TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Government

MMPM 533 / MAPP 560 / STRA 525
SPECIAL TOPIC:
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
(15 Points)

Trimester Two / 2010

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator: **Dr Chris Eichbaum**
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Masters Administrator: **Darren Morgan**
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Office Hours: 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 12 July – Saturday 13 November 2010

Class Times and Room Numbers

Times: Wednesdays, from 5.40pm – 7.30pm
Dates: Starting 14 July (first class) to 18 August 2010
Mid-trimester break: 25 August and 1 September 2010 = No classes
Resuming 8 September to 13 October 2010 (final class)
Location: Lecture Theatre 1 (GB LT1), Old Government Building Annex, Pipitea Campus

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Withdrawal Dates

Notice of withdrawal must be in writing / emailed to the Masters Administrator. Ceasing to attend or verbally advising a member of staff will NOT be accepted as a notice of withdrawal.

Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **Friday 23 July 2010**.

The last date for withdrawal from this course is **Friday 24 September 2010**. After this date, permission to withdraw requires the approval of the Associate Dean (Students), as set out in section 8 of the Personal Courses of Study Statute (http://policy.vuw.ac.nz/Amphora!~~policy.vuw.ac.nz~POLICY~000000001743.pdf). To apply for this permission, fill in the Late Withdrawal form available from either of our Student Customer Service Desks, or downloaded from www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/Forms.aspx.

Note on Course Design

This course is being offered at the 500 level for the first time in 2010. Student assessments and evaluations conducted by the School of Government have indicated a desire on the part of a significant number of students to utilise the standard weekly (as well as modular and intensive) mode of delivery. Substantively, the course will have a bias towards the analysis, discussion, and debate of public policy issues that are before policymakers – whether elected or appointed – in Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2010. There will also be opportunities to bring a comparative perspective to bear on these issues, and – where appropriate – to explore issues within other jurisdictions. The intention is to encourage a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspective, while at the same time utilising a currency of analysis and exchange that enables the use of common frameworks across disciplines and policy domains.

In 2010, the course will be co-taught with PUBL 403, Contemporary Policy Issues. This course is one of the three core or required courses in the BA and BCA (Hons) Public Policy degree. The learning and teaching objectives for PUBL 403 are closely aligned with those for this course.

Course Content

A detailed class schedule will be distributed at the first meeting of the class and posted on Blackboard. It is envisaged that the course will traverse a range of contemporary public policy and/or governance issues in the New Zealand context, and that these may include:

- Welfare policy
- Economic transformation after the Global Financial Crisis
- Constitutional reform
- Auckland governance
- Climate change
- New Zealand Defence policy (in a regional and global context)
- Relationships with Australia
- Labour market regulation and industrial relations

- Maori economic and social development
- Public Management: A New Zealand Model in 2010?
- Prisons policy

Course Learning Objectives

Having completed this course, a student should be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate a contemporary aspect of New Zealand public policy and/or governance
- Contribute to a group project and plan and deliver a presentation to an audience of their peers
- Apply critical and evaluative judgements to the collection of data relating to a contemporary aspect of New Zealand public policy and/or governance

Course Delivery

Course delivery will consist of weekly (2 hour) classes. In addition to weekly classes, students will be expected to participate in group activities.

Expected Workload

This is a fifteen (15) point course. In accordance with University guidelines, one point should equate to 10 hours of work (inclusive of class meetings) which means a total of 150 hours for a 15-point course. This will typically be spread over the course of 12 teaching weeks and the mid-trimester break.

Group Work

Final decisions regarding the assessment mix for this course will be made following discussions at the first class meeting on Wednesday 14 July 2010. It is likely that the assessment will include a group work component. Details relating to group work – including the time commitment and the assessment criteria – will be confirmed with the class and posted on Blackboard.

Readings

Readings for this course will be posted on Blackboard and/or distributed in hard copy in class. Recommendations on readings that might be completed prior to the first meeting of the class will be posted on Blackboard.

Blackboard
Blackboard is Victoria University's online environment that supports teaching and learning by making course information, materials and other learning activities available via the internet through the myVictoria student web portal.

To access the Blackboard site for this course:

1. Open a web browser and go to www.myvictoria.ac.nz .
2. Log into myVictoria using your ITS Username (on your Confirmation of Study) and password (if you've never used the Victoria University computer facilities before, your initial password is your student ID number, on your Confirmation of Study, Fees Assessment or student ID card – you may be asked to change it when you log in for the first time).
3. Once you've logged into myVictoria, select Blackboard (from the options along the top of the page) to go to your Blackboard homepage.
4. The "My Courses" box displays what courses you have access to (please note that only courses that are actually using Blackboard will be displayed), so select "10.2.MMPM533-MAPP560-STRA525-PUBL403: Special Topic: Contemporary Issues in Policy and Governance" for the course-specific Blackboard site.

You are recommended to ensure that your computer access to Blackboard is working before the course starts.

If you have any problems with myVictoria or Blackboard, you should contact the ITS Helpdesk on (04) 463 5050 or its-service@vuw.ac.nz , or visit the Helpdesk on level 2 of the Railway West Wing, Pipitea Campus. See www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/ for more information.

Assessment Requirements

Details of assessment requirements will be discussed in the first meeting of the class, and confirmed shortly thereafter. This will include the specific form of assessment, word-limits (where appropriate) and due dates.

It is likely that the assessment will include:

- An essay examining the institutional/governance framework within which public policy processes operate in Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- A group exercise and presentation focusing on a particular policy issue.
- The researching and compilation of an individual policy portfolio, journal and/or wiki.

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.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

Penalties, Deadlines and Failure to Meet Due Dates

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 will be deducted at the rate of five per cent for every day by which the assignment is late and no assignments will be accepted after five working days beyond the date they are due. For example, if you get 65% for an assignment, but you handed it in on Monday when it was due the previous Friday, you will get a mark of 50%.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal circumstances beyond your control 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 coordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline (if circumstances permit) if you are seeking an extension. Where an extension is sought, evidence, by way of a medical certificate or similar, may be required by the course coordinator.

Mandatory Course Requirements

- Attendance at no fewer that eight (8) of the weekly class meetings (students are strongly encouraged to attend all of the meetings of the class);
- Submission of, or participation in, all pieces of assessment required for this course.

Communication of Additional Information

Information will be communicated via Blackboard. It is **essential** therefore that all students activate their @myvuw.ac.nz email account before the beginning of the trimester. You can modify the settings of your @myvuw.ac.nz email address so that all emails sent to it are automatically forwarded to another email address (e.g. your preferred home or work email address) - but you MUST activate your @myvuw.ac.nz email account for this to work!

Please go to www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/FAQs.aspx#Email_Forward for more information and if you have any problems, you should contact the ITS Helpdesk on (04) 463 5050 or its-service@vuw.ac.nz, or visit the Helpdesk on level 2 of the Railway West Wing, Pipitea Campus (see www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/ for more information).

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 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: 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.**

Other Information

For the following important information, follow the links provided:

- **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**
  www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx
- **General University Policies and Statutes**
  www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- **AVC (Academic) Website: information including Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support**
  www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx
- **Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices**
  www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/
- **Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme**
  www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring/