



SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
INTP/POLS 212 Special Topic: Comparing Democracies**

TRIMESTER 2 2010

12 July to 13 November 2010

Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 12 July 2010 to 15 October 2010

Mid-trimester break: 23 August to 5 September 2010

Study week: 18 October to 22 October 2010

Examination/Assessment period: 22 October to 13 November 2010

There is a final examination for this course. Students enrolling in the course must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

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

Course coordinator and lecturer:

Hilary Pearse

Email: hilary.pearse@vuw.ac.nz

Telephone: 463 9495

Office hours: Monday and Thursday 2-3, Murphy 506

Class times and locations

Lecture times: Monday and Thursday 1:10-2:00pm

Lecture venue: New Kirk LT 301

Tutorials: One hour per week, times and locations TBA in class

Expected workload

In accordance with Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences guidelines, the expected workload for this course 200 hours in total, spanning the 12 week trimester, mid-trimester break, study week and exam period.

Course delivery

Course content will be delivered in two lectures per week. Typically, the Monday lecture will focus on theory and the Thursday lecture will focus on case studies. In the first half of the trimester, students will devote their one hour of tutorial time each week to preparing the group presentation that will be delivered during the Thursday lecture period in the second half of the trimester. Tutorials in the second half of the trimester will help students to prepare for the research essay and final examination.

Course content

Week	Topic	Reading
1	Building and sustaining democracy	LeDuc, Niemi and Norris 2010*
2	Electoral systems	Carter and Farrell 2010* Lijphart 1999
3	Parties and party systems	Scarrow 2010* Linz 2002
4	The role of the elected representative	Eulau and Karp 1977 Mansbridge 2003
5	Public participation	Blais 2010*
6	Ideology and partisanship	Dalton 2010*
Mid-trimester break 23 August – 5 September		
7	Election campaigns	Wleizen 2010* Druckman, Jacobs, Ostermeier 2004
8	Party and campaign finance	Van Biezen 2010*
9	Candidates and legislators	Sawer 2010* Williams 1998
10	Direct democracy	Gamble 1997 Lupia and Matsusaka 2004
11	Democratic deficit	Pharr, Putnam, Dalton 2000 Franklin 2004
12	Democratic reform	Mitchell 2002 Delli Carpini, Cook, Jacobs 2004

* chapter in the course text edited by LeDuc, Niemi and Norris.

Communication of additional information

All additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students using Blackboard. Lecture slides, assessment guidelines, and any additional readings will all be posted on Blackboard, and it is expected that students will check Blackboard on a regular basis.

Learning objectives

Students passing the course should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate a thorough knowledge of models of democracy, democratic institutions and theories of democratic representation
- 2) critically evaluate democracy as practised by regimes around the world;
- 3) creatively employ key concepts from the course in a group presentation;
- 4) work as a team and take responsibility for shared tasks;
- 5) undertake independent research that applies a topic from the course to case studies of their choice;
- 6) effectively communicate ideas in written and oral form;
- 7) think under pressure in a written examination.

Group work

There is a group work component of this course that takes the form of an assessed group presentation to the class in the second half of the trimester. The goal of this assessment is to develop creativity, communication skills, teamwork and leadership.

Students will be divided into groups in their tutorials and will be expected to use the tutorial time in the first half of the trimester to prepare for the presentation. Students may use additional time outside the tutorial hour to work on the presentation but this must not be instead of attending the tutorial preparation sessions. Groups will be randomly allocated a presentation date for the second trimester by the tutor and will prepare a presentation based on the topic to be studied in class that week.

The presentation will be a maximum of ten minutes long and will be assessed on the creativity of the method of delivery of accurate information about the course concept. The presentation itself is worth 10 per cent of the final grade for the course and all students in the group will receive the same mark for this component of the assessment.

Each student's individual contribution to the presentation will be worth an additional 10 per cent of the final grade for the course. This will be assessed by the tutor during the tutorial time that is used to prepare for the presentation. Students will be required to undertake a self-assessment of their own contribution and to assess the contribution of the other members of the group and to provide this assessment to the tutor. However, as required by section 5.5 of the university Assessment Handbook 2009, peer and self-assessment cannot contribute directly to the course grade.

Readings

Essential texts:

Lawrence Le Duc, Richard G. Niemi and Pippa Norris, *Comparing Democracies 3: Elections and Voting in the 21st Century*. London: Sage Publications, 2010.

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes

from the Student Notes Distribution Centre 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 nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

All additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Assessment requirements

1) A **group presentation**, maximum length 10 minutes, worth **20%** of the final grade.

This will be delivered in class on one of the following dates: 9, 16, 23, 30 September, 7, 14 October. The date for the presentation will be allocated to groups in the first tutorial.

Half of the presentation grade (10% of the final grade for the course) will be allocated for the group presentation. The other half of the presentation grade (10% of the final grade for the course) will be allocated for the individual contribution of the student to the group presentation. See section on group work above for marking criteria. The marking rubric for the assessment will be posted on Blackboard and distributed in class in the first tutorial.

Learning objectives for the group presentation

A student passing the course will be able to:

- creatively employ key concepts from the course in a group presentation;
- work as a team and take responsibility for shared tasks;
- effectively communicate ideas in oral form.

2) A **research essay**, 3000-3500 words, worth **30%** of the final grade.

A paper copy of the research essay is due in class on Tuesday 21 September. An electronic copy of the essay must also be submitted to Blackboard on the same day. The marking rubric for the assessment will be posted on Blackboard and distributed in class in the tutorial prior to the mid-trimester break.

Learning objectives for the research essay

A student passing this course will be able to:

- undertake independent research that applies a topic from the course to case studies of their choice;
- critically evaluate democracy as practised by regimes around the world;
- effectively communicate ideas in written form.

3) A 3 hour **final examination**, worth **50%** of the final grade

The examination period runs from 22 October – 13 November 2010. The date of the examination within this period will be released approximately half way through the course.

Learning objectives for the final examination

A student passing this course will be able to:

- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of models of democracy, democratic institutions and theories of democratic representation;
- critically evaluate democracy as practised by regimes around the world;
- effectively communicate ideas in written form;
- think under pressure in a written examination.

An aegrotat pass will normally be approved only when a candidate has completed at least 30% of the course assessment.

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.

Mandatory course requirements

To gain a pass in this course each student must:

- participate in a group presentation;
- submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the research essay on or by the specified date (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- sit the final examination.

Return of assignments

Essays will be returned during tutorials, within three weeks of the due date. If students fail to attend the relevant tutorial, they may pick up their essay from the Programme Office on the fifth floor between the hours of 2 and 3pm on Monday to Friday.

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 students.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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 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

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on:

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

The AVC(Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

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