

School of Government  
School of History, Philosophy, Political Science and International  
Relations

**PUBL 404/POLS 433**  
**BUREAUCRATIC POWER IN WESTERN**  
**DEMOCRACIES**

Trimester Full Year 2006

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Course Co-ordinator: Associate Professor Bob Gregory RH 804  
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Administrators: Francine McGee RH 821 (Reception)  
04 463 – 6599  
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**Class Times and Room Numbers**

Seminars: Monday 9.30 – 11.20am RWW 128 (Pipitea Campus)

Commencing Date: Monday, 6 March

**Course Objectives**

To enable students to think critically and constructively about the nature of bureaucratic rationality and action, and the exercise of bureaucratic power. The ways in which the actions of public officials are shaped by the organisational and professional contexts of their work provide a central focus. A range of theoretical perspectives is adopted, from structural-functionalism to critical theory; and the possibilities for alternative organisational forms are considered. Special attention will be given to aspects of state sector reform, and illustrative material will be drawn from, but not limited to, the New Zealand experience. There will be scope for particular cross-national comparisons among western democracies.

## **Course Content**

The following list of general topics is indicative only. It may be amended according to the interests of students, and/or the direction taken by earlier lines of discussion. During the second half of the paper, times might be allocated for the presentation and class discussion of drafts of students' research papers.

1. Introduction
2. The Historical Process of Rationalisation
3. Max Weber and Karl Marx: Capitalism and Bureaucracy
4. The Bureaucratic Paradox
5. Technocratic Theory and Managerial Ideology
6. Professionalism: Nature, Virtues and Vices
7. Defining Official Reality
8. Street Level and Market Bureaucracy
9. Governance the 'Hollowing Out of the State', Networks
10. Remunerating Public Officials
11. Critiquing New Public Management
12. Bureaucratic Corruption
13. Economic (Public Choice) Interpretations
14. Analysing Bureaucratic Politics: Before and After '11 September'
15. Bureaucratic Dehumanization and Psychopathology
16. Responsibility and Accountability

## **Text and Readings**

A full reading list will be available at the beginning of the trimester. R. P. Hummel, *The Bureaucratic Experience*, St Martin's Press (3<sup>rd</sup> edn., 1987 or 4<sup>th</sup> edn., 1994) is a central text. The following five works are especially useful: Cr. R. Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*, HarperCollins, 1998; G. Burrell and G. Morgan, *Sociological paradigms and Organisational Analysis*, Heinemann, 1979; M. Hill, *The Policy Process in the Modern State*, Prentice Hall/Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1997; D. A. Schön, *The Reflective practitioner*, Basic Books, 1983; and J. Q. Wilson, *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*, Basic Books, 1989.

Copies of these five books will be available on the Closed Reserve in the library. Some of them may be available for purchase from the Victoria Book Centre.

Class handouts will be made available from time to time.

## **Assessment**

In-term work, 50%; final (registry-conducted) examination, 50%.

In-term work:

Students will be required to **either**

- a) complete one research paper of approximately 8,000 words, on a topic decided upon in consultation with the course organiser; **or**
- b) write three essays, each of 2,500 words, on topics to be provided by the course organiser.

Both (a) and (b) will count for 40% of the final mark. In the case of (b) all three essays will be equally weighted.

For all students an essay of approximately 1,500 words will be required by **5pm, Friday, 17 March 2006** (see Short Essay Topic, below). This essay will count for 10% of the final mark.

All in-term work must be completed by **5pm, Monday, 2 October 2006**. (**Important Note:** In keeping with standards of professionalism appropriate to this academic programme, it is expected that deadlines will be honoured. In fairness to students who complete work on time, work submitted after the due date/time will incur penalties for lateness. The penalty is up to 5% of the report's grade per day (or part thereof) late. Unusual or unforeseeable circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family bereavement) may lead to a waiver of this penalty but need to be discussed with the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Word limits should be adhered to, especially so when they provide a guide to limiting the student's coverage of a topic.

### **Short Essay Topic**

**Due 5pm, Friday 17 March 2006**

This is required to enable student to gain an early grasp of some conceptual material that is fundamental to the course. Write about 1,500 words summarising the main elements of what Max Weber called 'the master trend of history' – namely, rationalization.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements**

If students cannot attend a weekly seminar they should advise the course organiser, beforehand if possible. Attendance at a minimum of 80% of the paper sessions **and** the completion of the written assignments constitute the Mandatory Course Requirements.

The satisfactory completion by an internal student of any University course involves more than the presentation to the required standard of certain pieces of assessed work and the passing of examination. Lectures, tutorials, practical and field work are offered as an integral part of the learning experience of all internal students and participation in this programmes regarded as necessary to the satisfactory completion of any course of study. Written, oral or practical work which is not assessed as part of the final mark for a course may be required as an aid in teaching that course or to assist students in understanding a particular aspect of the

course. For this reason an internal student must meet requirements set out in this Course Outline (generally referred to as ‘keeping Terms’).

Extramural students in certain cases are required to complete course work in addition to the work required for assessment, and for this reason are also covered by the Terms Statute. At the beginning of every course, a Course Outline must be provided to students and reference copy must be available before the end of the second week of any course. Students affected by a breach of these requirements should refer to the Academic Grievance Policy.

Students who fail to satisfy a mandatory requirement for passing a course, other than the requirement to obtain a C grade overall, will not pass the course and will receive a K grade.

### **Notices**

Notices will be handed out in class.

### **Work Requirements**

The course will comprise one weekly two-hour session. All members are expected to contribute, and must prepare themselves to that end. The course organiser will provide a list of readings for each subsequent session. The estimated weekly workload for the course should be *one quarter* of the total amount of time and energy that each student is prepared to put into their complete Honours programme.

### **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 (EA005) and offices 125a to 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 (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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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 Coordinator 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 463-6070, email: [disability@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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/](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/) or email [student-services@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:student-services@vuw.ac.nz).

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators 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 463 6983 or 463 6984, email [education@vuwsa.org.nz](mailto: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 coordinator.

### **Where:**

Melissa Dunlop  
Programme Coordinator  
Room 109 D

14 Kelburn Parade: back courtyard  
Ph: (04) 463 6015  
Email: [Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Maori-Pacific-Mentoring@vuw.ac.nz)

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