



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**POLS 114: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS  
20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2016**

## **Key dates**

**Trimester dates:** 11 July to 13 November 2016

**Teaching dates:** 11 July to 16 October 2016

**Mid-trimester break:** 22 August to 4 September 2016

**Study period:** 17–20 October 2016

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 21 October to 12 November 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: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 12.00-12.50

Venue: HM LT 205

## **Tutorials**

Begin in week 2. Please see the Academic Timetable 2016

[www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables) and the myAllocator tutorial sign-up link on this page.

## **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Terence Green

Room No: TBA

Email: [terence.green@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:terence.green@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: TBA

Course Coordinator: Dr Kate McMillan  
Room No: MY 532  
Phone: 4639595  
Email: [kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Wednesday 1.10-2.00

## 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

What can we learn by comparing the politics and government of different countries? This course examines competing explanations for democratic and authoritarian regimes including economic, cultural and institutional theories of state development. These theories are then applied to several case studies.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify the purpose and limitations of the comparative method and apply this method to analyse cause and effect in selected case studies
2. Critically engage with political arguments and evidence
3. Compare the political systems of selected countries and contrast the effects of these systems on political outcomes
4. Use theory and empirical data to write well-structured and clearly argued essays on comparative politics.

## Teaching format

This course is taught by way of three lectures and one tutorial per week. Tutorials begin in the second week of the trimester. Both tutorials and lectures are essential aspects of the course and the primary means by which course content is delivered. Students are expected to attend lectures regularly, participate in tutorial discussions and keep up with the weekly readings.

The **lectures** introduce students to key concepts and theories in comparative politics, using empirical evidence from case studies to support the learning.

The **tutorials** are intended to consolidate students' understanding of the key concepts, assigned readings and case studies. Many tutorials will involve group work and discussion, both in small groups and via plenary discussion.

## Mandatory course requirements

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

1. make a bona fide attempt at the two essays and submit in hard copy and electronic format by the due date (with the proviso noted below under 'Extensions and Penalties'). These essays are mandatory in order to demonstrate your attainment of Course Learning Objectives 1-4.
2. sit the final examination. This is mandatory, in order to demonstrate your attainment of Course Learning Objectives 1-4.

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 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks and preparation for the final examination.

To consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation requires careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. 'Budget' for at least one hour per reading, including additional internet research to help understand the historic and/or historiographical context of readings.
- Essays and other written assignments 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. Your essay preparation time should reflect the fact that the two essays are each worth 25%, a combined total 50% of your course mark.

## Assessment

| Assessment items and workload per item |                              | %   | CLO(s) | Due date                  |
|--|------------------------------|-----|--------|---------------------------|
| 1                                      | Essay One (1200-1500 words)  | 25% | 2,3,4  | 5 pm Friday 12 August     |
| 2                                      | Essay Two (1200 -1500 words) | 25% | 1-4    | 5 pm, Friday 23 September |
| 3                                      | Final 3-hour Examination     | 50% | 1-4    | TBA                       |

### Essays One (25%) and Two (25%)

Each of the essays will require students to gather material on a specialised topic related to the course themes, analyse relevant data and ideas and present an essay in a literate, clearly argued and structured form. Details on the essay questions, as well as guidelines for carrying out your research and writing your essay, will be provided in the first week of the trimester and posted on Blackboard.

### Final Examination (50% of final grade)

A three-hour written examination will be held during the examination period 21 October -12 November.

## Submission and return of work

**Submission:** You must submit **two** copies of your essays. First, a HARD COPY must be dropped off outside the School Office (MY518) in the box provided with a signed essay cover sheet. You must ADD the name of your tutor and the course code. Second, an electronic version must be submitted to turnitin.com via the link in Blackboard.

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, usually within three weeks of the due date. Uncollected essays will be returned to the School Office, MY 518, where they can be

collected between the hours of 2.00-3.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

**Example:** The development of work discipline and time management skills are an important part of the education process and it is expected that each student takes responsibility for allocating sufficient time for their studies.

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

The essential texts for this course are:

1. Patrick H. O'Neil, *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York, W. W. Norton & Company. 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2015.
2. Patrick H. O'Neil et al, *Cases in Comparative Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2015.

You should purchase both of these texts, which can be bought as a package. Please note that this course uses the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the textbook. See [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for further details on when and where to buy or order textbooks.

A limited number of copies of both texts will be made available on Closed Reserve in the Glass Room of the Victoria Kelburn Campus library.

Additional required readings will be available electronically in a folder in the Course Resources section of the POLS 114 Blackboard page. A list of the weekly lecture topics and required readings will be provided in the first lecture and posted on Blackboard.

### Recommended reading

Weekly readings are provided in the attachment to the course outline.

## 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 name and details of the class representative in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## Student feedback

Student feedback on this course indicated that students particularly appreciated the contemporary nature of the case studies examined. The amount of content covered in some lectures has been reduced in 2016 in response to student feedback.

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)