



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

**POLS 355: SPECIAL TOPIC: POLITICS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS
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

Last assessment item due: 12 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to 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).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Mondays 3.10-5.00

Venue: EALT206

Lectures/Workshops: Wednesdays 3.10-4.00

Venue: EALT206

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Jon Fraenkel

Room No.: Murphy 502

Phone 4639644

Email: jon.fraenkel@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm

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 examines the politics of the Pacific Island states, covering the area from Papua New Guinea in the west to Rapa Nui in the east. Among other topics, we look at the coups in Fiji, at intervention in the Solomon Islands and political reform in Tonga and Samoa.

Course content

See session by session outline on blackboard

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. indicate the diversity of political experiences amongst the Pacific Island states and territories, including electoral, constitutional and unitary/federal arrangements
2. analyse causes of conflict in the Pacific Islands, and assess the appropriateness of various institutional (and other) responses to conflict
3. evaluate different perspectives on core issues pertaining to the analysis of the Pacific Islands polities, for e.g. as regards claims of state 'failure', women's representation, and the 'proper' place for custom/tradition
4. apply different theoretical approaches to the analysis of specific contextual issues that arise within the Pacific region.

Teaching format

The course will be taught by way of a weekly Monday lecture, followed by a second part of each Monday session using an interactive format that breaks up segments with class dialogue, short in class test-type activities and discussions of video footage segments. Workshops the following Wednesdays will concentrate on each week's reading assignments, but will also feature several guest talks and/or lectures.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to POLS 355 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures (22%) and tutorials (12%), completion of all set weekly readings (20%) and research and writing for set assessment tasks (46%).

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.
- Revision and preparation should reflect the fact that the two tests, one worth 15% and the other 25%, constitute a combined total 40% of your course mark.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	First in-class test (50 minutes)	15%	1, 2, 3	Wednesday 17 August
2	Essay (1,500 words)	25%	1, 2, 4	Monday 5 September 11am
3	Research Essay (2,500-3,000 words)	35%	2, 3, 4	Friday 30 September, 11 am
4	Final in-class test (2 hours)	25%	1, 2, 3	Monday 10 October

Submission and return of work

All assignments are due before 11am on the due date.

Submission: All work for assessment must be submitted in HARD COPY in a labelled box outside the School Office (MY518) together with a completed assignment cover sheet. If late, essays must be date stamped by a School Administrator before being lodged in the slot provided.

Essays and research essays must be simultaneously lodged through *Turnitin* on the course blackboard website. The hard copy that you submit will be used for marking purposes.

See www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin

Graded essays will be returned to you in class in the first instance, and then 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 (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

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 with or emails the course coordinator to explain the lateness before the assignment is due to be submitted (requests for extensions beyond the due date will only be accepted in very special circumstances). 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).

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

None. All readings are available on blackboard

Recommended reading

See session by session outline on 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

Based on student feedback from 2015, we have broadened the focus of the democracy session, emphasised the study skills components of the course, and introduced a dedicated session on Fiji's coups. The previous session on China has been broadened to cover the wider international relations of the Pacific, and a test in the final week has been substituted for the earlier examination. The Monday workshops will feature a variety of workshop and practical activities and, where possible, several guest lectures on topical Pacific themes.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at 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
- 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
- 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
- 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