TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

# VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**
**POLS/INTP 363: HUMAN RIGHTS**
**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. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

## Class times and locations

Lectures:          Monday 1:10 to 3:00 pm
Venue:             New Kirk Lecture Theatre 301 (KKLT301)

Tutorials: this course has tutorials, which begin in week 2. You need to enrol in a tutorial at s-cubed: https://signups.victoria.ac.nz/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2findex.aspx. Attendance is not compulsory, but I strongly recommend that you attend. Students who attend tutorials typically receive higher marks.

## Names and contact details

Your first point of contact is your tutor. Be sure to learn his/her name and contact details. After your tutor, there are two points of contact:

Course Coordinator:   Dr Jana von Stein
Room No:              503 Murphy
Phone:                x 9699
Email:                jana.vonstein@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours:         Mondays 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

Head Tutor: TBA
Email: TBA

## Communication of additional information

I use Blackboard and require all enrolled students to have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please ensure that your account is active (or that you are having your messages forwarded). I will announce any changes by email, Blackboard, and in class.

## Prescription

This course is interested in the international human rights regime and its impact on a variety of human rights outcomes such as torture, arbitrary detention, child labour, and racial/gender discrimination. Through the use of basic quantitative data and in-depth case studies, students will learn how to evaluate the design, implementation and effectiveness of human rights policy. Topics include: what experiments teach us and about why people sometimes abuse rights; UN human rights treaties and institutions; the role of domestic institutions and non-state actors; and tensions between cultural relativism and universalism.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:
1. Show a solid understanding of the history, principles, and debates surrounding international human rights
2. Use concepts and tools from political science, international relations, and international law to understand better the international human rights 'project,' why it has sometimes failed, and when it has succeeded.

## Teaching format

This course consists of a two-hour class and a one-hour tutorial. The class combines traditional lecture with in-class discussion and some in-class group interaction. The tutorial combines in-class discussion and group interaction.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:
1. Submit both essays
2. Sit the final examination

## Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, students are expected to devote 200 hours to this course throughout the trimester. This includes completion of all set weekly readings, course attendance, research and writing for written assignments, and preparation for the exam.

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 trimester. This includes attendance at 12 two-hour lectures and a one-hour tutorial each week. The remainder of your time will need to be shared between tutorial/seminar preparation and making progress on 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 one hour per reading is worth 'budgeting' for.

- 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.

Below is a rough guideline of how many hours you should spend on each aspect of the course. Because each student is different, you should adjust according to your needs:

| | |
|---|---|
| Lecture attendance | 24 |
| Tutorial attendance | 11 |
| Required readings | 55 |
| Preparation for lectures and tutorials | 12 |
| Writing essay 1 | 30 |
| Writing essay 2 | 33 |
| Preparation for final exam | 35 |

## Assessment

This course is partly internally assessed. More detail on each item, including marking criteria, will be provided in class and via Blackboard.

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1st Essay (2000 words) | 25% | 1, 2 | 2:00 pm, 22 August |
| 2 | 2nd Essay (2500 words) | 30% | 1, 2 | 2:00 pm, 26 September |
| 3 | Examination (2 hours) | 45% | 1, 2 | TBA |

## Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box outside the School Office on the 5th floor of the Murphy building. *In addition*, students must submit an electronic copy by uploading to Turnitin through Blackboard. **Essays will not be marked until they are uploaded.**

Assignments will be returned at times to be advised. If students do not attend these times, they may collect their assignments from the School Office (Murphy 518) between 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

Students are expected to submit assignments on time. However, each student is eligible for a one-time 'no questions asked' extension *if* he/she requests this extension from the tutor before the submission deadline. Otherwise, extensions will only be granted in exceptional cases, with documentation. Medical certificates must indicate the dates of impairment. Students should always contact their tutors, rather than the course coordinator, regarding extensions.

### Penalties

Points will be deducted for late submission of papers – 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. Weekend days count in the calculation of penalties.

Students should submit late essays to an administrator from the Programme office in 518 Murphy and ensure that he/she dates it. In addition, students should upload their assignments to Turnitin

through Blackboard. If the submission day falls on the weekend, the date of upload will be used as the submission date, but students should also submit a hard copy on Monday.

## Set texts

There are two types of **required** reading material in this course:

1. *Making Human Rights a Reality* by Emilie Hafner-Burton (2013, Princeton University Press). Students can access an electronic version of the book for free through E-Reserves. The Kindle version goes for US$15 on www.amazon.com. Vicbooks www.vicbooks.com offers a print version for NZ$53.95. Finally, various US retailers offer the book for about US$20, but the shipping costs vary depending on how quickly you need it.

2. A number of chapters and articles, as well as the occasional webpage, posted directly on the course Blackboard page (courtesy of E-Reserves).

## Recommended reading

A limited number of webpages, newspaper articles, and so forth will be posted on Blackboard. These will cover 'hot topics' that arise during the course of the trimester. These are 'recommended' rather than 'required' readings. Students who read these pieces are likely to find certain class discussions easier to follow. They are also likely to gain a better overall understanding of how the course themes tie in with current-day events.

## 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.

## 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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progess (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
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- 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
- Student Contract: 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
- 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