



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

POLS 403: POLITICAL LEADERSHIP: THEORY & PRACTICE

30 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 & 2 2014

3 March to 16 November

Important dates

Teaching dates: 3 March to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break (1st trimester): 18 April to 4 May 2014

Mid-year break: 3 July to 13 July 2014

Mid-trimester break (2nd trimester): 25 August 7 September 2014

Study period: 20 October to 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/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lectures: Tuesday, 5.10-7.00pm

Lecture Venue: KP 24/201

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Jon Johansson

Room No: Murphy 507

Phone: 4636424

Email: jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesday, 11.00 am-noon.

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 will focus on fundamental questions such as what political leadership is, and when and why it matters. Classical leadership theories are canvassed, normative questions about leadership addressed, and the relationship between individual leaders and the wider societal and historical forces they encounter feature as a dominant theme throughout the course. Different presidential and prime ministerial leadership theories will be contrasted, using contemporary examples, drawn mainly from the U.S. and New Zealand. The dark side of leadership will also traverse historical figures such as Hitler and Stalin. A particular aspect of this course will be to focus on the psychological aspects of leadership, especially the master skill of discernment underpinned by a leader's character. The course will also examine case study methodology to assist students to undertake a research paper into aspects of political leadership. 60% internal assessment, 40% examination.

Course content

The course content will draw on case studies from around the globe, and across history, to ground the theoretical exploration of political leadership theories and ideas. The significant comparative focus will be to contrast presidential-styled leadership systems against the Westminster-derived variant in New Zealand and elsewhere. The course will also focus on exemplary leaders drawn from across political systems and time as well as canvass history's most disastrous leaders. The content will also examine situational variables associated with the leadership dynamic, such as the notion of political cycles and of generational change, and explore the psychological dimensions of political leadership. A full lecture schedule is detailed at the bottom of this course outline.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 Understand theoretical underpinnings of political leadership;
- 2 Gain an appreciation of political leadership phenomena from a comparative perspective;
- 3 Present your research questions and findings to your peer group;
- 4 Write a detailed and quality research paper on an aspect of political leadership.

Teaching format

This course is taught in one two-hour Lecture per week. The course is delivered over 24 weeks of lectures. The first half of the course will involve lectures and discussion as key leadership concepts and theories are examined. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the readings.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Lead a seminar about their research topic (worth 10% of overall grade);
2. Attend a minimum of 80% of classes and contribute to them;
3. Submit a research paper (worth 50% of overall grade), and;
4. Sit and achieve a minimum of 40% in the examination.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 300 hours to the course throughout the year. An approximate indication of the hours to be spent on each component of the course is as follows:

Preparation and attendance at classes	90 hours
Research Topic seminar	50 hours
Research paper	150 hours
Examination	10 hours

Assessment

- 1. Research Seminar & Paper: 60%** in-term work (consisting of one research seminar, worth 10% of the overall grade and one research paper between 7,500-10,000 words, worth 50% of the overall total grade);
- 2. 40%** final three-hour examination conducted by the Faculty. The examination period will from Friday 25 October to Saturday 17 November 2013.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	<i>Seminar Presentation</i>	10%	1, 2, 3 & 4	TBA
2	<i>Research Paper - 7,500-10,000-words</i>	50%	1, 2 & 3	19 September
3	<i>Examination</i>	40%	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 fifth floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy. For this course, please email to me an electronic copy of your work on the same due date as for your hardcopy submission. The subject line of your email submission should be "POLLS 403". The email copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an email submission only will not be marked.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

Extensions & Penalties

Extensions

Extensions will be provided (without penalty) only in those circumstances stipulated in s.3.2.1(d) of the Assessment Handbook 2014. Work load pressure is not a valid reason for requesting an extension.

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.

Set texts

There is no set text for POLS 403. Course readings will be distributed to students throughout the course, as appropriate.

Recommended reading

A separate sheet detailing a comprehensive recommended reading list will also be provided to students.

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

Student evaluation of the course will be sought at the end of POLS 403. Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

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

LECTURE PROGRAMME: SECTION ONE – SETTING THE SCENE

1. INTRODUCTION (*11 March*)

These seminars aim to provide students with a broad, general overview of the Pols 403 political leadership course. Perennial questions associated with the study of leadership will be introduced to students, as will the various typologies, domains, and theories that dominate the field. Political leadership definitions and an integrated leadership model will be introduced, with the primary focus of identifying the significant, constituent parts of political leadership (i.e., the leader, the situation & the citizenry). Assessment expectations will also be discussed during these introductory lectures.

2. HISTORICAL CAUSATION (*18 & 25 March*)

These sessions will focus on one of the perennial questions associated with political leadership; namely, to what extent does an individual influence (or be influenced by) the wider societal and historical forces at play. Two sessions will be devoted to this core concept and a debate will be held during the second session on the moot that individual political leaders do not change history.

3. CLASSICAL LEADERSHIP CONCEPTIONS: NORMATIVE DIMENSION (*1 April*)

During this session we will discuss important normative ideas associated with the study of political leadership. Aristotle's idealism will be contrasted with Machiavelli's realist critique and Shakespeare's political plays (*The Henriad*) will also be discussed to introduce a further, creative source of leadership ideas.

4. PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP: THE LION & THE FOX (*8 & 15 April*)

During this section of the course, students will examine several long-standing theories of political leadership, focusing on the U.S. presidency. Students will be given the opportunity of leading class discussions on different aspects of Richard Neustadt's and James MacGregor Burns' theoretical frameworks. Further theorists and theoretical perspectives will be introduced and students will be expected to be able to discuss a U.S. president in terms of each theoretical approach.

MID-TRIMESTER BREAK: 18 April to 4 May

5. PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP: THE LION & THE FOX (cont'd) (*6 & 13 May*)

6. PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP (*20 May*)

The primary focus of these sessions will include examining the psychological dimension of political leaders and leadership. Does an individual leader's psychologically matter? If so, in what circumstances? A number of theorists and examples will be used for this discussion.

7. LEADERSHIP IN A PARLIAMENTARY SETTING: PRIME MINISTER

(27 May & 3 June)

The focus will switch to political leadership within Westminster-styled parliamentary settings, with the New Zealand Prime Minister as our main focus of our attention. Students will be given the opportunity of discussing Prime Ministerial and political leadership. A focus on the political leaderships of Robert Muldoon, David Lange, and Helen Clark will be a major component of contrasting our leadership theories against practice.

MID-YEAR BREAK: 9 June 13 July

7. STUDENT SEMINARS (RESEARCH TOPICS)

(second trimester)

During this second half of the course students will receive the opportunity of leading a seminar on their research topic associated with political leadership. Each student will lead a session and early in the course students can decide when they would like to present their research. We will also review the leadership ideas we have learned throughout the course, discuss the costs and benefits of different leadership approaches, and review the important core constructs of political leadership, the various situational factors that impinge on leadership efforts, and also the nature of relationships between leaders and the citizenry.