



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INTP/POLS 427: SPECIAL TOPIC: WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH 30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 & 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3–13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 25 August to 7 September 2014

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

Seminars: Mondays 2.10pm-4pm

Venue: OK406

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Kate Schick

Room No: MY542

Phone: 4636547

Email: kate.schick@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday 4.10pm

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 examines war and its aftermath in global politics. It explores different forms of conflict in the international system as well as the changing nature of political violence. It then explores the ways in which actors in the international system have attempted to mitigate conflict through conflict resolution and to deal with its fallout in criminal tribunals and truth commissions after war.

Alongside analysis of the tangible dimensions of war, students will also consider the unseen dimensions, exploring motivations for political violence as well as the psychological effects of such violence on communities. The course employs a multidisciplinary perspective, drawing on readings from political studies, security studies, history, psychology, and social theory.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Recognise key arguments about how and why war emerges in world politics and the different theoretical perspectives that underlie these arguments.
2. Describe different approaches employed to manage and/or resolve war; recognise the way these approaches are informed by different beliefs about conflict; and critically assess their costs and benefits.
3. Recognise the myriad challenges posed in the aftermath of war and the ways these can perpetuate conflict, and critically evaluate the predominant approaches to transitional justice and the ways these foster or hinder peace.
4. Illustrate understanding of contemporary debates in conflict studies by referring to historical and contemporary case studies and recognise that the 'success' of peace operations is context dependent.
5. Write well-structured, theoretically-informed, and critically-aware essays about debates in contemporary conflict studies.

Teaching format

The course has one seminar per week. The seminar is scheduled for two hours per week for two trimesters and will involve student presentations, class discussions, and essay-focused workshop sessions. A full schedule with required and recommended readings will be given out in the first class on March 3.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. 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)
2. Sit the mid-year test
3. Deliver two class presentations

Workload

In accordance with the Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote a total of 300 hours to this course, including two hours of seminars per fortnight. Over the 24 teaching weeks of the academic year, that is an average of 12.5 hours per week. Your allotted hours should be allocated approximately as follows:

Attendance at seminars and workshop sessions: 48 hours

Preparation for seminars: 52 hours

Research proposal research and writing: 30 hours

Test preparation: 40 hours

Essay research and writing: 130 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Research proposal	15%	1-5	5 May
2	Mid-year test (1 hour 50 minutes)	25%	1, 2, 3	26 May
3	Research paper (8000 words)	60%	1-5	17 October

The **research proposal** is due on Monday 5 May (after the mid-trimester break) and acts as preparation for the research paper due in the second trimester. Students will be required to formulate their own research topic pertaining to the course content. The research proposal will include a four-page summary of the project and a two-page bibliography. More detailed guidelines will be posted on blackboard in the first two weeks of the course.

The **research paper** is due 5pm, Friday 17 October and is to be 8000 words in length, *including* footnotes.

Both the research proposal and the research paper should be submitted in hard copy to the course coordinator's box outside the fifth floor office and electronically to Blackboard.

The **mid-year test** is scheduled during class time on Monday 2 June (2.10pm) and will last for 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted through the office essay drop-off point Murphy Room 518, together with completed cover sheet which is available from the office.

Proposals and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students are unable to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Murphy Room 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Extensions and 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.

There is a uniform deadline for the final submission of all written in-term work (including research papers) for second trimester and full year honours courses. Students are advised that this deadline will be firmly adhered to; extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, under the conditions stipulated in Victoria University's aegrotat regulations. Extensions must be approved by the Honours Coordinator (Jana von Stein) in advance of the deadline. In 2014 the deadline will be 5pm, Friday 17 October. Work not submitted by this deadline will not be taken into consideration when determining final results.

Set texts

There is no set text for this course; although there are texts that you may find helpful (see recommended reading). The most important resource for this course is your Book of Reading

(student notes), which contains compulsory readings, and is available from VicBooks www.vicbooks.co.nz/victoria-university/student-notes).

Recommended reading

Paul Williams, *Security Studies: An Introduction* (Routledge: London, 2008). Available electronically through the library.

Oliver Ramsbotham and Tom Woodhouse and Hugh Miall, *Contemporary Conflict Resolution, 3rd Edition* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2011). This text gives a good overview of conflict resolution.

Chris Brown with Kirsten Ainley, *Understanding International Relations, 4th edition* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009). This text will be particularly useful if you come to this course with no background in International Relations. It can be accessed electronically from the library and read online or downloaded to your laptop. There are also hard copies available for loan from the library.

Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams, *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2010).

K. M. Fierke, *Critical Approaches to International Security* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2007).

Electronic journals that you may find useful, particularly for essay research, are:

International Organization, Review of International Studies, Millennium, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, European Journal of International Relations, International Relations, New Political Science, Globalizations, Political Studies, Third World Quarterly, International Affairs, World Politics, Social Justice, Alternatives, American Political Science Review, International Journal of Human Rights, Globalizations, Journal of Global Ethics, Ethics and International Affairs, International Peacekeeping, Global Governance, Australian Journal of International Affairs and New Left Review.

Other recommended readings are listed underneath the topics for each week in the 'course content' document provided separately.

Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course. For generalised feedback on this course in previous years, see:

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-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
- 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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz