

**School of Government**

**MAPP 555**  
**SOCIAL POLICY**  
(15 Points)

**Trimester 2 / 2012**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Names and Contact Details**

- Course Coordinator:**        **Dr David Rea**  
Research Associate, Institute of Policy Studies  
Room RWW 519, Level 5, Railway West Wing, Pipitea Campus  
Telephone: 029 770 9000  
Email: [david.rea@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:david.rea@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office Hours: 12.00pm to 5.30pm, Thursdays
- Administrator:**            **Darren Morgan**  
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- School Office Hours:**        8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

**Trimester Dates**

From Monday 16 July to Friday 19 October 2012

**Withdrawal from Course**

Formal notice of withdrawal must be in writing on a Course Add/Drop form (available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks) or emailed to the course Administrator. Not paying your fees, ceasing to attend lectures or verbally advising a member of staff will NOT be accepted as a formal notice of withdrawal.

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before **Friday 27 July 2012**.

2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is **Friday 28 September 2012**. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

## **Class Times and Room Numbers**

**Class Times:** Thursdays, 5.40pm – 7.30pm

**Dates:** Starting 19 July (first class) to 23 August 2012  
Mid-trimester break (no classes) = 30 August and 6 September 2012  
Resuming 13 September to 18 October 2012 (final class)

**Location:** Lecture Theatre 3 (RH LT3), Ground Floor, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus. The timetable is also available to view on the Victoria University website ([www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/)).

NOTE: This course is delivered in a weekly format over the whole trimester.

## **Course Content**

The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of social policy. The course will provide an overview of the nature and rationale for the welfare state, a description of key social policy problems (e.g. poverty and unemployment), and specific detailed examples of social policy issues.

The emphasis will be on government policy across all the social spheres which aim to improve the wellbeing of citizens.

The approach is inter-disciplinary, and will explore insights from a range of disciplines including economics, psychology, demography, history and political philosophy. There will be a particular emphasis on cross-country comparisons and the use of evaluation evidence.

Particular attention will be given to the analysis of early childhood intervention programmes, education and income dynamics, social security, active labour market programmes, and superannuation.

Policy instruments to achieve objectives will be analysed, as will the appropriate method of financing social policy and institutional structures for implementing social policy.

The following gives a broad indication of the scope and sequencing of topics. Guest lecturers will provide detailed analysis of individual topics in the second part of the course.

### **Lecture 1: Thursday 19 July 2012**

Topic: Introduction to the course and social policy (see Blackboard for readings)

### **Lecture 2: Thursday 26 July 2012 (includes presentations from guest lecturers)**

Topic: The nature of the Welfare State

- the nature of the welfare state in New Zealand
- historical evolution of the welfare state
- types and models of welfare states across countries
- 'failure' and choices in the delivery of social policy interventions
- models of human behaviour
- government spending and revenue
- fiscal incidence
- the costs of taxation

### **Lecture 3: Thursday 2 August 2012**

Topic: Key social policy outcomes

- theories of distributive justice
- different approaches to the measurement of well being
- the level and distribution of key social outcomes in New Zealand, including life expectancy, GDP per capita, poverty, inequality, unemployment, criminal victimisation, social capital and happiness

### **Lecture 4: Thursday 9 August 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: Assessing the impacts of policy and interventions

- introduction to evaluation methods in social policy
- evidence based policy and practice
- dealing with uncertainty

### **Lecture 5: Thursday 16 August 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: Poverty

- measuring poverty
- understanding the causes and consequences of poverty
- instruments to reduce poverty

**Lecture 6: Thursday 23 August 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturers)**

Topic: early intervention for children

- early childhood intervention programmes in New Zealand
- the approach in other OECD countries
- evidence about what works

**NOTE: Thursday 30 August and Thursday 6 September 2012 = No classes = mid-trimester break**

**Lecture 7: Thursday 13 September 2012**

Group presentations

**Lecture 8: Thursday 20 September 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturers)**

Topic: schooling and training

- theories of human capital and skills
- the nature and outcomes of the New Zealand education system compared to other OECD countries
- evidence about what works

**Lecture 9: Thursday 27 September 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: labour market regulation

- typology of different forms of labour market regulation, e.g. minimum wages
- optimal labour market regulation

**Lecture 10: Thursday 4 October 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: benefits and tax credits

- the NZ social assistance system and tax credits compared with other countries
- poverty, employment incentives, partnering penalties and fiscal costs
- evidence about what works
- reform of social assistance payments

**Lecture 11: Thursday 11 October 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: active labour market programmes and unemployment

- the nature and consequences of unemployment
- subsidies and programmes aimed at addressing unemployment in New Zealand
- evaluation evidence about the impact of active labour market programmes and other interventions

## **Lecture 12: Thursday 18 October 2012 (includes presentation from guest lecturer)**

Topic: superannuation, savings and population ageing

- New Zealand Superannuation and KiwiSaver
- pensions policies across OECD countries
- current and future outcomes given population ageing
- evidence about the trade-offs between savings, poverty, and employment

### **Course Learning Objectives**

By completion of the course, students should be able to analyse and evaluate:

- justifications for the role of government in social policy and the appropriate balance between government (central and local), private market, family, and voluntary sector in terms of funding, decision and provision
- the use, advantages and limitations of comparative analysis in social policy
- generating and using evidence about the effectiveness of different policies
- the role of service delivery, and the change in the form of the welfare state from direct provision and input financing to contracting and accountability for outputs
- interdisciplinary perspectives and tools including understanding the importance of demographic trends for the analysis of social policy, economic incentives
- detailed knowledge of the policy trade-offs in early intervention, social assistance, active labour market programmes, and savings and superannuation.

### **Course Delivery**

This course is delivered in a weekly format over the whole trimester, consisting of twelve 2-hour classes.

### **Expected Workload**

The learning objectives set for each course are demanding and, to achieve them, candidates must make a significant commitment in time and effort to reading, studying, thinking, and completion of assessment items outside of contact time. Courses vary in design but all require preparation and learning before the first day of the course and regular learning is also necessary (students who leave everything to the last moment rarely achieve at a high level).

In accordance with University guidelines, one point should equate to 10 hours of work (inclusive of class meetings), so the expected workload for this 15 point course is 150 hours, spread evenly throughout the trimester.

## **Readings**

There is no set text for the class, but useful background reading is set out below.

- Atkinson, A.B. and Stiglitz, J. (1980) Lectures on Public Economics, McGraw-Hill
- Barr, N. (1999) Economics of the Welfare State, various editions.
- Castles, F. et al (2010) The Oxford Handbook of the Welfare State, Oxford University Press
- Grogger, J and Karoly, L. (2005) Welfare reform: effects of a decade of change, Harvard University Press
- Spicker, P. (2008) Social Policy: Themes and Approaches, Policy Press
- Thaler, R. and Sunstein, C (2009) Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness, Penguin

More detailed reading lists will be given out in advance of each lecture.

## **Materials and Equipment**

No additional materials or equipment are required for this course.

## **Group Work**

Students will form groups to prepare for the joint seminar presentation in September 2012. Contribution to this presentation is part of the mandatory requirement for the course.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

There are three mandatory requirements for the course:

- attending 75% of the lectures;
- completion of two essays;
- contributing to the development of, and participation in, the group class presentation.

Students who fail to satisfy the mandatory course 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 reach the level specified for a pass).

## **Assessment Requirements**

The course is internally assessed and there is no final exam.

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Policy Brief 1	Wednesday 8 August 2012	2,000 words	40%
Group presentation	Thursday 13 September 2012	15 minute presentation with PowerPoint slides	20%
Policy Brief 2	Wednesday 10 October 2012	2,000 words	40%

**Topics: To be announced, see Blackboard and distributed in lectures.**

NOTE: contributing to the development of, and participation in, the group presentation on Thursday 13 September 2012, is a mandatory course requirement.

**Please submit the Policy Brief assignments IN HARD COPY to:**

Post Experience Programmes,  
School of Government,  
Victoria University of Wellington,  
Level 8 Reception,  
Rutherford House,  
23 Lambton Quay,  
P.O. Box 600,  
Wellington 6140.

Assignments submitted by post are given two days grace to allow for delivery time, while assignments that are submitted in person should be placed in the secure box at the School of Government reception (Level 8, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus, office hours = 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday) by the due date/time. The assignment box is cleared daily, and assignments will be date stamped.

**Students should keep a copy of all submitted work and be able to email it to Dr David Rea on request if required (partly so that he can use Turnitin if the need arises).**

### **Quality Assurance 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 FCom programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for 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.

Penalties will be incurred for late submission of work, or for work submitted that is excessively long. Late assignments will have their mark reduced by 0.5 marks for each day it is overdue unless there is a very good reason why it was late. If there are out of town students, then two days is allowed for postage. Assignments will not be accepted that are over a week late, unless an extension has been granted by the Course Coordinator.

Assignments excessively exceeding the word limit will have 3 marks deducted or returned to the student for pruning.

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.

## **Communication of Additional Information**

Additional information will be provided on Blackboard, by email to students, or through lectures.

**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](http://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" section displays the courses you have access to – select the appropriate link to access the course-specific Blackboard site. Please note that only courses that are actually using Blackboard and have been made available to students by their respective course coordinator will be displayed.

**NOTE:** Information emailed to you via Blackboard can only be sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address (the free email address created for you when you enrol and accessed via the myVictoria student web portal). If you want to receive these emails at your preferred email address (e.g. your



home or work email address), it is **essential** that you activate your @myvuw.ac.nz email address before the start of the course and you modify the settings so all emails sent to it are automatically forwarded to your preferred email address. Please go to [www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/FAQs.aspx#Email\\_Forward](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/its/student-services/FAQs.aspx#Email_Forward) for more information.

**You are recommended to ensure that your computer access to Victoria University’s computer facilities, such as myVictoria, Blackboard and email, is working BEFORE your course starts.** If you have any problems, you should contact the ITS Helpdesk on (04) 463 5050 or [its-service@vuw.ac.nz](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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](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: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx](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**

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx)

#### **General University Policies and Statutes**

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study)

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx)

The University's statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy) , except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx)

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

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

#### **Faculty of Commerce Office**

[www.victoria.ac.nz/fcom/studenthelp/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fcom/studenthelp/)

#### **Te Putahi Atawhai**

#### **Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme**

[www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/)