



**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
2008 TRIMESTER 1**

**POLS 111: Introduction to Government and Politics: New Zealand
CRN: 7540**

COURSE COORDINATORS:

Dr Jon Johansson, Room 507, Murphy Building
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TUTOR COORDINATOR:

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LECTURE TIMES

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-11 am plus one weekly tutorial

VENUE:

Lectures will be held in Kirk (KK) LT303

TUTORIALS

The University is introducing an on-line facility for students to sign up for tutorials in first year courses. Information on how to access and use S-Cubed will be handed out in the first week of lectures. Tutorials will commence in the third week of the trimester, after which students may not change their tutorial group without the permission of the tutor coordinator.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information will be communicated in the lectures and posted on the 5th Floor Murphy Building noticeboard.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is designed to be an introduction to the study of politics with special reference to New Zealand government and comparative politics.

Students passing this paper should be able to describe and distinguish between different elements of New Zealand's political system. Students should also be able to exhibit their understanding of how our political system has evolved and changed across time, especially in terms of the major electoral system change to MMP, as well show cognizance of the dimensions of our party system, the bureaucracy, and the perennial political questions facing New Zealand's democracy.

This paper also emphasizes the development of research and written presentational skills. Students passing this paper will therefore be able to formulate in writing clear arguments based on sound and authoritative research.

ASSESSMENT

50% in-term work (consisting of 2 essays, each essay worth 25%); 50% final three-hour examination conducted by the Faculty.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must submit the two essays by the due dates;
2. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials throughout the trimester;
3. Students must attain at least 40% in the final examination.

PLEASE NOTE that **2 June** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 2 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: A student who has not satisfied the mandatory course requirements, even if the student's course mark reaches 50%, will receive a K (fail) grade. When a student's overall course mark falls below the minimum pass mark, whether or not the mandatory course requirements have been satisfied, the standard grades of D and E will apply.

PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—a deduction of 5% for the first day late, and 2% per day thereafter, up to a maximum of 8 days. Work that is more than 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 12 hours per week. This includes 3 hours of lectures and a 1 hour tutorial per week.

AEGROTATS

Please note that under the Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of **first trimester** courses in 2008 the starting point for this period is **Monday 14 May 2008**.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Assessment Statute (Sections 4.5) for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.

Final 3 hour examination

The date and time of the final examination and the list of examination rooms will be available closer to the examination period. You should make yourself familiar with the University's rules about cases where illness, personal bereavement, or other exceptional circumstances prevent attendance or impair performance at an examination; see the Assessment Handbook available at the Faculty Office. Students who would benefit from special facilities at examination time because of medical or other reasons, should contact the Faculty's Examinations Officer in the FHSS office on 4th Floor Murphy Building or a member of the Student Health or Counselling Services at 2-4 Wai-te-ata Road as soon as possible.

COURSE CONTENT

Lecture Programme:

25 Feb – 28 Feb Introduction to Victoria University's Political Science and International Relations Programme, and to POLS 111 and its requirements. Introduction to the discipline of Political Science. What kinds of questions do political scientists deal with? What kinds of answers can they give? What is politics? power? authority? Perennial political concerns e.g. Who guards the guardians? Elitism versus egalitarianism; Individual rights versus collective responsibility; Authoritarian versus accountable government; The comparative approach—advantages and problems.

(Dr Jon Johansson & Professor Margaret Clark)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Part I. Mulgan chapters 1, 2, & 13, Heywood chapters 1 and 2
 Additional Readings Bernard Crick, *In Defense of Politics*, (Penguin, London, 1979)
 (Available in the Les Cleveland, *The Politics of Utopia*, (Methuen, Wellington, 1979)
 Study Hall) Leslie Lipson, *The Politics of Equality*, (University of Chicago Press, 1948)
 Leslie Lipson, *The Great Issues of Politics*, (Prentice Hall, 1985)
 André Siegfried, *Democracy in New Zealand*, (Reprinted Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1982)

3 March – 13 March New Zealand's Parliamentary System in comparative perspective. How do we choose our representatives? How is a government formed? Manifestos, mandates and election promises. Bills, Acts, and Select Committees. Cabinet and Ministerial Responsibility. The role of Opposition and Caucuses. The rights and obligations of Members of Parliament. Parliamentary procedures and constraints.

(Dr Jon Johansson & Professor Margaret Clark)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Parts IV & V. Mulgan chapters 3, 4, 5, Heywood chapters 4 and 5
 Additional Readings Gary Hawke (ed.), *Changing Politics*, (Institute of Policy Studies,
 (Available in the Victoria University, 1993)
 Study Hall) Keith Jackson, *The Dilemma of Parliament*, (Allen & Unwin, 1987)
 Colin James and Alan McRobie, *Turning Point*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1993)
 Richard Mulgan, *Politics in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 1997)
 Geoffrey Palmer, *Unbridled Power*, (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed., 1987)
 J.B. Ringer, *An Introduction to New Zealand Government*, (Hazard Press, 1992)
 G.A. Wood, *Governing New Zealand*, (Longman Paul, 1988)
 Raymond Miller, (ed.), *NZ Politics in Transition*, (Oxford University Press, 1997)
 and *New Zealand Government and Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2006)

17 March – 27 March The history, ideologies, social bases and policies of New Zealand's political parties.

(Dr Jon Johansson & Professor Margaret Clark)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Part III. Mulgan chapters 9 and 10, Heywood chapters 3, 9 and 12
 Additional Readings: Barry Gustafson, *From the Cradle to the Grave*, (Penguin, 1988).
 (Available in the Study Hall) Barry Gustafson, *Social Change and Party Reorganisation: The New Zealand Labour Party since 1945*, (Sage, 1976)
 Barry Gustafson, *The First Fifty Years: A History of the New Zealand National Party*, (Reed Methuen, 1986)
 Margaret Clark (ed.), *The Labour Party After 75 Years*, (Victoria University Press, Department of Politics, Occasional Publication No 4, 1992)
 Martin Holland (ed.), *Electoral Behaviour in New Zealand*, (Oxford University Press, 1992)
 Colin James, *The Quiet Revolution: Turbulence and Transition in Contemporary New Zealand*, (Allen and Unwin, 1986)
 Colin James, *New Territory*, (Allen and Unwin, 1992)
 Margaret Clark (ed), *Sir Keith Holyoake: Towards a Political Biography*, and *Peter Fraser: Master Politician*, and *Three Labour Leaders: Nordmeyer, Kirk and Rowling and Holyoake's Lieutenants, Muldoon Revisited*, and *For the Record: Lange and the Fourth Labour Government* (Dunmore Press, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2003, 2004 and 2005)
 Patrick Moloney and Kerry Taylor (eds) *On the Left*, (University of Otago Press, 2002)
 Raymond Miller, *Party Politics in New Zealand*, (Oxford University Press, 2005).

31 March – 10 April Elections and electioneering. How we change our government. Our new electoral system (MMP) and our old electoral system (FPP). How and why was the change made?

(Professor Nigel Roberts)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Part II. Mulgan chapters 11 and 12, Heywood chapter 11
 Additional Readings: Report of the Royal Commission on The Electoral System,
 (Available in the Study Hall) *Towards a Better Democracy*, (Government Printer, 1986)
 Alan McRobie (ed.), *Taking It To the People? The New Zealand Electoral Referendum Debate*, (Hazard Press, 1993)
 Jack Vowles and Peter Aimer (eds.), *Double Decision: The 1993 Election and Referendum in New Zealand*, (Victoria University Press, Department of Politics Occasional Publication No. 6, 1994)
 Jonathan Boston, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay, and Nigel S. Roberts, *New Zealand Under MMP: A New Politics?* (Auckland University Press, 1996)
 Jonathan Boston, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay, and Nigel S. Roberts, (eds.), *New Zealand's First General Election Under Proportional Representation* (Dunmore Press, 1997).
 Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay, and Nigel S. Roberts, *Left Turn: The NZ General Election of 1999* (Victoria University Press, 2000).
 Martin Holland (ed.), *Electoral Behaviour in New Zealand* (Oxford University Press, 1992).
 Keith Jackson and Alan McRobie, *New Zealand Adopts Proportional Representation: Accident? Design? Evolution?* (Ashgate Press, 1998).
 Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay, Nigel S. Roberts, *New Zealand Votes: The General Election of 2002* (Victoria University Press, 2003)

Jack Vowles, Peter Aimer, Raymond Miller, et. al, *Voters' Veto: The 2002 Election in New Zealand and the Consolidation of Minority Government* (Auckland University Press, 2004)

4 April — First Essay due

14 April -27 April —Mid-Trimester Break

28 April – 1 May

Introduction to political leadership. In this block of lectures classical ideas associated with political leadership will be discussed. Fundamental questions will be posed, such as: what is political leadership? Can an individual leader influence historical outcomes? What is the role of the Prime Minister? Examples drawn from international experience and New Zealand will be applied to answer these questions.

(Dr Jon Johansson)

Text Readings:
Additional Readings:
(Available in the
Study Hall)

Mulgan chapter 4
John Henderson, 'The Prime Minister' in *New Zealand Politics in Transition*, edited by Raymond Miller, (Auckland, Oxford University Press, 1997) pp. 72-80
Michael Bassett, 'The Essentials of Successful Leadership in Twentieth Century New Zealand Politics', in *Political Science*, Vol 51, No. 2 (1999). pp. 108-119
Simon Sheppard, 'Ranking New Zealand Prime Ministers', in *Political Science*, Vol 50, No. 1 (1998), pp. 72-89
Jon Johansson. 2005. *Two Titans: Muldoon, Lange and Leadership* (Wellington, Dunmore)
Jon Johansson. 2004. (Editor). *Special Edition of Political Science Journal on Political Leadership*. Vol. 56. No 2. Wellington: VUW.

5 May- 15 May

Executive government and 'governing'; the cabinet, ministers and the public sector, the 'public service' and the 'state sector'; the identification of public problems and the formation and implementation of public policy; the structures and organisation of public sector work; current trends and issues – governing in the 21st century?

(Dr Chris Eichbaum and Associate Professor Bill Ryan)

Text Readings:
Additional Readings:
Study Hall)

Harris/Levine Part VI. Mulgan chapters 6,7,8, Heywood 5,7,16,17.
Jonathan Boston (ed.), *The State Under Contract*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1995)
J. Boston et al., *Reshaping the State: New Zealand's Bureaucratic Revolution*, (Oxford University Press, 1991)
J. Boston et al., *Public Management: The New Zealand Model*, (Oxford University Press, Auckland, 1996)
J. Boston and M. Holland (eds.), *The Fourth Labour Government*, (1st ed, Oxford University Press, 1987) especially chapters by Gregory and Roberts.

- M. Clark and E. Sinclair (eds.), *Purpose, Performance and Profit: Redefining the Public Sector*, (Government Print Books, 1986)
- R. Douglas and L. Callan, *Toward Prosperity*, (Bateman, 1987)
- M. Durie, *Te Mana, Te Kawanatanga*, (Oxford University Press, 1998)
- R.J. Gregory, 'Understanding Public Bureaucracy', *Public Sector*, Vol. 4, 2/3, 1982, pp. 3-12
- M. Holland and J. Boston (eds.), *The Fourth Labour Government*, (2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 1990) especially chapters by Boston and Martin.
- Elizabeth McLeay, *The Cabinet and Political Power in New Zealand*, (Oxford University Press, 1995)
- J. Martin, *A Profession of Statecraft*, (Victoria University Press for Institute of Policy Studies, 1988)
- J. Martin, *Public Service and the Public Servant* (State Services Commission, 1991)
- G. and M. Palmer, *Bridled Power*, (Oxford University Press, 1997)
- J.L. Roberts, *Politicians, Public Servants and Public Enterprise*, (Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University, 1987)
- G. Scott, *Public Management in New Zealand*, (Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University 2001)
- OECD, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2000) *Government of the Future*, Paris, OECD.
- OECD, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (2001) *Governance in the 21st Century*, Paris, OECD.

14 May — Second Essay due

19 May – 29 May

Perennial Political Questions and Attempted Answers

What is the appropriate role of the state in education? The provision of health? The economy? How far can the state deliver social security and equity to all its citizens? In a democracy what is the appropriate role of the trade unions? pressure groups? women? minorities? local government? What does it mean to be a New Zealander? What weight should we attach to the Treaty? Public Choice Theory. Theories underpinning the Welfare State. New Zealand as a nation-state.

(Professor Margaret Clark & Dr Jon Johansson)

Text Readings:

Mulgan Chapters 1, 2, 7, 9 and 12, Heywood Chapter 4, 10, 13

Additional Readings:
(Available in
Study Hall)

- Angela Ballara, *Proud to be White: A Survey of Pakeha Prejudices in New Zealand*, (Heinemann, 1986)
- David Bedggood, *Rich and Poor in New Zealand*, (Allen & Unwin, 1980)
- Jonathan Boston (ed.), *The State Under Contract*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1995)
- Jonathan Boston, Paul Dalziel and Susan St. John, *Redesigning the Welfare State in New Zealand*, (Oxford University Press, 1999)
- Phillida Bunkle and Beryl Hughes (eds.), *Women and New Zealand Society*, (Allen & Unwin, 1980)
- Mai Chen, *Women and Discrimination: New Zealand and the UN Convention*, (Victoria University Press, Institute of Policy Studies, 1989)
- Margaret Clark (ed.), *The Politics of Education in New Zealand*, (NZ Council for Education Research, 1981)
- Harvey Franklin, *Cul-de-Sac: The Question of New Zealand's Future*, (Allen & Unwin, 1985)
- David G. Green, *From Welfare State to Civil Society*, (New Zealand Business Round Table, 1996)
- Patricia Grimshaw, *Women's Suffrage in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 1972)

- Colin James, *The Quiet Revolution*, (Allen & Unwin, 1986)
 Bruce Jesson *et al.*, *Revival of the Right*, (Heinemann Reed, 1988)
 Stephen Levine and Raj Vasil, *Maori Political Perspectives*, (Hutchinson, 1985)
 Claudia Orange, *The Treaty of Waitangi*, (Allen & Unwin, 1988)
 David Pearson and David Thorns, *The Eclipse of Equality*, (Allen & Unwin, 1985)
 Jock Phillips, *A Man's Country?*, (Penguin, 1987)
 Denis McLean, *The Prickly Pair*, (University of Otago Press, 2003)
 Andrew Sharp (ed.), *Leap into the Dark: The Changing Role of the State in New Zealand since 1984*, (Auckland University Press, 1994)
 Keith Sinclair, *A Destiny Apart: New Zealand's Search for National Identity*, (Allen & Unwin, 1986)
 Paul Spoonley, *The Politics of Nostalgia: Racism and the Extreme Right in New Zealand*, (Dunmore Press, 1987)
 P. Spoonley *et al.* (eds.), *Tauiwai: Racism and Ethnicity in New Zealand*, (Dunmore Press, 1984)
 Raj Vasil, *What do the Maori Want?*, (Random Century, 1990)
 Margaret Wilson (ed.), *Justice and Identity*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1995)

COURSE READING

- Essential texts** Richard Mulgan, *Politics in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 3rd Edition, 2003), \$39.99
 Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, (2nd edition, Macmillan, 2002), \$60.95
- Recommended text:** Paul Harris, Stephen Levine *et al.* *The New Zealand Politics Source Book*, (3rd edition, Dunmore Press, 1998), \$89.95

Additional reading is suggested in the lecture outline and is placed on reserve in the library. Readings listed for tutorial assignments are minimal rather than optimal. Wider reading will always be encouraged by both lecturers and tutors, and will almost certainly lead to better grades, as well as greater enjoyment of the course.

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from the shop the day after placing an order online.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays)

10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays.

Phone: 463 5515

Recommended Further Reading to Assist with Essays:

Michael Bassett, *The State in New Zealand 1840-1984: socialism without doctrines?* (Auckland University Press, 1998).

Jonathan Boston and Martin Holland (eds), *The Fourth Labour Government: Politics And Policy in New Zealand*, (2nd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1990).

Jonathan Boston, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay & Nigel S. Roberts (eds), *New Zealand Under MMP: A New Politics?* (Auckland University Press, 1996).

Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay and Nigel S. Roberts (eds), *Left Turn*, (VUP, 2000).

- Jonathan Boston, Stephen Church, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay and Nigel S. Roberts (eds), *New Zealand Votes: The 2002 General Election* (VUP, 2003).
- Helena Catt, with Paul Harris, and Nigel S. Roberts, *Voter's Choice: Electoral Change in New Zealand?* (Dunmore, 1992).
- Margaret Clark (ed), *The Labour Party after 75 Years*, Occasional Publication, No.4, Department of Politics, (Victoria University of Wellington, 1992)
- Margaret Clark (ed), *The Roberts Report: writings about and by John Roberts* (VUP, 1999).
- Margaret Clark (ed), *For The Record: Lange and the Fourth Labour Government* (Dunmore, 2005).
- Roger Douglas, with Louise Callan, *Unfinished Business* (Random House, 1993).
- Keith Eunson, *Mirrors On The Hill: Reflections on New Zealand's Political Leaders* (Dunmore, 2001).
- Barry Gustafson, *His Way: a Biography of Robert Muldoon* (Auckland University Press, 2000).
- Colin James, *The Quiet Revolution: Turbulence and Transition in Contemporary New Zealand* (Port Nicholson Press, 1986).
- Colin James *New Territory: The Transformation of New Zealand 1984-92* (Bridget Williams Books, 1992).
- Bruce Jesson, *Behind The Mirror Glass* (Penguin Books, 1987).
- Bruce Jesson, *Fragments of Labour* (Penguin Books, 1990).
- Jon Johansson (ed), *Special Edition of Political Science Journal on Political Leadership*. Vol. 56. No 2 (VUP, 2004).
- Jon Johansson, *Two Titans: Muldoon, Lange & Leadership* (Dunmore, 2005).
- Bob Jones, *Memories of Muldoon* (Canterbury University Press, 1997).
- Leslie Lipson, *The Politics of Equality: New Zealand's Adventures in Democracy* (University of Chicago Press, 1948).
- Elizabeth McLeay, *The Cabinet and Political Power in New Zealand* (Auckland University Press, 1995).
- Neale McMillan, *Top Of The Greasy Pole: New Zealand Prime Ministers of Recent Times* (McIndoe, 1993).
- Raymond Miller (ed), *New Zealand Politics in Transition*, (3rd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).
- Geoffrey Palmer, *Unbridled Power: An Interpretation of New Zealand's Constitution & Government*, (2nd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).
- Simon Sheppard, *Broken Circle: The Decline And Fall Of The Fourth Labour Government* (PSL Press, 1999).
- Keith Sinclair, *A History of New Zealand* (4thed.), (Penguin Books, 1991).
- Andrè Siegfried, *Democracy in New Zealand*. Introduced by David Hamer, (Victoria University Press, 1982).
- Jack Vowles, and Peter Aimer, *Voter's Vengeance: The 1990 Election in New Zealand and the Fate of the Fourth Labour Government* (AUP, 1993).

Jack Vowles, and Peter Aimer (eds), *Double Decision: The 1993 Election and Referendum in New Zealand*. Occasional Publication No.6. Department of Politics, Victoria University, Wellington, VUW, 1994.

Jack Vowles, Peter Aimer, Susan Banducci & Jeffrey Karp (eds), *Voter's Victory: New Zealand's First Election Under Proportional Representation* (AUP, 1998).

Tutorial Programme

Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. Without attendance at a **minimum of 80%** of tutorials throughout the trimester students will not have fulfilled the mandatory course requirements.

Weeks beginning 25 February and 3 March – NO TUTORIALS.

Week beginning 10 March

Read Mulgan chapter 1. What current political debates in New Zealand interest you? Why?

Week beginning 17 March

The Constitution

Read Harris/Levine Constitution Act 1986 (Document I.15) and Mulgan chapter 3, and be prepared to discuss their content with classmates. What constitutional changes would you like to see in New Zealand?

Week beginning 24 March

Cabinet, the Prime Minister and Parliament

Read Mulgan chapters 4 and 5 and Heywood chapter 1 and discuss where power resides in New Zealand's political system, and where powerlessness is to be found.

Week beginning 31 March

The Executive

Read Heywood chapter 16 and Mulgan chapter 4. Do you think there are enough checks and balances on the Executive in New Zealand? Are there others you would like to advocate?

Week beginning 7 April

MMP

Read Mulgan chapter 11, Heywood chapter 4. Has MMP made New Zealand more democratic? or less?

14 April - 27 April Mid-trimester break
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Week beginning 28 April

Political Parties

Read chapter 10 of Mulgan, and Heywood chapter 12. Discuss the role of political parties. Are they effective in making government responsive to the people? How might they be more effective?

Week beginning 5 May

Coalition Governments

Read Mulgan chapters 2 and 11 and Heywood chapter 14 and discuss whether New Zealand's system of government conformed to "the Westminster model"? How has it changed under MMP?

Week beginning 12 May

Interest Groups and the Media

Read Mulgan chapters 9, 11 and 12 and Heywood chapter 13 and discuss the influence of the Media and ways in which people can try to affect Government decisions. Do you think governments are responsive to public pressure? Give examples.

Week beginning 19 May

Political Ideas

Read Mulgan chapter 13 and Heywood chapter 3 and discuss whether New Zealand's political parties are ideological or pragmatic. Give examples.

Week beginning 26 May

Discuss the examination.

First Essay due 3 April; Second Essay due 8 May

Reading: Use your textbooks together with appropriate selections from the additional readings set out in the Course Outline.

NB Carefully study the School handout *Notes on Essay Writing* and follow the instructions therein.

Essays, together with coversheet, are to be placed in the marked box outside the administrators' office, Murphy Room 518 before 4.30pm. Make sure you enter your name **and the name of your tutor** on the coversheet and sign the plagiarism declaration. Minimum standards of presentation are required and these are spelt out in the handout *Notes on Essay Writing*. Essays will be marked by tutors and returned to you in tutorials. (An electronic version of your essay must also be attached to the "Essays" folder on the course's Blackboard website.)

NB. Late submissions will not be accepted unless you produce to Professor Clark a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control. Under no circumstances will 'pressure of work' be accepted as sufficient cause for late submission.

First ESSAY DUE 3 April

Write 1200-1500 words on any one of the following topics.

- (1) It's election year. On the basis of your knowledge about this and other countries' electoral systems, what advice would you give the major parties in New Zealand about how to campaign under MMP? (Justify your advice. In other words, what are the academic reasons for and/or against the advice you would give them?)
 - (2) The twin pillars of democracy are equality and freedom. How do you see the balance struck between these two ideals in contemporary New Zealand democracy? Discuss.
 - (3) New Zealand's unicameral parliament lacks sufficient effective constitutional checks and balances against the exercise of executive power. Discuss.
 - (4) If the National Party wins this year's election, it may possibly review MMP. Write an academic paper EITHER supporting the continued use of MMP in New Zealand, OR outlining why there should be a new voting system for New Zealand.
 - (5) In recent years New Zealand has continued moving away from its British constitutional heritage, such as removing appeals to the Privy Council and establishing a New Zealand honours system. Additionally, Australia is also likely to hold a referendum on becoming a republic during the next few years. Do you think it is therefore natural that New Zealand will hold a referendum on becoming a republic during the next several decades? Discuss, providing academic reasons to substantiate your argument.
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Second ESSAY DUE 8 May

Write 1200-1500 words on any one of the following topics.

- (1) What are the arguments for and against a politically neutral public service?
- (2) Discernment of the historical context is considered the master skill of political leadership efforts. If discernment is accurate then a prime minister will succeed. If discernment is poor, failure is guaranteed. Discuss, giving examples drawn from New Zealand politics.
- (3) New Zealand currently has eight political parties represented in parliament. How do you see this pattern evolving during the next 10 years?

- (4) What do think will be the three most significant issues that will decide the 2008 election in favour of a centre-left led government or a centre-right led one? Give reasons to support your answer.
- (5) Is the environment the most significant 21st Century policy challenge facing New Zealand? Discuss.
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ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & 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. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were ones own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct. All cases will be recorded on a central database and severe penalties may be imposed. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

The University requires that certain information be communicated to students, either in the course outline or electronically (ref. Assessment Handbook 3.3). The current version of this information (adapted for FHSS courses) is below, and has also been saved as a separate document in the Common Folder (M:\Common\Course Administration\Course Outlines). This may be appended to your course outline without alteration.

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under “Course Outline General Information” at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support