



## FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME POLS/PHIL/INTP 261: POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 20 POINTS**

### **TRIMESTER 2 2014**

#### **Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 14 July to 16 November 2014

**Teaching dates:** 14 July to 17 October 2014

**Mid-trimester break:** 25 August to 7 September 2014

**Study week:** 20–24 October 2014

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 24 October to 15 November 2014

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 or examination, 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 and Thursday 15:10-16:00  
Venue: Hunter HULT119  
Tutorials: Weekly from the second week of term.  
Sign up via S-cubed. The following times are available:  
  
Friday 14:10-15:00 AM106  
Tuesday 16:10-17:00 MY108  
Thursday 16:10-17:00 MY403

#### **Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Xavier Marquez

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Office hours: by appointment (available most days at reasonable hours when not teaching)

I sometimes write on themes relevant to the course at <http://abandonedfootnotes.blogspot.com>

## 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 seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

This course surveys the historical and philosophical development of international relations theory and political theory. It will examine foundational texts drawn from thinkers across the range of western political theory, from ancient Greece to the twentieth century.

## Course content

This course aims to introduce students to the development of Western ideas about international affairs. It explores such themes as the justice or injustice of war, the nature of sovereignty, international law and the place of power in international life, and ethical obligations across borders, through a broad historical survey of some of the classic texts of Western political theory. These texts address questions concerning the ultimate causes of human conflict and the best approaches for dealing with such conflict. The course thus aims to provide students with a basic grasp of the ideas that have shaped and continue to shape current thought and practice in international relations, while increasing their ability to interpret and critically engage with these ideas in context.

The course follows a broadly chronological discussion of ideas about international affairs in the Western tradition of political thought, starting with Ancient Greece and Rome, moving on to discuss Medieval and Renaissance ideas, the Enlightenment, and various thinkers of the 19th century. The chronological approach should help students understand the sources of our current ideas about international affairs as well as some important challenges to these ideas that have been historically significant.

These ideas, however, are also thematically grouped. We will thus discuss ancient Greek ideas about the nature of politics, medieval ideas about just war, new conceptions of politics in the early modern era, and 18th and 19th century ideas about democracy and intervention and about the possibility of perpetual peace.

Lectures will place this material in historical context, explain some of the more difficult passages, and provide the intellectual scaffolding for making connections among these disparate thinkers and applying their ideas to concrete cases. However, students are expected to actively participate in the construction of their own knowledge by taking part in class discussions and activities, during both the lectures and the scheduled tutorials.

A full schedule of lectures will be available on Blackboard.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to

1. Demonstrate a familiarity with some of the main ideas about international affairs in the Western canon of political theory
2. Trace the basic development of these ideas in the Western tradition and describe their context
3. Draw on classic texts and on concrete historical examples to make cogent arguments about such topics as:
  - a. The nature of political community
  - b. The justice of war
  - c. The nature of sovereignty and political authority

- d. The possibility and desirability of democracy in various cultural contexts, as well as the ethics of intervention for purposes of democracy promotion
  - e. The possibility and desirability of “perpetual peace”
4. Make useful comparisons between contrasting views by various thinkers on any of these topics.

## Teaching format

This course is taught by means of two weekly lectures of one hour each, one weekly tutorial of one hour, and an online component (primarily on the course website on Blackboard).

The lectures clarify and expand on the ideas of the writers we discuss in the course, and they provide the historical background necessary to understand the texts. The lectures may include interactive exercises, such as formal debates, and reasonable participation is expected.

Tutorials provide the opportunity to critically discuss enduring ideas about conflict and see how these ideas help us make sense of current issues and debates. Participation in tutorials, though optional, is therefore highly encouraged.

The online component of the course consists of weekly participation in a course discussion board. This ensures that the student will be generally engaged with the material covered in class and able to relate it to current events.

## Mandatory course requirements

Other than achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, there are no mandatory course requirements.

## Workload

This course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of the trimester. This includes attendance at 24 lectures and a 1-hour tutorial each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between weekly reading assignments, tutorial preparation, discussion board participation, and making progress on your assignments.

Things to consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation involves careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. As you become more skilled throughout the trimester, this may take fewer hours each week but in the first instance 4-5 hours per reading is worth ‘budgeting’ for.
- Discussion board participation should not take more than 30mins – 1 hour each week.
- Essays and other written assignments may require enough time for location, retrieval and reading of a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft will all be necessary before writing up a final version. Budget at least 30 hours per essay.

## Assessment

Assessment for this course has three major components:

1. Two out of five possible short essays, of **about** 2000 words, due on the dates specified below (50%, or 25% each). You may submit all five essays (or however many you wish to submit); your grade for this component will consist of the grades for your two best essays. **You MUST turn in one of the first two essays (opportunity 1 or 2 listed below)**. (Learning objectives 1-4).
2. Discussion board contributions (20%). You need to contribute weekly to the discussion board, starting on the second week of the course. These contributions are due every Thursday before the lecture (i.e., before 15:10). See below for more detail. (Learning objectives 1, 3)

3. A two hour, cumulative final examination during the examination period (30%). (Learning objectives 1-2)

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2 out of a possible 5 essays (about 2000 words each), 25% each.	50%	1-4	See below
2	Discussion board contributions	20%	1, 3	Weekly
3	Final examination (2 hours)	30%	1, 2	Examination period

### Short essays

There are five possible opportunities for submitting short essays (about 2000 words – 8 or 9 double-spaced pages). **More is not necessarily better!**

These essays test your familiarity with the thinkers we are studying in this course and your ability to read them critically and apply their insights. They also test your ability to write a coherent argument and defend a particular interpretive position with textual and other evidence. A rubric with marking criteria will be made available on Blackboard.

The topics for these essays are listed and described in detail on Blackboard; **make sure to look there before beginning to write your essay!**

The due dates are as follows:

- **Essay opportunity 1: Ancient conceptions of politics.** Due date: **Friday 15 August at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 2: Just war in medieval political theory.** Due date: **Friday 22 August at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 3: New conceptions of politics.** Due date: **Friday 19 September at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 4: The state of nature.** Due date: **Friday 26 September at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.
- **Essay opportunity 5: History, progress, and perpetual peace.** Due date: **Friday 17 October at midnight**, via the appropriate link on Blackboard. Topics are listed there.

### Discussion board contributions

Studies show that the best ways to learn are active, participatory and social, rather than passive and purely individual. Studies also show that the best way to learn course material and participate effectively in class discussions is to remain engaged with such material over the course of the term rather than to cram at the end for an exam or an essay. In order to further these objectives, this course requires weekly contributions to an online discussion board, due before lecture each Thursday at 15:10, starting on the second week of the term.

Like any discussion board, the course discussion board is fairly informal. Not every posting needs to raise a question, though you may wish to raise questions about class content; and your contributions can be in comments to other people's postings. You can, for example:

- Raise questions about issues that are unclear from the class
- Comment on, and link to, articles relevant to the discussions in the class
- Raise issues that you think ought to be discussed in class

- Discuss possible answers to various study questions raised by the instructor
- Summarise parts of the readings, and raise questions about them

The instructor will be contributing to the discussion board frequently, but the main responsibility is on the students to make it a useful learning resource. The instructor will also use the issues raised in the discussion board for tutorial discussions or address them in lecture.

Your contributions will be assessed on a weekly basis, according to the following scheme:

- 0 points. No contribution to the discussion board, or extremely poor quality contribution
- 1 point. Minimal contribution (e.g., minimal comment on another person's post in the discussion board, discussion board posts that do not show that you have done the reading or that are not sufficiently on topic)
- 2 points. Regular contributions (e.g., contributing study questions, answers to study questions, and other substantial contributions to the discussion board, raising or answering interesting questions in the discussion board, posts showing that you have done the reading for the week, etc.)
- 3 points. Exceptional contributions (e.g., excellent study questions or answers, outstanding participation in the discussion board, posts making an unusually perceptive point about one of the readings for the week, etc.)

You need to accumulate 24 points over the course of the trimester to obtain the full 20% mark for this assessment component, starting in the second week of the term. On average, therefore, you need to be accumulating a bit more than 2 points per week for a perfect score (there are eleven opportunities for participation), though you may miss a week occasionally without materially affecting your grade. You will be given credit for all contributions you make; so, for example, if you end the term with 19 points, this will translate into  $19 \times 20 / 24 = 15.8\%$  of your final grade.

## Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted electronically via the appropriate Blackboard link (or via e-mail if Blackboard is not working). **NO HARDCOPY IS NECESSARY** and **WILL NOT BE COLLECTED**. Please make sure that you keep a copy of your work somewhere accessible, in case anything goes wrong, and back everything up!

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

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

The course expects students to submit their assignments on time. Requests for extensions should be made with the lecturer in person with proper documentation before the due date. Extensions are normally given only to those with a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control.

### 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 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.

## Set texts

All essential readings are available as a downloadable PDF file via Blackboard (all of them are in the public domain) or as a Book of Readings which can be purchased at Vicbooks, for those of you who prefer a physical copy. The key readings are selections from:

- Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, also available at <http://classicpersuasion.org/pw/thucydides/thucydides-jowetttoc-b.htm>
- Plato, *Laws*, also available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1750>
- Aristotle, *Politics*, also available at <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.html>
- Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, also available at <http://www.newadvent.org/summa/>
- Vitoria, *On the American Indians and the Law of War*, also available at [http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/De\\_Indis\\_De\\_Jure\\_Belli/](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/De_Indis_De_Jure_Belli/)
- Erasmus, *Against War*, also available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/39487>
- Machiavelli, *The Prince* and *Discourses on Livy*, also available at <http://www.constitution.org/mac/prince00.htm> and <http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/machiavelli/niccolo/m149d/>
- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, also available at <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>
- Rousseau, *Second Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*, also available at <http://records.viu.ca/~Johnstoi/rousseau/seconddiscourse.htm>
- Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, also available at <http://www.constitution.org/kant/perpeace.htm>
- Hegel, *The Philosophy of Right*, also available at <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/hegel/works/pr/prconten.htm>
- Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*, also available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>
- Mill, *Considerations on Representative Government*, also available at [http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/mill/john\\_stuart/m645r/](http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/mill/john_stuart/m645r/)
- Mill, *A Few Words on Non-intervention*, also available at <http://oll.libertyfund.org/title/255/21666>

See [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) for details on buying Books of Readings.

## Recommended reading

Articles and books useful for understanding the authors and topics studied in this course are listed here: <http://www.citeulike.org/user/xmarquez/tag/pols261>. You may wish to use some of these when writing your essays. In addition, Alan Ryan's two volume work, *On Politics: A History of Political Thought from Herodotus to the Present*, is an excellent reference for most of the thinkers we will cover in this course. This work will be made available via closed reserve at the library.

## 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 Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

## Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. 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)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- 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)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- 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)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- 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)

