



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**POLS 403 POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THEORY & PRACTICE  
30 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

**Last assessment item due:** 13 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: Tuesday, 14.10-16.00pm

Venue: New Kirk KK 107

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Jon Johansson

Room No: MY507

Phone: 4636424

Email: [jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Friday, 11.00am-noon

## 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 will focus on fundamental questions such as what political leadership is, and when and why it matters. Classical leadership theories are canvassed, normative questions about leadership addressed, and the relationship between individual leaders and the wider societal and historical forces they encounter feature as a dominant theme throughout the course. Different presidential and prime ministerial leadership theories will be contrasted, using contemporary examples, drawn mainly from the U.S. and New Zealand. The dark side of leadership will also traverse historical figures such as Hitler and Stalin. A particular aspect of this course will be to focus on the psychological aspects of leadership, especially the master skill of discernment underpinned by a leader's character. The course will also examine case study methodology to assist students to undertake a research paper into aspects of political leadership. 60% internal assessment, 40% examination.

## Course content

The course content will draw on case studies from around the globe, and across history, to ground the theoretical exploration of political leadership theories and ideas. The significant comparative focus will be to contrast presidential-styled leadership systems against the Westminster-derived variant in New Zealand and elsewhere. The course will also focus on exemplary leaders drawn from across political systems and time as well as canvass history's most disastrous leaders. The content will also examine situational variables associated with the leadership dynamic, such as the notion of political cycles and of generational change, and explore the psychological dimensions of political leadership. A full lecture schedule is detailed at the bottom of this course outline.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 understand theoretical underpinnings of political leadership;
- 2 gain an appreciation of political leadership phenomena from a comparative perspective;
- 3 present research questions and findings to a peer group;
- 4 write a detailed and quality research paper on an aspect of political leadership.

## Teaching format

This course is taught in one two-hour Lecture per week. The course is delivered over 12 weeks of lectures. The first half of the course will involve lectures and discussion as key leadership concepts and theories are examined. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the readings.

## 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.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements 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 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	50 hours
Research paper	150 hours
Examination	10 hours

To consider when planning your time:

- Research papers require time to locate, retrieve and read a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft are necessary before writing a final version. Begin assignments early.

## Assessment

1. **Research Seminar & Paper: 60%** in-term work (consisting of one research 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 from Friday 10 June to Wednesday 29 June 2016.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Seminar Presentation	10%	1, 2, 3 & 4	TBA
2	Research Paper (7,500-10,000 words)	50%	1, 2 & 3	<b>13 May 2016</b>
3	Registry Examination	40%	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 fifth floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached. The due date for submission of the research paper, worth **50%** of the total grade is **5.00pm on Friday, 13 May 2016**.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy. For this course, please email to me an electronic copy of your work on the same due date as for your hardcopy submission. The subject line of your email submission should be "POLS 403". The email copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an email submission only will not be marked.

The timing of each seminar presentation, worth **10%** of the total grade will be arranged between the course coordinator and students but will take place during the last three weeks of the course.

Research papers will be returned at times to be advised. If students are unable to attend at these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 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](http://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 403. Course readings will be distributed to students throughout the course, as appropriate.

### Recommended reading

A separate sheet detailing a comprehensive recommended reading list will also be provided to students.

### 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 2015 the course coordinator will continue to allow students the freedom to choose research topics and seminars that interest them.

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)