

School of Government

PUBL 201
INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

Trimester One 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Co-ordinator: Professor Jonathan Boston (IPS)
Room: West Wing, Railway Station, Level 5, Room 518
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Administrator: Mara Robertson
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Tutors: Roy Baker, Hannah Carson, Rachel Melrose, Cherie Engelbrecht and Nick Kirton

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 1 March to Friday 4 June 2010
End of Year Study Period: Monday 7 June to Thursday 10 June 2010
Examination Period: Friday 11 June to Wednesday 30 June 2010 (inclusive)

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lecture Timetable:	Tuesday	10.30am – 11.20am	GB LT1
	Wednesday	10.30am – 11.20am	GB LT1
Tutorial Timetable:	Tuesday	11.30am – 12.20pm	RWW 413
	Tuesday	12.40pm – 1.30pm	RWW 129
	Tuesday	12.40pm – 1.30pm	RH G03
	Wednesday	11.30am – 12.20pm	RWW 415
	Wednesday	12.40pm – 1.30pm	RWW 415
	Wednesday	12.40pm – 1.30pm	RWW 128

Tutorial groups will be arranged in the first lecture. There are maximums of students per tutorial class, so if the list is full do not add your name to the bottom. Confirmation of your

tutorial group will be posted on Blackboard on *Friday 5 March*. Tutorials will begin during the week of *Monday 8 March*. If you have any serious problems about your allocation to a tutorial group, please contact the Course Co-ordinator.

Final Examination: The exam date will be announced sometime in mid-to-late April.

Withdrawal from Courses:

Information available via

Withdrawal dates: Late withdrawals with Associate Dean (Students) permission
(See Section 8: Withdrawals - from the Personal Courses of Study Statute)

<http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf>

Withdrawal dates: refunds:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

Course Content

The course covers a range of introductory material relating to the study of public policy. In particular, it addresses the following themes and topics:

- The nature of public policy;
- The contribution of various disciplinary frameworks to policy analysis;
- The policy process;
- The scientific and policy issues surrounding climate change;
- The policy issues surrounding ethnicity, cultural diversity and the Treaty of Waitangi; and
- Some key social policy issues.

Course Learning Objectives

public, adj., Of or pertaining to the people as a whole; that belongs to, affects, or concerns the community or nation; common, national, popular.

policy, n., A course of action adopted and pursued by a government, party, ruler, statesman, etc.; any course of action adopted as advantageous or expedient.

Oxford English Dictionary

Public policy encompasses everything from building roads in Wellington to providing education and health care services, regulating business activity and influencing world trade talks and climate change negotiations. Although the main subject is the decisions and actions taken by governments (at all levels), many other actors – including international bodies like the UN and the World Bank, businesses, trade unions, community groups, church leaders, website hosts, journalists, celebrity activists, suicide bombers, computer hackers, etc. – often play key roles in setting policy agendas, formulating and marketing proposals, implementing decisions and stirring public support

and/or indignation for the outcomes. Three big questions motivate much work in the public policy field:

1. How and why do governments choose specific policies at specific times and under specific circumstances?
2. What makes particular policies good or bad?
3. How can policy-making processes and outcomes be improved?

This course will explore questions of this nature, both from the perspective of various theoretical approaches that offer more or less tidy explanations of policymaking behaviour, and through specific case studies of real New Zealand policymaking. Throughout the course, students will be asked to consider whether and how the real-world cases are, or are not, consistent with the theoretical approaches.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to:		Major Attributes
1	Describe the defining features of public policy, good policy analysis, and robust policy advice.	MA 1
2	Analyse the influence of qualitative and normative political ideas and philosophies, and of constitutional and political institutions, on public policy.	MA 2, MA 9
3	Explain the contributions, and limits, of quantitative and qualitative methods in policy analysis.	MA 3
4	Describe the key ideas, legacies and contextual factors influencing public policy trends, both globally and locally.	MA 7
5	Explain the main components of the policy-making cycle, including agenda setting, problem identification, policy formulation, decision making, implementation, evaluation and termination.	MA 4, MA 8
6	Describe the nature of intervention logic, and the distinction between 'rational' and 'incremental' models of policy making.	MA 3, MA 6, MA 11
7	Identify the practical limits to public policy, and the nature and respective roles of the state and civil society in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy.	MA 4
8	Appraise different disciplinary contributions (especially economics, politics and philosophy) to the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy.	MA 5
9	Explain the significance of ethics and accountability in the study and practice of public policy.	MA 12
10	Interpret the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) in the study and practice of public policy in New Zealand.	MA 13

Major Attributes: PUBL majors will be able to:	
MA1	Judge the defining features of good policy analysis and advice and appraise how they are best produced
MA2	Demonstrate an understanding of the influence of political ideas and philosophies, and of constitutional and political institutions on public policy
MA3	Demonstrate an understanding of the contribution of quantitative and qualitative methods in policy analysis
MA4	Identify the nature and respective roles of state and civil society in the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy, and demonstrate an understanding of the distinction between government and governance
MA5	Appraise different disciplinary contributions to the development, implementation and evaluation of public policy
MA6	Judge the relevance and importance of evidence in policymaking
MA7	Apply the comparative method to policy analysis, and identify insights that might be drawn from other policy jurisdictions
MA8	Judge and articulate the relevant criteria that might be used in assessing the advantages and disadvantages of particular policy options
MA9	Analyse complex policy issues from multiple perspectives and identify opportunities for innovation
MA10	Express ideas succinctly and persuasively both in written form and orally
MA11	Construct and articulate rationales for public policy intervention
MA12	Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of ethics and accountability in the study and practice of public policy
MA13	Interpret the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) in the study and practice of public policy in New Zealand

Course Delivery

This course will be delivered through two one-hour lectures per week, plus one one-hour tutorial per week. There will only be brief opportunities for discussion during lectures. The lecture outline gives a good indication of the topics to be covered, but that may vary slightly to accommodate a guest speaker and/or to enable certain topical issues to be addressed. Tutorials provide an opportunity for interactive discussions and debate. These will focus, as indicated in the tutorial outline, on specific questions and will involve students reading and commenting on one or two specified articles/papers.

Expected Workload

It is expected that students taking PUBL 201 will attend the majority of the lectures, prepare for and attend at least 8 of the 11 tutorials, complete the assessment requirements and read an adequate amount of material relevant to the course. Overall, students are expected to undertake an average of between two and three hours of self-directed study per week for each contact hour.

Lecture Outline

1. **What is public policy?** (Chs. 1 & 2, Shaw and Eichbaum) (2 lectures): 2 & 3 March

- a. Why study public policy?
- b. What is public policy?
- c. What are the main areas and levels of policy?
- d. What are some of the big policy issues?
- e. What is policy for?
- f. What are the main instruments?
- g. What is the policy cycle?
- h. What are the limits to public policy?
- i. What information/resources are available for policy analysts?

2. **Frameworks for thinking about public policy:** The contribution of different disciplines (6 lectures): 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 & 24 March

- a. Economics
 - Key behavioural assumptions, principles and philosophical underpinnings
 - Justifications for state intervention: public goods, collective action problems, externalities and market failure
 - Merit goods
 - Cost-benefit analysis: issues and applications
- b. Politics
 - The differences between politics and markets as social choice mechanisms
 - Politics and policy making: constraints and opportunities
 - Government failure: causes, consequences and solutions
 - Exit, voice and loyalty
 - The limits of politics and markets
- c. Philosophy, ethics and public policy:
 - Ethical frameworks
 - Conflicting values and decision rules
 - Grounds for state coercion: the harm principle, legal moralism, paternalism and other principles
- d. The nature of, and limits to, public policy advising (Tutorial topic)
 - The 'public argument' test and evidence-based policy
- e. Theories, models, paradigms and the nature and limits of the social sciences
 - Competing models of policy making: the rational/synoptic model versus incrementalism/muddling through

FIRST ESSAY DUE: WEDNESDAY 31 MARCH

3. Aspects of the policy process (7 lectures): 30 & 31 March, 20, 21, 27 & 28 April, & 4 May

- a. Agenda setting and defining the problem
- b. Legacies, path dependence and the determinants of policy
- c. Formulating policy: policy design, policy instruments, policy options, selection criteria, etc.
- d. Intervention logic
- e. Stakeholders, customers, citizens, interest groups, consultation and participation
- f. Making decisions: selection criteria, setting priorities, confronting tradeoffs, etc.
- g. Implementation and enforcement
- h. Evaluation, termination and policy research

4. Policy Case Studies (7 lectures)

- a. Climate change (3 lectures): 5, 11 & 12 May
 - The science of climate change – policy making in the context of risk and uncertainty
 - The economics of mitigating climate change
 - Global and domestic policy issues

SECOND ESSAY DUE: WEDNESDAY 12 MAY

- b. Ethnicity, diversity and the Treaty (2 lectures): 18 & 19 May
 - The Treaty of Waitangi, principles of the Treaty, the Treaty settlements' process, minority and indigenous rights, biculturalism and multiculturalism, etc.
 - The arguments for and against affirmative action/preferential treatment
 - The policy implications of ethno-cultural diversity
- c. Some key social policy issues (Ch. 15, S & E) (3 lectures): 25 & 26 May, and 1 June
 - Cash versus in-kind assistance
 - Targeting v universality
 - Poverty, and what to do about it:
 - i. Measures of poverty in NZ
 - ii. Who are the poor in NZ?
 - iii. Policies to alleviate poverty

iv. Policies to reduce the causes of poverty

5. Conclusions (1 lecture): 2 June

Tutorial Topics

Tutorial 1: 8 – 12 March: What is public policy? Why study public policy? Can policies make a difference for good or ill?

Case study: the student loan scheme and student allowances in New Zealand. Critically assess the policies of the main political parties at the 2005 and 2008 general elections, including the costs and benefits of the zero interest rate on student loans and Labour's 2008 proposal for a universal student allowance. What changes, if any, should be made to the current system of student finance (i.e. loans and allowances) in the interests of maximizing efficiency, fairness and fiscal sustainability?

Readings: Shaw and Eichbaum, Chs. 1 & 14.

Readings on the student loan policies of Labour and National at the 2005 and 2008 general elections in NZ. See Course Readings and the relevant party websites.

Tutorial 2: 15 – 19 March: Human behaviour and public policy: What behavioural assumptions should we make for policy purposes? What insights do social psychology and behavioural economics provide to those seeking to design and implement public policy?

Alana Cornforth, "Behaviour Change: Insights for Environmental Policy Making from Social Psychology and Behavioural Economics", *Policy Quarterly*, 5, 4, 2009, pp. 21 – 28.

Ministry of Economic Development, "Behavioural analysis for policy: New lessons from economics, philosophy, psychology, cognitive science, and sociology", Wellington, October 2006.

Tutorial 3: 22 – 26 March: 'Public Argument Advising' – The debate between Baehler and Gregory: who is closest to the truth?

Readings: Karen Baehler, "What are the Limits to Public Service Advising? The 'Public Argument' Test", *Policy Quarterly*, 1, 3, 2005, pp. 3 – 9.

Robert Gregory, "Politics, Power and Public Policy-making: A Response to Karen Baehler", *Policy Quarterly*, 1, 4, 2005, pp. 26 – 32.

Richard Mulgan, "Truth in Government and the Politicization of Public Service Advice", *Public Administration*, 85, 3, 2007, pp. 569 – 586.

Tutorial 4: 29 March – 1 April: The debate between Lindblom and his critics: is muddling through the only option? Can we muddle through any better?

Readings: Charles Lindblom, “The Science of ‘Muddling Through’”, Ch. 9 in F. Kramer (ed.) *Perspectives on Public Bureaucracy*, Winthrop Publishers, 1973.

Tutorial 5: 19 – 23 April: MMP and the policy process in New Zealand: What difference, if any, has it made? Why has electoral reform remained controversial? What changes to the current electoral system, if any, would you recommend? What other constitutional changes might be desirable?

Readings: Shaw and Eichbaum, Ch. 8.
Nicola White, “Deconstructing Cabinet Collective Responsibility”, *Policy Quarterly*, 1, 4, 2005, pp. 4 – 11.
Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church and Tim Bale, “The Impact of Proportional Representation on Government Effectiveness: The New Zealand Experience”, *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, 62, 4, December 2003, pp. 7 – 22.

Tutorial 6: 26 – 30 April: Intervention logic: what is it and is it logical?

Readings: Karen Baehler, “Intervention Logic: A User’s Guide”, *Public Sector*, 25, 3, 2002, pp. 14 – 20.
Leon Bakker and Carolyn Adams, “Intervention Logic: The Department of Corrections Case Study”, *Public Sector*, 26, 1, 2003, pp. 19 – 21.
Robert Gregory, “Political Life and Intervention Logic: Relearning Old Lessons?” *International Public Management Journal*, 7, 3, 2004, pp. 299 – 315.

Tutorial 7: 3 – 7 May: Climate change: framing the policy problem and assessing the options

Readings: R. Garnaut, “A Decision-Making Framework”, Ch. 1 in *The Garnaut Climate Change Review, Final Report*, Canberra, 2008.
<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/index.htm>
Andy Reisinger, “Putting it Together: Climate change as a risk management problem”, Ch. 8 in *Climate Change 101: An Educational Resource – Science, Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation, Decision-Making Challenges*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies, 2009, pp. 227 – 252.
Nicholas Stern, “Executive Summary”, *The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, London, 2006, pp. i – xxvii.
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm

Tutorial 8: 10 – 14 May: Mitigating climate change: the relative merits of emissions taxes, emissions trading and other policy instruments

Readings: Nicholas Stern, “Harnessing markets to reduce emissions” and “Carbon pricing and emission markets in practice”, Chs. 14 & 15 in *The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, London, 2006, pp. 309 – 346.
See: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_report.htm

Tutorial 9: 17 – 21 May: Should the state ever say ‘sorry’ for past wrongs? How good has the NZ state been in saying ‘sorry’? What does ‘restorative justice’ mean, and how and where should it be applied?

Readings: Nicola White, “Saying Sorry Effectively: Government Apologies for Historical Wrongs”, in Gabrielle Maxwell and James H. Liu (eds.) *Restorative Justice and Practices in New Zealand: Towards a Restorative Society*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies, 2007.

Tutorial 10: 24 – 28 May: Is affirmative action (or preferential treatment) ever justified?

Readings: Jonathan Boston, Paul Callister and Amanda Wolf, *The Policy Implications of Diversity*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies, 2006, Ch. 9.

William Bowen and Derek Bok, *The Shape of the River: Long-Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1998, Chs. 9 & 10.

Don Brash, “Nationhood”, Speech to the Orewa Rotary Club, 27 January 2004.

Tutorial 11: 31 May – 4 June: Concluding session – revision and summing up

NB: You are expected to attend at least 8 of 10 tutorials. If you fall behind on your reading for one week, don’t despair and don’t succumb to the ‘domino effect’ of getting further and further behind the more you try to catch up. Read the material for the *upcoming class first*, before trying to catch up on previous material. Don’t read for facts. Instead, focus on the main conceptual point or argument of each article, and think about how it informs your understanding of public policy.

Readings Material

Course Textbook:

Richard Shaw and Chris Eichbaum, 2008. *Public Policy in New Zealand: Institutions, Process and Outcomes*, Auckland, Pearson (\$49.95). Please purchase the second edition.

Course Readings:

Please obtain a copy of the Course Readings from VicBooks, Student Book Centre, Pipitea campus. Additional readings can be obtained from the library.

Some introductory, background and general readings:

Bardach, E., 2005. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*, New York, Chatham House, 2nd ed.

Bobrow, D. and J. Dryzek, 1987. *Policy Analysis by Design*, Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh University Press.

Fenna, A., 2004. *Australian Public Policy*, Pearson.

Ham, C. and M. Hill, 1984. *The Policy Process in the Modern Capitalist State*, Brighton, Wheatsheaf Books.

Hogwood, B. and L. Gunn, 1984. *Policy Analysis for the Real World*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Hood, C., 1986. *Administrative Analysis*, Brighton, Wheatsheaf Books.

Howlett, M. and M. Ramesh, 2003. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, Toronto, Oxford University Press, 2nd ed.

Lindblom, C., 1977. *Politics and Markets*, New York, Basic Books.

Lunt, N., C. Davidson and K. McKegg (eds.) 2003. *Evaluating Policy and Practice: A New Zealand Reader*, Auckland, Pearson.

Nagel, S., 1983. *Encyclopedia of Policy Studies*, New York, Marcel Dekker.

Paris, D. and J. Reynolds, 1983. *The Logic of Policy Inquiry*, New York, Longman.

Parsons, W., 1995. *Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis*, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar.

Weimer, D. and A. Vining, 1999. *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice*, New York, Prentice Hall, 3rd ed.

Wildavsky, A., 2007. *Speaking Truth to Power*, New Brunswick, Transaction Books.

Specific Readings (NB. there are numerous other possible readings on each topic):

1. Policy Frameworks

Baehler, K., 2005. "What are the Limits to Public Service Advising? The 'Public Argument' Test", *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 3 – 9.

Bozeman, B., 2002. "Public-Value Failure: When Efficient Markets May Not Do", *Public Administration Review*, March/April, Vol. 62, No. 2, pp. 145 – 161.

Dror, Y., 1968. *Public Policy Making Reexamined*, San Francisco, Chandler.

Goodin, R., 1990. "Liberalism and the Best Judge Principle", *Political Studies*, Vol. 38, pp. 181 – 195.

Goodin, R., 1982. *Political Theory and Public Policy*, Chicago, Chicago University Press.

Gregory, R., 2005. "Politics, Power and Public Policy-making: A Response to Karen Baehler", *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 26 – 32.

Gregory, R., 1989. "Political Rationality or Incrementalism? Charles E. Lindblom's Enduring Contribution to Public Policy Making Theory", *Policy and Politics*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 139 – 153.

Ham, C. and M. Hill, 1984. *The Policy Process in the Modern Capitalist State*, Brighton, Wheatsheaf Books.

Le Grand, J., 1993. "The Theory of Government Failure", *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 21, pp. 423 – 442.

Lindblom, C., 1990. *Inquiry and Change: The Troubled Attempt to Understand and Shape Society*, New Haven, Yale University Press.

Lindblom, C., 1973. "The Science of 'Muddling Through'", Ch. 9 in F. Kramer (ed.), *Perspectives on Public Bureaucracy*, Winthrop Publishers.

Parsons, W., 1995. *Public Policy: An Introduction to the Theory and Practice of Policy Analysis*, Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, esp. Part 3.

Sen, A., 1987. *On Ethics and Economics*, Oxford, Basil Blackwell.

Tenbenschel, T. and R. Gauld, 2000. "Models and Theories", in P. Davis and T. Ashton (eds.) *Health and Public Policy in New Zealand*, Auckland, Oxford University Press, pp. 25 – 43.

Thaler, R. and C. Sunstein, 2008. *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness*, London, Penguin.

Wallis, J. and B. Dollery, 1999. *Market Failure and Government Failure*, London, McMillan.

Wolf, C., 1987. "Market and Non-Market Failures: Comparisons and Assessment", *Journal of Public Policy*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 43 – 70.

Zerbe, R. and H. McCurdy, 1999. "The Failure of Market Failure", *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 18, No. 4, pp. 558 – 578.

2. Policy-making Institutions and the New Zealand Context

Boston, J., J. Martin, J. Pallot and P. Walsh, 1996. *Public Management – The New Zealand Model*, Auckland, Oxford University Press, pp. 69 – 95.

Boston, J. and S. Church, 2002. "The Budget Process in New Zealand: Has Proportional Representation Made a Difference?" *Political Science*, Vol. 54, No. 2, December, pp. 21 – 44.

Ladley, A. and J. Martin (eds.), 2005. *The Visible Hand: The Changing Role of the State in New Zealand's Development: Essays for Sir Frank Holmes*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Malone, R., 2008. *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Government Law-Making Under MMP*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Miller, R. (ed.), 2006. *New Zealand Government and Politics*, Melbourne, Oxford University Press, 4th ed.

Mulgan, R., 2004. *Politics in New Zealand*, Auckland, Auckland University Press.

Palmer, G. and M. Palmer, 2004. *Bridled Power: New Zealand's Constitution and Government*, Melbourne, Oxford University Press.

3. The Policy Process

Baehler, K., 2002. "Intervention Logic: A User's Guide". *Public Sector*, Vol. 25, No. 3, November, pp. 14 – 20.

Baehler, K., 2003. "Evaluation and the policy cycle", in N. Lunt, C. Davidson and K. McKegg (eds.) *Evaluating Policy and Practice: A New Zealand Reader*, Pearson Education, pp. 27 – 39.

Bakker, L. and C. Adams, 2003. "Intervention Logic: The Department of Corrections Case Study", *Public Sector*, Vol. 26, No.1, pp. 19 – 21.

Bale, T., J. Boston and S. Church, 2005. "'Natural Because it Had Become Just That'. Path Dependence in Pre-electoral Pacts and Government Formation: A New Zealand Case Study", *Australian Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 481 – 498.

Bardach, E., 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*, New York, Chatham House.

- Boston, J., S. Church and T. Bale, 2003. "The Impact of Proportional Representation on Government Effectiveness: The New Zealand Experience", *Australian Journal of Public Administration*, Vol. 62, No. 4, pp. 7 – 22.
- Boston, J. and A. Ladley, 2006. "The Art and Craft of Coalition Management", *New Zealand Journal of Public and International Law*, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 55 – 90.
- Gregory, R., 2004. "Political Life and Intervention Logic: Relearning Old Lessons?", *International Public Management Journal*, Vol. 7, No. 3, pp. 299 – 315.
- Lindblom, C., 1980. *The Policy-Making Process*, New Jersey, Prentice-Hall.
- Pierson, P., 2000. "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics", *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 94, pp. 251 – 267.
- Saville-Smith, K., 2003. "Power and politics: the shaping of evaluation research in New Zealand", in N. Lunt, C. Davidson and K. McKegg (eds.) *Evaluating Policy and Practice: A New Zealand Reader*, Pearson Education, pp. 16 – 20.
- Trotman, I., 2003. "Evaluation in New Zealand: a founder's reflection", in N. Lunt, C. Davidson and K. McKegg (eds.) *Evaluating Policy and Practice: A New Zealand Reader*, Pearson Education, pp. 21 – 26.
- Weiss, C., 1998. *Evaluation* (2nd ed.), pp. 20 – 45.
- White, N., 2005. "Deconstructing Cabinet Collective Responsibility", *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 4 – 11.
- 4. Climate Change and Related Issues**
- Boston, J. (ed.), 2007. *Towards a New Global Climate Treaty: Looking Beyond 2012*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.
- Chapman, R., J. Boston and M. Schwass (eds.), 2006. *Confronting Climate Change: Critical Issues for New Zealand*, Wellington, Victoria University Press.
- Carter, R. et al., 2006. "The Stern Review: A Dual Critique", *World Economics*, Vol. 7, No. 4, pp. 165 – 232.
- Congressional Budget Office, 2003. *The Economics of Climate Change: A Primer*, Washington D.C.
- Diamond, J., 2005. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Survive*, Penguin Books.
- Flannery, T., 2005. *Weather Makers: The Past and the Future Impact of Climate Change*, Melbourne, Text Printing Co.
- Garnaut, R., 2008. *The Garnaut Climate Change Review, Final Report*, Canberra.
<http://www.garnautreview.org.au/index.htm>

Gore, A., 2006. *An Inconvenient Truth*, London, Bloomsbury.

Helm, D. (ed.), 2005. *Climate Change Policy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Fourth Assessment Report. *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Working Group 1, Fourth Assessment Report, 2007. *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis, Summary for Policymakers*.

Reisinger, A., 2009. *Climate Change 101: An Educational Resource – Science, Impacts, Adaptation, Mitigation, Decision-Making Challenges* Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Stern, N., 2006. *The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change*, London. See also the background papers at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/stern_review_climate_change.htm

For responses to the Stern Review, see *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (2007).

For insights into the views of ‘climate sceptics’, see <http://www.climatescience.org.nz/>

See <http://www.climateark.org> or <http://www.realclimate.org> or <http://www.earthwire.org/climate/> for a vast array of scientific and policy-related material, and the journal *Climate Policy*.

5. The Treaty of Waitangi, Preferential Treatment and Diversity

Barry, B., 2001. *Culture and Equality*, Cambridge, Polity Press.

Boston, J., P. Callister and A. Wolf, 2006. *The Policy Implications of Diversity*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Brash, D., Leader of the National Party, 2004. “Nationhood”, an address to the Orewa Rotary Club, 27 January.

Bowen, W. G. and D. Bok, 1998. *The Shape of the River: The Long Term Consequences of Considering Race in College and University Admissions*, Princeton University Press.

Bromell, D., 2008. *Ethnicity, Identity and Public Policy: Critical Perspectives on Multiculturalism*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Callister, P., 2007. *Special Measures: An Examination of Their Role in Reducing Ethnic Disadvantage in New Zealand*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

Hager, N., 2006. *Hollow Men: A Study in the Politics of Deception*, Nelson, Craig Potton Publishing, Ch. 5.

James, C., 2005. “After the Treaty: a new fiction”, Bruce Jesson Memorial Lecture, 14 November.

Kymlicka, W., 1995. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights*, Oxford, Clarendon Press.

Ladley, A., 2005. "The Treaty and Democratic Government", *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No.1, pp. 21 – 27.

White, N. and A. Ladley, 2005. "Claims to Treaty and other Rights: Exploring the Terms of Crown-Maori Negotiation", *Policy Quarterly*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 3 – 9.

White, N., 2007. "Saying Sorry Effectively: Government Apologies for Historical Wrongs", in G. Maxwell and J. H. Liu (eds.) *Restorative Justice and Practices in New Zealand: Towards a Restorative Society*, Wellington, Institute of Policy Studies.

6. Social Policy

Boston, J., P. Dalziel and S. St John (eds.), 1999. *Redesigning the Welfare State in New Zealand*, Auckland, Oxford University Press.

Goodin, R. and J. Le Grand, 1987. *Not Only the Poor: The Middle Classes and the Welfare State*, London, Allen and Unwin.

Lister, R., 2004. 'Defining Poverty', Ch. 1 in *Poverty*, Cambridge, Polity Press.

Lund, N., M. O'Brien and R. Stephens (eds.), 2008. *New Welfare New Zealand*, Melbourne, Thomson.

Stephens, R., 2005. "Income Adequacy and Poverty Alleviation in New Zealand", Paper delivered at the Social Policy Association Conference, Bath, 27 – 29 June.

Waldegrave, C., R. Stephens and P. King, 2003. "Assessing the Progress on Poverty Reduction", *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, Vol. 20.
<http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj20/assessing-the-progress-on-poverty-reduction-20-pages197-222.html>

Other

For a useful website with material relating to evidence-based policy, better policy making, policy evaluation, policy delivery, etc., see: <http://www.nationalschool.gov.uk/policyhub/>

Assessment Requirements

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	WEIGHT
1st Essay (2,000 words) (all course objectives)	Wednesday 31 March	25%
2nd Essay (2,000 words) (all course objectives)	Wednesday 12 May	25%
Final exam (all course objectives)	Check schedule	50%

Essays are due by 5.00pm on the date specified. They can be submitted to:

- The lecturer in class, or
- The secure box at School of Government reception (8th floor Rutherford House) during the office hours, which are 8.30am – 5.00pm. The assignment box is cleared daily, and assignments will be date stamped.

Students should keep a secure copy of all assignments (i.e. hard copy and e-file).

Essays must be typed, with the exact word count (excluding references) indicated on the cover sheet. They must include details of the topic, your name, tutor and tutorial group.

Essays should seek to make sustained, well-supported and cogent arguments. Do not present a series of disconnected observations about particular cases or particular stages of the policymaking cycle. Weave your ideas together.

Essays will be marked according to the depth of understanding of the topic, the cogency of the arguments being made and the degree to which they are supported by evidence, the aptness of examples, and the originality of insights, as well as the usual standards of correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar, appropriate formatting and overall tidiness. All ideas that have been borrowed from something you read (book, journal, magazine, newspaper or website) or a conversation with another person or a television show or a speech, etc. etc., should be referenced thoroughly and accurately. Sources should be listed at the end of the paper in a bibliography.

Note: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

FIRST ESSAY (Due 31 March)

Please answer one of the following questions:

1. Much public policy debate is dominated by considerations of ‘market failure’ and ‘government failure’. Explain the meaning of these concepts and why they are important for policy makers. By what means and to what extent can market failures and government failures be alleviated? Draw on contemporary New Zealand policy examples where possible to illustrate your answers. **OR**
2. Paternalistic policies and the ‘nanny state’ have a bad press in New Zealand and many other liberal democracies. Yet some leading social scientists believe that there are robust paternalistic justifications for the state to limit human freedom under certain

circumstances or at least nudge people to behave in ways that are likely to be in their best interests. Assess the arguments for and against policies based on paternalistic justifications and outline the circumstances, if any, under which ‘nudging’ is justified. **OR**

3. According to Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein (*Nudge*, 2008, pp. 5-6), “... we know that in many cases, individuals make pretty bad decisions – decisions that they would not have made if they had paid full attention and possessed complete information, unlimited cognitive abilities, and complete self-control”. Are Thaler and Sunstein justified in making this claim and, if so, what are the policy implications? **OR**
4. Explain the concept of a ‘merit good’, how it differs from a ‘public good’ and why it remains a controversial notion. Do you think the concept of a merit good has much merit, and if so, how should it be applied in concrete policy situations?

SECOND ESSAY (Due 12 May)

Please answer one of the following questions:

1. You are a Treasury official. The Minister of Finance has drawn your attention to a statement by Professor Ross Garnaut: “Climate change is a diabolical policy problem. It is harder than any other issue of high importance that has come before the polity in living memory” (Climate Change Review, *Draft Report*, Canberra, 2008, p. 2). He has also noted that many others see climate change as constituting a ‘wicked’ policy problem. On this basis, your Minister has posed the following questions: What are the policy implications of climate change being regarded as a diabolical or wicked policy problem? In other words, how might it affect the nature of the solutions available to policy makers and their likely effectiveness? **OR**
2. You are a policy adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Prime Minister has drawn your attention to the fact that the international community is divided over what the long-term goal of climate change mitigation should be, with some arguing that the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere should be limited to 350ppm, others supporting a 2°C warming cap, and others recommending even higher stabilisation targets? The Prime Minister has asked you to address the following questions: why is there such a divergence of opinion, what criteria should be used to decide the appropriate stabilization target, and what are the policy implications of applying the criteria identified? **OR**
3. You are a policy adviser to the Minister for the Environment. Your Minister has asked you to assess the relative merits of a number of policy options for reducing New Zealand’s greenhouse gas emissions: 1) taxes; 2) emissions trading; 3) regulatory measures, such as vehicle efficiency standards; and 4) voluntary measures. Critically assess these options. Which policy option, or combination of options, would you recommend that New Zealand adopt? **OR**
4. You are a policy adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Prime Minister has received a letter claiming that the way New Zealand has designed its emissions trading scheme provides numerous lessons in precisely how NOT to design such a scheme. The Prime Minister has asked you to address the following matters:

what mistakes have been made in designing the NZ emissions trading scheme, why were they made, and what should be done to rectify them?

5. You are an adviser to the Minister of Education. Your Minister has received a report from a think tank arguing that vouchers represent the most efficient, effective and equitable way for the state to fund certain kinds of services, particularly education. Write a report to your Minister explaining the nature of vouchers, the various forms that they can take, and the implications of these different forms. Is the think tank correct in its assessment?

NB: You may write this piece either as a conventional essay or as a structured piece of ministerial advice (e.g. covering the problem definition, the policy context, criteria for analysis, assessment of the issues and options, and recommendations) as taught in PUBL. Either way, please cite references in the normal way and include a bibliography (in alphabetical order).

FINAL EXAM

The registry-conducted, three-hour exam will cover the whole course. Students should consult the final examination timetable, available later in the term on the University website.

The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from **Friday 11 June to Wednesday 30 June 2010.**

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Mandatory Course Requirements and Penalties

To fulfil the mandatory paper requirements for this paper you must:

- Attend eight of the scheduled tutorial sessions.
- Submit all written assignments by the due date. A late assignment will have its mark reduced by 3% for each day it is overdue unless there is a very good reason why it was late.

Assignments will not be accepted that are over a week late. Assignments significantly exceeding the word limit will have 5 marks deducted.

Students who fail to satisfy the mandatory requirements for passing this course, other than the requirement to obtain a C grade overall, will not receive a graded result, and their records will show a “K” (fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements, even though the student’s course requirements reached the level specified for a pass).

To pass PUBL 201 a student must meet the mandatory requirements and achieve at least a total of 50% over all the assessment.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the course coordinator, and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of the students.

Communication of Additional Information

Notices, marks for assignments (by student ID number) and selected course materials will be posted on the Blackboard website. Only students who are registered for PUBL 201 will have access. If you have problems with Blackboard, please contact the ITS Help Desk on (04) 463 5050 or at its-service@vuw.ac.nz.

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and the use of Turnitin

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, you must still acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- material from books, journals or any other printed source
- the work of other students or staff
- information from the Internet
- software programs and other electronic material
- designs and ideas
- the organisation or structuring of any such material.

Acknowledgement is required for *all* material in any work submitted for assessment unless it is a 'fact' that is well-known in the context (such as "Wellington is the capital of New Zealand") or your own ideas in your own words. Everything else that derives from one of the sources above and ends up in your work – whether it is directly quoted, paraphrased, or put into a table or figure, needs to be acknowledged with a reference that is sufficient for your reader to locate the original source.

Plagiarism undermines academic integrity simply because it is a form of lying, stealing and mistreating others. Plagiarism involves stealing other people's intellectual property and lying about whose work it is. This is why plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria.

If you are found guilty of plagiarism, you may be penalised under the Statute on Student Conduct. You should be aware of your obligations under the Statute, which can be downloaded from the policy website (www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx). You could fail your course or even be suspended from the University.

Plagiarism is easy to detect. The University has systems in place to identify it.

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the

School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

There is guidance available to students on how to avoid plagiarism by way of sound study skills and the proper and consistent use of a recognised referencing system. This guidance may be found at the following website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

If in doubt seek the advice of your course coordinator.

Plagiarism is simply not worth the risk.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/