



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

TRIMESTER 1 2008

POLS 206: NEW ZEALAND POLITICS
Power, Equality and Diversity

CRN 1287

LECTURER:

Professor Nigel S. Roberts. (For further details see <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/pols/Staff/nroberts.aspx>> and <<http://www.nigel-roberts.info>>.)

OFFICE:

MY 533 (in the Murphy annexe).

PHONE:

463-5288.

EMAIL:

Nigel.Roberts88vuw.ac.nz (remember to replace "88" with the @ symbol). **Note:** Emails to Nigel Roberts about POLS 206 *must* have POLS 206 in the subject line; if they don't, they are liable to be deleted as spam.

LECTURE TIMES:

Mondays and Thursdays, 4:10-5:00 pm.

VENUE:

MY 102 (which is on the ground floor of the Murphy building).

TUTORIALS:

Details about the 2008 tutorial programme for POLS 206 are contained on page 5.

OFFICE HOURS:

Mondays 9:00-9:50 am; Thursdays 9:00-9:50 am. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Whenever it's necessary to do so, additional information about POLS 206 will be posted as announcements on the POLS 206 2008 Blackboard website. As soon as they have been finalised, relevant details from the mid-year exam timetable will also be placed on this site. *It is, of course, essential that all students consult Blackboard regularly, preferably at least once a day.*

COURSE AIMS:

In recent years, New Zealand's constitutional structure has been in the news frequently. For example, in January this year former Prime Minister Mike Moore warned that New Zealand's constitution "could be ... damaged by incremental changes"; in September last year, *The Dominion Post* significantly chose the hundredth anniversary of its founding to publish an editorial calling for New Zealand to become a republic; and in August 2005, Parliament's Constitutional Arrangements Committee presented a 170-page report entitled *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements* to the House of Representatives.

As a result, the primary focus of POLS 206 in 2008 will be on analysing and reviewing New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course, students should have a thorough understanding of (1) the key constitutional structures of the New Zealand political system; (2) the principal sources of power, equality and diversity in New Zealand; and (3) the contents of – including the facts and the arguments in – the POLS 206 set text (namely, the fourth edition of Raymond Miller, ed., *New Zealand Government and Politics*).

COURSE CONTENT:

An outline of the structure and contents of the course can be found on page 5.

COURSE READINGS:

- **Essential text**

It is expected that all students will purchase the POLS 206 textbook, which is Raymond Miller (ed.), *New Zealand Government and Politics* (Auckland: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, 2006).

- **Recommended readings**

Constitutional Arrangements Committee, *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements* (Wellington: House of Representatives, I.24A, 2005). This report can be found on Parliament's new website (see <http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/575B1B52-5414-495A-9BAF-C9054195AF02/15160/DBSCH_SCR_3229_2302.pdf>).

Ryan Malone, *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Government Law-Making under MMP* (Wellington: Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 2008).

Geoffrey Palmer and Matthew Palmer, *Bridled Power: New Zealand's Constitution and Government* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, 2004).

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located on the top floor of the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. 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 to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays), and 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday. Phone: 463- 5515.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD:

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to POLS 206. This includes 2 hours of lectures per week.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:

The course will be assessed on the following basis:

- A three-page tutorial report, which is worth 10% of the overall grade awarded to students.
- Two major essays, each of *at least* 1,600 words, will each count for 25% of the overall grade awarded to students.
- A 3-hour mid-year examination, which will contribute 40% to students' overall grades. (Note: This will *not* be an open-book exam, and will be held sometime during the period from 6 to 28 June 2008.)

The purpose of the tutorial report and of the other two written assignments is to ensure that students have an in-depth, detailed and accurate understanding of key components of New Zealand's political system. The aim of the examination is to assess the ability of students to integrate and use the knowledge they acquire during the course when tackling specific questions or statements.

Full details of the topics for the two main essays, and the dates on which they are due, are given on page 6.

Your tutorial report and your essays must be submitted by their due dates. Extensions will be granted only to those who meet the University's *aegrotat* rules (e.g., students with a medical certificate, a family bereavement, or critical personal circumstances beyond their control). Late essays must be handed directly either to Professor Roberts or to a Political Science and International Relations Administration Assistant who will record on the essays the date and time they were received.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS: POLS 206 has the following mandatory requirements:

- To gain a pass in POLS 206, each student must submit the written work specified for the course on or by the specified dates (subject to the provisions stated below in the section entitled PENALTIES for the late submission of work).
- Students must attend at least **six** Parliamentary meetings/sessions and – in their tutorial reports – submit evidence that they did so.

A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for the course, will receive a K grade for the course, while a course mark of less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

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 (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM: Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. 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>.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS:

All Political Science and International Relations Programme assignments must be handed in together with a signed Assignment Cover Sheet, a copy of which is appended to this course outline. Students are required to submit **both hard copies and electronic copies** of all their POLS 206 all assignments.

THE USE OF TURNITIN: 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 online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. 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.

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 12 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 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.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES: 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

COURSE CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS:

Date	Topic	Required readings from the textbook
Monday, 25 Feb.	Introduction to POLS 206	Chapters 1.1 to 1.8
Thursday, 28 Feb.	Constitutions and their structures	Chapters 2.1 and 2.2
Monday, 3 March	The Head of State in NZ	Chapter 2.3
Thursday, 6 March	Alternative models for a Head of State	
Monday, 10 March	The art and science of essay writing	
Thursday, 13 March	Parliamentary vs Presidential government	Chapters 2.5 to 2.7
Monday, 17 March	The legislative branch of government in NZ	
Thursday, 27 March	Reforming the legislature	
Monday, 31 March	Legislative elections in NZ	Chapters 4.1 to 4.4, and 7.4
Thursday, 3 April	Referendums and plebiscites	
Monday, 7 April	Forming a government	Chapter 3.4
Thursday, 10 April	Forming a government in NZ	
Monday, 28 April	The executive branch of government in NZ	Chapters 3.1, 3.5 and 3.6
Thursday, 1 May	The role of the Prime Minister in NZ	Chapters 3.2 and 3.3
Monday, 5 May	Reforming the executive	Chapters 3.1 to 3.6 again
Thursday, 8 May	The judicial branch of government in NZ	Chapter 2.4
Monday, 12 May	Reforming the judiciary	
Thursday, 15 May	The Treaty of Waitangi and the constitution	Chapters 8.3 and 8.4
Monday, 19 May	Local government in NZ	Chapter 3.7
Thursday, 22 May	Civil liberties and the constitution	Chapters 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4 again
Monday, 26 May	Establishing and amending a constitution	
Thursday, 29 May	Exam briefing	

TUTORIAL REPORT:

You are required to attend a *minimum* of **six** Parliamentary “meetings” – including at least **two question times**; **two debates** (they can be either General debates; Urgent debates; First, Second, or Third Reading debates; or In Committee debates); and **two select committee hearings** – and then produce a three-page (*i.e.*, a roughly 750- to 900-word) **tutorial report** analysing what happened in the Parliamentary sessions you attended and outlining how they could have been improved or reformed.

A calendar containing the 2008 Parliamentary sitting days is on page 7 of this course outline and reading list. As you will be able to see, there are only six Parliamentary sitting weeks left before your tutorial report is due in on Friday, 9 May, so you are strongly urged to start planning your visits to Parliament straight away and also to start your visits as soon as possible. Please note, too, that page 7 of this course outline and reading list also contains an example of the type of stickers given to visitors to Parliament, and that you are required to include a minimum of 6 separate stickers in an appendix to your tutorial report (original copies are required; photo-copies are unacceptable).

Please note that I will, of course, be available **either** by appointment at times individual students arrange with me **or** without appointment during my regular office hours (which – as noted on page 1 of this course outline – are on Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 9:50 am) to see students who want to discuss what they intend to do for their tutorial reports (for instance, you may initially want to discuss which Parliamentary meetings you plan to attend); to review any aspect of the course; and/or to assist you with your research and writing.

Your tutorial report must be handed in (by putting it in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 9 May 2008.**

POLS 206 ESSAYS:

As indicated on page 2, you will be required to write two essays for POLS 206, namely:-

- The first essay will be an essay of *at least* 1,600 words on one of the following four topics (all are quotations from chapters in the textbook that haven't been listed in the course outline on page 5):
 - (1) (a) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "[t]he "National party ... has usually ... been more concerned with power than programmes." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part D of the textbook.)
 - (1) (b) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "[b]y the new millennium New Zealand's media institutions were characterised by a high degree of foreign ownership and control, limited diversity in ownership or content, and subject to the prime demand of profit generation in a commercially competitive market." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part D of the textbook.)
 - (1) (c) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "Māori are not a people with special rights that run counter to the rights of all New Zealand citizens." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part E of the textbook.)
 - (1) (d) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "[i]nternational environmental politics has become an important driving force of its own, increasingly influencing New Zealand's environmental policies ..." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part E of the textbook.)

The first major essay must be handed in (by putting it in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 11 April 2008.**

- The second major written assignment will also be *at least* 1,600 words long and will be on one of the following two topics:
 - (2) (a) Design and write a constitution for New Zealand.
 - (2) (b) Write a detailed, reasoned critique of the Constitutional Arrangements Committee's report, *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements*.
 - (2) (c) Write a detailed, reasoned critique of the arguments put forward by Ryan Malone in his recent book, *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Government Law-Making under MMP* (Wellington: Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 2008).

The second major essay must be handed in (by putting it in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 23 May 2008.**

Please note that your essays must make careful, deliberate, and reasonably extensive use of *authoritative written sources*. For essays (1) (a) to (1) (d), as well as for essays (2) (b) and 2 (c), evidence will be required to show that you have used at least six articles, chapters or books in addition to chapters in the textbook; and unnecessary and/or overuse of the Internet will be penalised.

THE END-OF-TRIMESTER EXAMINATIONS:

As explained on page 2, the mid-year examination for POLS 206 counts for 40% of the total marks for the course. It is a three-hour examination. It will *not* be an open-book exam. The exam will be very fair: it will contain a wide selection of questions covering all aspects of the course. You will be required to answer 4 questions – three essay questions and one *compulsory* question with a range of multiple-choice and/or very brief answers.

Nigel S. Roberts
Monday, 25 February 2008

2008

Parliamentary Calendar and
House of Representatives Sitting ProgrammeHouse sitting days **shaded** New Zealand holidays **boxed**

January						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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13 FEB 2008

Issued on the authority of The Chairman of the Parliamentary Service Commission.



Political Science and International Relations Programme

Assignment Cover Sheet

Instructions

Please complete and sign this form and attach it as the cover page to your assignment. As a policy of the Programme, you are required to submit an electronic copy of the assignment in addition to this hardcopy submission. Your assignment will not be marked unless both are received.

Student Name (Please print) _____

Student ID _____ Course Code _____

Tutor/Lecturer _____ Due Date _____

Title/Topic _____

Declaration of Originality

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria. Plagiarism is presenting (without due acknowledgement) someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. Plagiarism takes many forms and includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students or staff, information from the internet and other electronic material. You are expected to adhere to the VUW Statute on Student Conduct and its references to plagiarism.

I have read and understand the University's policy on plagiarism outlined above and declare that this assignment is my own work and that all source material used in this assignment is accurately acknowledged.

Signed: _____ Date: _____