

School of Government

STRA 514 APPROVED PERSONAL COURSE OF STUDY

Trimester 1 2006

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Co-ordinator: Associate Professor Bill Ryan
Room RH 801, Level 8, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus
Telephone: (04) 463-5848
Fax: (04) 463-5454
Email: bill.ryan@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Darren Morgan
Room RH 802, Level 8, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus
Telephone: (04) 463-5458
Fax: (04) 463-5454
Email: darren.morgan@vuw.ac.nz

Dates, Times and Location

As agreed by the convenor and candidate. The course will be of 12-weeks duration and can be undertaken during Trimester 1, 2 or the summer trimester.

Course Objectives

By the completion of this course, the candidate will have:

- Acquired a knowledge of a significant conceptual or applied issue in public policy that is not otherwise covered in the existing MPP programme.
- Acquired the ability to identify and explicate such an issue, identify appropriate and relevant learning outcomes and, in collaboration with the convenor, pursued a course of study that achieves those learning outcomes.

Course Structure

The course structure will depend on the learning outcomes identified by the candidate and convenor, the nature of the study programme and the learning style of the candidate, as agreed by the candidate and convenor before the course commences. In order to ensure adequate and appropriate supervision of the study programme and achievement of the learning objectives, the convenor will meet regularly with the candidate according to an agreed schedule (e.g. fortnightly).

Readings

As agreed by convenor and candidate, depending on the learning outcomes identified by the candidate and convenor, the nature of the study programme and the learning style of the candidate, as agreed by the candidate and convenor.

Assessment Requirements

Minimum of 5000 words written assessment, usually in the form of essay(s). This may be in the form of one 5000 word essay or two 2,500 word essays (or any other combination) depending on the learning outcomes identified by the candidate and convenor, the nature of the study programme and the learning style of the candidate, as agreed by the candidate and convenor before the course commences.

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.