



School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International Relations

Political Science and International Relations Programme
Trimester 2, 2008

INTP249: Culture and International Relations

LECTURER: Dr Robert Deuchars
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LECTURE TIMES: Mon, Fri 11-11:50 + 1 Weekly Tutorial
VENUE: MYLT220

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays, 11-12. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information about any changes to the timetable or programme will be announced in seminars.

PLEASE NOTE: TUTORIALS WILL COMMENCE IN THE SECOND WEEK OF TERM

COURSE AIMS

This course will introduce students to the cultural dimension of world affairs. Its primary focus will be on Rationalism as the dominant ideology of western modernity, cast as a cultural and ongoing project. Within this cultural project and context, the course will cover theoretical and practical issues related to the way cultural practices affect a range of issues, from the constructed nature of the states-system itself, liberal capitalism and the individualist sense of self that modernity as a cultural project promotes. Students will also be exposed to counter-currents in modernity in the form of politico-cultural resistance to hegemonic forms of discourse and practices.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive introductory understanding of the interaction between culture and contemporary international relations.

COURSE READINGS

The book of course readings is available from Student Notes.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays)

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays.

Phone: 463 5515

ASSESSMENT

Essays: Two essays each worth **25%** (Word limit not to exceed 2,500). Detail of essay topics will be given in lectures. The essays are for you to develop your analytical capabilities and your research skills at greater length/time. A list of topics will be provided early in the course but you can also choose your own topics in consultation with the course co-ordinator. No late submissions will be accepted unless approved by the course co-ordinator. You are also required to attach the Programme's 'Assignment Cover Sheet' to your essays.

1st essay due **8th August**. 2nd essay due **3rd October**.

Final examination (50%) (3 hours, closed book), **The exam will be held during the exam period, 17th October to 9th November. The exact date and location will be announced nearer the time.**

Relationship between assessment and course objectives:

The essays and exam are designed to give students an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of the subject matter, their ability to conduct independent research, and their skills in written presentation. The assessment will allow them to identify how well they understand the theoretical literature and the strengths and weaknesses of their analyses of culture and international politics.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- a) Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).
- b) Attend **all** tutorials, unless specific arrangements are made, with the agreement of the course co-ordinator

NB: A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K grade for that course, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—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 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 12-15 hours per week to the course. This includes the seminar meetings.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times. Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction (Week 1: 7 July)

*Ernest Gellner (1992), *Reason and Culture: The Historic Role of Rationality and Rationalism*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.1-29

What does culture have to do with International Relations? (Week 2: 14 July)

*Terry Eagleton (2000), *The Idea of Culture*, Ch 1, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.1-31.

*Gordon Matthews (2000), *Global Culture/Individual Identity*, Ch1, London, Routledge, pp.1-29.

Cultural Foundations of the Enlightenment/Modernity (Week 3: 21 July)

*Terry Eagleton (1990), "The Kantian Imaginary", in *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*, Oxford, Blackwell, pp.70-101.

*Charles Darwin [1859] (1999), *The Origin of Species by means of natural Selection or The Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, Ch3, New York, Bantam, pp.52-67.

Culture and Contemporary International Relations (Week 4: 28 July)

*Yale Ferguson (1998) "Looking Backwards at Contemporary Politics", in Dominique Jacquin-Berdal et al, *Culture in World Politics*, London, Macmillan, pp.11-33.

*Edward W. Said (1994), *Culture and Imperialism*, Ch1, London, Vintage, pp.1-21.

Liberalism (Week 5: 4 August)

*Guy Debord (1983), *Society of the Spectacle*, Ch8, Detroit, Black and Red, (fragments), no.180-211.

*Alberto Melucci (1989) *Nomads of the Present: Social Movements and Individual Needs in Contemporary Society*, Ch5, London, Century Hutchinson, pp.103-118.

Marxism (Week 6: 11 August)

* Karl Marx (1961), "Existence and Consciousness", in *Selected Writings in Sociology and Social Philosophy*, Harmondsworth, Penguin, pp.82-101.

* Theodor Adorno (1981) "Freudian Theory and the Pattern of Fascist Propaganda", in *The Culture Industry*, London, Routledge, pp.132-157.

* Antonio Gramsci (1991), "Politics and Culture", in *Selections from Cultural Writings*, Cambridge, Mass., Harvard university Press, pp.16-51.

Nationalism (Week 7: 1 September)

* Johann Herder [1784-91] (1968), (extracts) *Reflections on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind*, Chicago, Chicago University Press.

* Benedict Anderson (1983), "Census, Map, Museum", in *Imagined Communities*, London, Verso, pp.163-185.

The Cultural Logic of Capitalism (Week 8: 8 September)

*Frederic Jameson (2003), *Postmodernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, Ch8, Durham, Duke University Press, pp.260-278.

*Michael Parenti (2006) *The Culture Struggle*, Ch12, New York, Seven Stories Press, pp.111-143.

Cultural Debates - Indigeneity (Week 9: 15 September)

*Karena Shaw (2001), "Indigeneity and the International: Repoliticizing Decolonization", paper presented for ISA conference 20-24 Feb, Chicago.

*Nick Higgins (2005), "Lessons from the indigeneous: Zapatista poetics and a cultural humanism for the twenty first century, in Catherine Eschele and Bice Maiguashca (eds.), *Critical Theories, International Relations and 'the Anti-Globalisation Movement'*", London, Routledge, pp.87-102.

Cultural Debates – Religion/Sacralism (Week 10: 22 September)

*Pascal Boyer (2002), *Religion Explained*, Ch8, London, Vintage, pp.303-340.

*Michael Scheuer (2004), "Bin Laden Views the World: Some Old, Some New and a Twist", in *Imperial Hubris: How the West is Losing the War on Terror*, pp.127-161.

Cultural Debates - Postmodernism and International Relations (Week 11: 29 September)

* Jean Baudrillard (2001), "Consumer Society", in *Jean Baudrillard Selected Writings*, 2nd ed., Stanford, Stanford university Press, pp.32-59.

* Umberto Eco (1986), "Reports from the Global Village", in *Travels in Hyper Reality*, San Diego, Harcourt Brace & Company, pp.151-172.

Overview (Week 12: 6 October) International Relations and "World" Culture?