

School of Government

MAPP 524 INSTITUTIONS AND THE POLICY PROCESS

Trimester 1 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Co-ordinators: **Associate Professor Bob Gregory**
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Module Dates, Times and Location

Module One: Tuesday 21 February 2006 8.30am-6.00pm

Module Two: Monday 10 April 2006 8.30am-6.00pm

Module Three: Tuesday 6 June 2006 8.30am-6.00pm

Location: Classes will normally be held on the Pipitea Campus and you will be advised of your classroom one week prior to each module by email.

Course Prescription

This paper examines the political and institutional context in which public policy is developed and implemented. It focuses on the relationship between politics and public administration and management in a liberal-democratic context, theories of the state, the nature of politics and executive power, political and managerial accountability and responsibility, and interpretations of 'governance' in contemporary political analysis. Particular attention is given to the respective roles and accountabilities of ministers and officials in the New Zealand context, with reference to major systemic changes such as state sector reform and MMP.

Course Objectives and Topics

By the completion of the course, participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- Theories of the state; and the relationship between the state, civil society, and the market.
- Liberal-democratic theory, and the nature of politics.
- the framework of the New Zealand system of government, and the specific role and contribution of the state sector within New Zealand's constitutional arrangements, including the Treaty of Waitangi.
- the changing political context for public administration and management within New Zealand, including the impact of the move to MMP.
- the interaction between political and administrative imperatives, how that interaction plays out in the political and administrative arms of executive government in New Zealand, and the consequences for the accountability of ministers and state servants.
- theoretical approaches to public administration, including the nature of bureaucratic organization, rationality, and political and economic interpretations of bureaucratic behaviour.
- the ideas informing, and the political, institutional and organizational causes and consequences of the bureaucratic 'revolution' in New Zealand during the mid-to-late 1980s.
- the trajectory of state sector reform in the period since the late 1980s, and of contemporary issues in state sector reform and renewal, including the Review of the Centre.
- the nature and relevance of a state sector ethos, and some the implications for the work of public servants.
- the distinction between government and governance.

Topics will include:

- The political, historical, constitutional and organisational contexts for public administration and management in New Zealand..
- The consequences of the move to MMP.
- Political and economic accounts of bureaucratic organizations.
- State sector reform in New Zealand in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- Contemporary issues in state sector reform.
- Government, governance, and the hollowing out of the state.
- Politics, administration, and accountability.
- Ethos, ethics, and corruption.

Readings

There will be no set text for this course. Instead, students will be given a set of course readings, which will be prepared in two parts. The first part will be available before the start of the course, and the second will be available later to cover the second part of the course (see Course Structure, below).

In addition, the course co-ordinators may make additional course material available from time to time.

Students will also find the following books particularly relevant:

J Boston et al (1996) *Public Management: The New Zealand Model*, Oxford University Press.

J. Boston et al (1999) *Electoral and Constitutional Change in New Zealand: An MMP Source Book*, The Dunmore Press.

M. Hill (1997) *The Policy Process in the Modern State*, Third Edition, Prentice Hall/Harvester Wheatsheaf.

E. McLeay (1995) *The Cabinet and Political Power in New Zealand*, Oxford University Press.

R. Miller (ed.), (2003) *New Zealand Government and Politics*, Third Edition, Oxford University Press.

R Mulgan (2003) *Holding Power to Account: Accountability in Modern Democracies*, Palgrave Macmillan.

G. Palmer and M. Palmer (1997) *Bridled Power: New Zealand Government Under MMP*, Oxford University Press.

Course Structure

The course is in two parts.

Part 1 of the course will focus on the context in which institutions are shaped and re-shaped, and public policy developed and implemented, and, in particular on four important contextual elements:

1. The nature of the state and the relationship between the state and civil society.

In public policy and public management the focus is primarily on the executive branch of government, and its political and administrative dimensions. Locating the executive branch within the broader context of the state allows us to examine such issues as the relationship between economic and political power, debates over the relative merits of ‘big’ versus ‘small’ government, the broader political context for debates over devolution and subsidiarity, and the challenges of bi-culturalism and cultural pluralism.

2. The nature of bureaucracy

The German polymath, Max Weber, described bureaucratization as a central component of rationalization – ‘the master trend of history’. All modern governmental systems are profoundly bureaucratic in nature, despite reformist rhetoric which espouses sound-bite slogans such as ‘the end of bureaucracy’. We discuss the essential elements of bureaucracy as a generic organizational form, and examine more closely the evolving character of New Zealand governmental bureaucracy.

3. The constitutional context

This section will examine the specific elements of New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements, and the formal/legislative, and informal/conventional elements of these arrangements. Each of the three branches of government – executive, legislative, and judicial – will be considered against the backdrop of the doctrine of the separation of powers. The constitutional significance of the Treaty of Waitangi will be examined, as will the application of Treaty principles to the policy process. In this section we will also examine New Zealand’s electoral system, and the significance of political parties to New Zealand’s constitutional arrangements.

4. The historical context

The founding ‘pillars’ of the state sector include notions of political neutrality, ministerial responsibility, a career service, anonymity, and a unified public service. In this section, we explore the origins and on-going relevance of these institutional pillars as a prelude to our examination of some contemporary issues in public management and administration.

Part 2 of the course will focus on three main issues:

1. The executive – structure, function and accountability

An examination of the constitutional and conventional foundations of the structures of executive power in New Zealand, with reference to the Westminster ‘model’ of parliamentary democracy. Particular attention will be given to the changing relationships between the political executive (Cabinet) and the bureaucratic executive, especially as a consequence of the state sector reforms (below) and the introduction of MMP; the meaning of and quest for enhanced executive accountability; and the development of local and regional government structures and functions, and relationships with central government.

2. State sector reform in New Zealand: 1988-2004

This section will examine some of the ideas and theories that informed the revolutionary re-shaping of the New Zealand state in the mid to late 1980s and early 1990s, the legislative vehicles used to prosecute these changes, and consequences for institutional design and reshaping. The focus will then move to assessments of these reforms, and contemporary issues in state sector reform.

3. Government and governance

This final section will explore the distinction between government and governance, and the dimensions of traditional and emerging modes of governance, including network theory and practice, the marketization of public goods and services, contractualism and the ‘hollowing out of the state’. This section will also examine the implications for governance and public administration of international and inter-governmental institutions.

Assessment Requirements

Essay I (part 1 of the course), 2,500 words	50%
Essay II (part 2 of the course), 2,500 words	50%

Essay topics and due dates will be distributed in the first class.

Please send / hand-in ALL assignments (unless instructed otherwise by the course coordinator) to:

Francine McGee,
School of Government,
Victoria University of Wellington,
Level 8 Reception,
Rutherford House,
23 Lambton Quay,
P.O. Box 600,
Wellington.
Email: francine.mcgee@vuw.ac.nz

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

ANZSOG candidates taking this course as an elective should note that they take it for 24 points, and not 15 points. Accordingly, the learning outcomes to be achieved by ANZSOG candidates are wider and deeper than those expected for non-ANZSOG candidates. The content of those learning outcomes, and the means whereby they will be assessed, will be negotiated and confirmed with the course co-ordinator at the start of the course.

Penalties

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks may be deducted where assignments are submitted after the due date. For out of town students, two calendar days' grace is given to allow for time in the post. Electronic versions of assignments may be submitted by email but should be followed by a hard copy.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal emergencies prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. You should let your course co-ordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline if you are seeking an extension.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student Administration Office

The Student Administration Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours, call the office on (04) 463-5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce & Administration and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA 005) and offices EA 125a to EA 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice;
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters;
- FCA Student Administration forms (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests);
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

Check with the Student Administration Office for opening times on (04) 463-5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course, you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean (Students) of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy, which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

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. Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- An oral or written warning;
- Suspension from class or university;
- Cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all

other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials, or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Co-ordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, or phoning (04) 463-6070, email: disability@vuw.ac.nz. The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant or the School Prospectus.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, please contact the relevant Course Co-ordinator, or Associate Dean who will either help you directly, or put you in contact with someone who can.

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ or email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Co-ordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, phone (04) 463-6983 or (04) 463-6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Maori and Pacific Mentoring programme (Faculties of Humanities and Social sciences and Commerce and Administration)

- **What:** Academic Mentoring for Maori and Pacific students studying at all levels in the above faculties. Weekly sessions for an hour with a mentor to go over assignments and any questions from tutorials or lectures. Registered students can use the faculty's study rooms and computer suite, at any time, at Kelburn and Pipitea.
- Mature student and Post grad network

If you would like to register as a mentor or mentee, please contact the co-ordinator.

Where:

Melissa Dunlop
Programme Co-ordinator
Room 109 D
14 Kelburn Parade: back courtyard
Phone: (04) 463-6015
Email: Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz

Please Note: A mentoring room will also be running at Pipitea Campus starting January. Please contact the Programme Co-ordinator for details.