



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**STRATEGIC STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**STRA 534: SPECIAL TOPIC: NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY  
30 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:** 14 October 2016

**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**

Lecture/seminar: FRI 9:00 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

Venue: CO 119

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Dr Malcolm McKinnon

Room No: MY 540

Phone: 021 211 6510

Email: [malcolm.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:malcolm.mckinnon@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Thu 10-12

Course Coordinator: Professor Rob Rabel

Room No: HU 117

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Office hours: Fri 2-4

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

## 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 explores New Zealand's foreign and security policy. Topics covered include NZ's approach to regional issues in Asia and the Pacific, trade, security and defence policy, multilateralism and the UN, key bilateral relationships and cultural and public diplomacy. There will be guest speakers from MFAT and other agencies.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the key issues and actors in New Zealand's foreign relations
2. apply concepts and theories from the wider strategic studies and IR literatures to explain developments in New Zealand's international relations
3. critique the strengths and weaknesses of the existing scholarship on New Zealand's foreign relations
4. explain the history and practice of New Zealand's international relations from a range of analytical perspectives.

## Teaching format

STRA 534 is delivered in weekly three-hour session combining lecture and seminar formats. These sessions will include discussion, debate and other activities as well as occasional guest speaker.

## 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, approximately 25 hours a week across the trimester. This total includes attending classes, reading and related preparation, and assignments.

## Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal (two pages)	10%	1, 2, 4	Friday 5 Aug
2	Op-ed/blog post/op-doc (800 words/five minutes)	25%	1, 2, 3	Before 23 Sep
3	Research Paper (4000 words)	40%	1, 2, 4	Friday 7 Oct
4	In-class test (two hours)	25%	1, 2, 3, 4	Friday 14 Oct

There are **four** pieces of assessment for this course

The **research proposal** is designed to help you design an appropriate question for your longer research paper and provide you with helpful feedback early on in the trimester. The proposal

should include a question, a short description of the argument you plan to make, and some indicative sources.

The **research essay** builds on the proposal and the feedback you will have received. You may write about any subject related to New Zealand foreign and security policy (broadly understood). We encourage you to talk with us if you have ideas you want to research or you need some suggestions.

The **op-ed/blog post/op-doc** is designed to test your ability to mount a concise but persuasive argument about an issue that relates to contemporary New Zealand foreign or security affairs (but on a different topic to your research proposal and essay). If you choose to present your argument as an op-doc (opinion documentary), the clip should be of no more than five minutes duration. More information will be posted on blackboard early in the course.

The **in-class test** is designed to provide you with an opportunity to show your understanding of the readings and the discussions and debates we have had in class. More information will be made available closer to the test date.

**All assignments are due before noon on the due date.**

**Submission:** All written work submitted for assessment must be submitted electronically to Blackboard. If you are uncertain whether an electronic copy of your work has been received, email the coordinators for confirmation. We reserve the right to check any assessable work via Turnitin.com (see [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin))

It is your responsibility to ensure that all files submitted to Blackboard are readable. If in doubt, submit your work as a pdf or word file.

All work will be returned electronically with comments within a reasonable time, via Blackboard.

## 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 eight days**. Work that is more than 10 weekdays late may not be accepted for assessment. 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

Readings will be made available through 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 session of the course.

## Student feedback

On the basis of feedback received for this course in past years, students will now receive all comments on their assignments electronically.

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)