalemate of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Its about local politics not external pressure.' Evaluate this statement.
  - (e) 'The Obama Administration's initiative on a political settlement in Syria is more than overdue. With quicker and more decisive action, Washington could have stopped Syria's civil war.' Evaluate this statement.
  - (f) Mr Obama came into office promising an end to long missions such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan. Has ISIS meant that he has not succeeded?
  - (g) With respect to the US rebalance and the relationship between Washington's approach to the Middle East and Asia, answer the following question: As a global power does the United States really get to pick and choose?
3. **A final Examination (50%)** to be sat at a date to be arranged and advertised by the university during the Trimester One examination period.

## Marking Criteria

Each of your pieces of written work will be assessed on the basis of whether you have:

- (a) answered the question directly
- (b) developed clear and well-substantiated arguments
- (c) linked your arguments together in a clear logic that flows through the assignment
- (d) reflected an awareness in your writing of the literature on the subject
- (e) written in a style that is easy to follow and communicates your points clearly and effectively
- (f) observed relevant scholarly conventions

## Submission and return of work

The short and long written assignments will be submitted electronically by the student to the Blackboard site for INTP 360 using the cover page for the particular assignment which will also be provided on the Blackboard Site. These assignments will be marked on-line and students will be informed through Blackboard when the marks and comments for their assignments can be viewed. We will aim to do this within three weeks of the official submission date.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

You may request an extension in advance of the due date for a particular piece of assessment from the course instructor by sending an email and explaining the reason for the extension request and the length of extension requested to [robert.ayson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:robert.ayson@vuw.ac.nz). Extensions are generally only granted in exceptional circumstances, eg illness of the student or a family member. They must be made before the original due date and time.

### 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 may not be marked. Deductions will apply as soon as the specified time and date is missed. An essay due in at 5pm on 1 March is likely to be deducted 5% if it is submitted to Blackboard at 5:30pm that day.

Penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds (for example, illness or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

## Readings

A series of required readings for each of the lectures has been selected for students to assist with their studies. Students are expected to read *all of the Required Readings* – please consult the Blackboard site for INTP 360. As time allows, they should also follow up on the Further Readings by using the resources of the Victoria University of Wellington library (including the valuable electronic journal holdings). Students working on a long assignment topic should read beyond the required readings, locating additional reading material which will deepen their research and the quality of their written work.

## 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

Based on student feedback from 2014, tutorials were introduced to supplement the lectures. Based on student feedback from 2015, these tutorials will again be offered.

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)