



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**INTP 211 / POLS 211**

**Special Topic: Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour**

**TRIMESTER 2 2012**

**16 July to 17 November 2012**

**Trimester dates**

Teaching dates: 16 July to 19 October 2012  
Mid-trimester break: 27 August to 9 September 2012  
In class tests: 13 September and 18 October 2012

**Withdrawal dates**

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: **Hilde Coffé**  
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 535  
Email: [Hilde.Coffe@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Hilde.Coffe@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Thursday 3.30 – 4.30 pm

**Jack Vowles**  
Room No.: Murphy (MY) 501  
Email: [jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Thursday 3.30-4.30 pm

**Class times and locations**

Can be found on the Victoria website at:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/subjects/coursecatalogue.aspx>  
It is advisable to check the above for any changes to the timetable programme.

**Lecture Time:** Monday, Thursday 2.10 – 3.00 pm  
**Lecture Venue:** Hunter (HU) LT119

**Tutorial**

Tutorial times and venue: See the website below:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/2012%20Academic%20Timetable%20at%2020120606.html>

Tutorials commence in the *second* week of the course.

**Using S-Cubed:**

Use your internet browser to go to: <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz>.

Enter your *student login* and *password* to sign into S-Cubed.

Click on "INTP/POLS 211" You will see info about your course and about the different tutorial sessions. Sign up to your preferred session by clicking on the "sign up" button.

Please note: If you do not sign up during the first week of trimester, you may be extremely limited in your choice of tutorial time. The sign-up programme is only available until 17 August 2012. If you have problems please see the School Administrator, Murphy Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, MY518

**Teaching learning summary**

This course is taught by way of two fifty-minute lectures per week plus one fifty-minute tutorial. The assessment supports these forms of learning. Tutorials begin in the second week of the trimester and supplement the lecture material.

Active participation during the lectures will allow students to think critically about articles (see reader) students should read and prepare for the lectures, and which will be discussed during the lectures.

**Communication of additional information**

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Please check that this account is active and you have organised email forwarding. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and tutorial/seminar programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the INTP/POLS 211 Blackboard site.

**Course prescription**

This course will focus on public opinion and voting behaviour.

**Course content**

The course will explore the structure of party choice and public opinion, how they are shaped, and how they change.

**Learning objectives**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Analyze and apply the literature and theories regarding public opinion and voting behaviour.
2. Understand and evaluate the key concepts associated with public opinion and voting behaviour.
3. Interpret empirical evidence related to public opinion and voting behaviour.

**Graduate attributes**

As with all Political Science and International Relations courses, learning objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of logical and critical thinking, conceptual analysis and rational and ethical decision-making. For more details please consult our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#graduate-attributes>

**Expected workload**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to INTP/POLS 211 throughout the trimester. This includes weekly

attendance at lectures, and tutorial/seminars, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

### **Group work**

There is no assessed group work for this course.

### **Readings**

#### **Required Readings:**

All required readings will be accessible online via VUW Library E-Reserves. All readings to be accessed electronically will be clearly marked in the detailed reading list to be provided at the start of the trimester.

Students must read all the literature to prepare for the lectures and tutorials. Lectures and tutorials will explain these readings, place them in context, and clarify questions students may have.

#### **Recommended Readings:**

Van der Eijk, C. and M.N. Franklin (2009). *Elections and Voters*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 9–27 July 2012, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 4 of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto: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.

### **Assessment requirements**

The final grade will be based on:

- 2 x 2,000 word essays each worth 25%
- 2 x fifty minute in-class tests each worth 25%

Essays:                                      Around 2,000 words

Essay 1: to be submitted no later than 12.00 pm, 19 September 2012.

Essay 2: to be submitted no later than 12.00 pm, 19 October 2012

Students will write an essay on a topic associated with political participation and representation.

Essays related to Course Learning Objectives (CLO) 1 and 3.

In class tests:                              13 September and 18 October

The fifty minutes tests will test the knowledge of students about the topics discussed during the lecture programme. The tests relate to CLO 1 and 2.

### **Submission of Work**

All written work must be typewritten and submitted in **hardcopy**, with the Programme's Declaration Form signed and attached. The Declaration Form (PSIR Assignment Coversheet) is available from the department's main office.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy.

The course expects students to submit their assignments on time. Requests for **extensions** should be made with the lecturer in person with proper documentation *before* the due date. Extensions are normally given only to those with a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control.

### **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

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- Sit the in-class tests.

### **Return of marked course work**

Essays and tests are normally returned in tutorials at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office in level 5, Murphy Building **between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm** from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

### **Class representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first week, 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.

### **Statement on legibility**

Students are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', the options are:

- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame after which penalties will apply;
- the student will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) and lateness penalties apply;
- if the student does not transcribe it to an acceptable standard, the work will be accepted as 'received' (so any associated mandatory course requirements are met) but not marked.

### **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>

### 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 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 material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

### Where to find more detailed information

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 how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>. Most 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).

Other useful information for students may be found at the Academic Office website, at

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

### Course Outline 2012

The outline below gives basic information about the topics and questions that will be covered in each week of the course. A detailed outline with weekly topics and required readings will be provided in the first class.

Day	Topic
16 July	General Introduction to the Course
19 July	Voting Turnout
23 July	Party Choice: Traditional economic left/right dimension
26 July	Party Choice: New Politics (authoritarian/liberal) dimension
30 July	Class and Voting
2 August	Education and Voting
6 August	Gender and Voting
9 August	Age and Voting
13 August	Socialization

16 August	Alignment, Dealignment and Realignment
20 August	Attitudes and Voting Behaviour (Issue Voting)
23 August	Support for Democratic Processes
27 August – 9 Sept.	MID-TERM BREAK
10 September	Wrap up, discussion first essay and first in class test
13 September	In class test
17 September	Construction of Public Opinion
20 September	Political Knowledge
24 September	Voting, Personality, Genetics
27 September	Institutions and Turnout
1 October	Strategic Voting
4 October	Surveys and Polling
8 October	Studying New Zealand Elections 1
12 October	Studying New Zealand Elections 2
15 October	How Voting Matters
18 October	In class test