



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

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

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**POLS 111: INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: NEW ZEALAND**

***20 POINTS***

**TRIMESTER 2 2013**

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Last assessment item due:** 27 September 2013

**Study period:** 21–25 October 2013

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 25 October to 16 November 2013

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

**Class times and locations**

**LECTURE TIMES**      **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-10.50am** plus one weekly tutorial

**VENUE:**                      Lectures will be held in Maclaurin LT 103

**TUTORIALS**                      The University has an on-line facility for students to sign up for tutorials in first year courses. Tutorials will commence in the third week of the trimester, the week beginning 29 July 2013, after which students may not change their tutorial group without the permission of the tutor coordinator.

## Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Jon Johansson, Room 507, Murphy Building  
Room No: Murphy 507  
Phone: 463 6424  
Office hours: Thursday 11-12 am  
Email: [jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz)

Other teaching staff: Professor Margaret Clark,  
Room No: Murphy 515  
Phone: 463 5262  
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11-12am  
Email: [margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz)

## 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 will be announced in lectures and posted on the course Blackboard site.

## Prescription

The aim of this course is to develop knowledge of the New Zealand political system in comparative perspective. We focus on key themes and current developments in the political arena, and because we are situated in Wellington are able to call on politicians and political participants to contribute to the course. 50% internal assessment, 50% examination.

## Course content

The course encompasses the various dimensions of New Zealand's political system. Beginning with fundamental questions associated with the study of politics, the course will cover the main signposts of our domestic political history, the political system, parliamentary system, our political parties, political leadership, elections and electioneering, the policy process, and perennial questions in politics. The detailed lecture programme is provided further below.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

The course is designed to be an introduction to the study of politics with special reference to New Zealand government and comparative politics. Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Describe and distinguish between different elements of New Zealand's political system.
2. 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.
3. Show understanding of the dimensions of our party system, the bureaucracy, and the perennial political questions facing New Zealand's democracy.

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

## Teaching format

This course is taught in 3 Lectures per week and one tutorial per week. The course is delivered over 12 weeks of lectures and 10 weeks of tutorials. Both tutorials and lectures are essential aspects of the course and the primary means in which the course content is delivered. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

## Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit the two essays by the due dates;
2. Attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials throughout the trimester;
3. Attain at least 40% in the final examination.

**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.

## Workload

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. This includes weekly attendance at lectures and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings, and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

## Assessment

1. **50%** in-term work (2 essays, with each essay worth 25% of the overall grade);
2. **50%** final three-hour examination. The examination period will be from Friday 25 October to Saturday 16 November 2013.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLOs	Due date
1	<i>Essay 1: 1,200-1,500-words;</i>	25%	1,2 & 3	14 Aug
2	<i>Essay 2: 1,200-1,500-words;</i>	25%	1, 2 & 3	27 Sept
3	<i>Examination: Final 3-hour examination</i>	50%	1,2 & 3	TBA

## Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box which will be placed outside the School office on the fifth floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached.

The Programme's policy requires that students also submit an **electronic copy** along with the hardcopy. For this course, please upload to Blackboard on the same due date for your hardcopy submission. The subject line of your email submission should be "POLS 111: Essay 1/Essay 2." The email copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an email submission only will not be marked.

Essays and tests will be returned at times to be advised. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

## Penalties

Students will be penalised for late submission of assignments – **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 10 weekdays late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but may not be marked. 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.

## Set texts

Leslie Lipson, *The Politics of Equality*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, with an Introduction by Jon Johansson. 2011. (Wellington, VUW Press). \$45.00 (approx.)

Richard Mulgan, *Politics in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 2003), \$39.99

## Recommended readings

Paul Harris and Stephen Levine, *The New Zealand Politics Sourcebook*, (Dunmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1994). \$60.00 (approx.)

Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Macmillan, 2002), \$60.95

## Other Recommended Reading:

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*, (2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

Colin James *New Territory: The Transformation of New Zealand 1984-92* (Bridget Williams Books, 1992).

Jon Johansson. *The Politics of Possibility: Leadership in Changing Times*. (Dunmore, 2009).

Jon Johansson and Stephen Levine. (Eds). *Kicking the Tyres: The New Zealand General Election and Electoral Referendum of 2011* (Victoria University Press, 2012).

Elizabeth McLeay, *The Cabinet and Political Power in New Zealand* (Auckland University Press, 1995).

Raymond Miller (ed), *New Zealand Politics in Transition*, (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).

Geoffrey Palmer, *Unbridled Power: An Interpretation of New Zealand's Constitution & Government*, (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).

Keith Sinclair, *A History of New Zealand* (4<sup>th</sup>ed.), (Penguin Books, 1991).

Andrè Siegfried, *Democracy in New Zealand*. Introduced by David Hamer, (Victoria University Press, 1982).

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

Additional readings are also suggested in the lecture outline posted on Blackboard and these are mostly 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.

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 the shop the day after placing an order online.

## **Class representative**

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

## **Student feedback**

Student evaluation of the course will be sought at the end of POLS 111. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php).

## **Other important information**

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Graduate attributes: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/hppi/about/overview-of-the-school/psir-overview#grad-attributes>
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## Detailed Lecture Programme:

15 – 21 July 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. Old questions posed: 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 & Emeritus Professor Margaret Clark)**

Text Readings: Mulgan chapters 1, 2, & 13,

Additional Readings Paul Harris/Stephen Levine, *The NZ Politics Source Book*, Part I.  
Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, (McMillan, chapters 1 and 2)  
Bernard Crick, *In Defense of Politics*, (Penguin, London, 1979)

(Available in the Study Hall) Les Cleveland, *The Politics of Utopia*, (Methuen, Wellington, 1979)  
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)

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22 Jul – 4 August New Zealand's Political System in comparative perspective. How do we configure power within our system? How did the constitution evolve? How is a government formed? How did the political system evolve and what were the significant 'Big Change' Governments. 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 & Emeritus Professor Margaret Clark)**

Text Readings: Mulgan chapters 3, 4, 5. Lipson, *The Politics of Equality*

Additional Readings Heywood, *Politics*, chapters 4 and 5

Harris/Levine, *The Political Source Book*, Parts IV & V.

(Available in the Study Hall) Gary Hawke (ed.), *Changing Politics*, (Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University, 1993)

Keith Jackson, *The Dilemma of Parliament*, (Allen & Unwin, 1987)

Colin James and Alan McRobie, *Turning Point*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1993)

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)

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**Wednesday 14 August – First Essay due**

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5 – 18 August                      This part of the course is devoted to understanding New Zealand’s political parties. The class will benefit from having representatives from New Zealand’s significant political parties discussing their respective parties with students. These sessions are fully interactive and students are expected to have questions ready for MPs.

**(Dr Jon Johansson, Emeritus Professor Margaret Clark & Guest MPs)**

Text Readings:                      Mulgan chapters 9 and 10

Additional Readings                Harris/Levine, *The Political Source Book*, Part III.

Heywood, *Politics*, chapters 3, 9 and 12

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).

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19 – 25 August

Introduction to the Media and Politics. In this week’s lectures three representatives, drawn from of different aspects of the political media will talk to students. Investigative journalism, daily political reporting and the role and potential impact of new media platforms will be discussed by our guest speakers.

**(Dr Jon Johansson, Emeritus Professor Margaret Clark & Guest journalists)**

Text Readings: Mulgan chapter 12

**26 August to 8 September – Mid-Trimester Break**

9 – 15 September 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 from a comparative perspective.

**(Dr Jon Johansson)**

Text Readings: Mulgan chapter 4

Additional Readings: John Henderson, 'The Prime Minister' in *New Zealand Politics in* (Available in the *Transition*, edited by Raymond Miller, (Auckland, Oxford University Press, 1997) pp. 72-80

Study Hall)

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. 2009. *The Politics of Possibility: Leadership in Changing Times*. (Wellington, Dunmore)

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.

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16 – 29 September 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? Referendum '11: the referendum process, the options and choice explained, as well as the MMP Review.

**(Dr Jon Johansson)**

Text Readings: Mulgan chapters 11 and 12,

Additional Readings: Harris/Levine Part II, *The Political Source Book*  
Heywood, *Politics*, chapter 11

Report of the Royal Commission on The Electoral System, (Available in the *Towards a Better Democracy*, (Government Printer, 1986)



- Study Hall) 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)

<b>Friday 27 September – Second Essay due</b>
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30 Sep – 20 Oct

**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

Additional Readings: Heywood Chapter 4, 10, 13  
 Angela Ballara, *Proud to be White: A Survey of Pakeha Prejudices in New Zealand*, (Available in(Heinemann, 1986)

Study Hall) David Bedgood, *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.), *Tauiwi: 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)

## **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 15 & 22 July** – NO TUTORIALS.

**Week beginning 29 July** Beginnings

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

**Week beginning 5 August** The Constitution

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

**Week beginning 12 August** The Executive

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

**Week beginning 19 August** Cabinet, the Prime Minister and Parliament

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

***26 August – 8 September –Mid-Trimester Break***

**Week beginning 9 September** Political Parties

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

**Week beginning 16 September** MMP

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

**Week beginning 23 September** Coalition Governments

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

**Week beginning 30 September** Interest Groups and the Media

Read Mulgan chapters 9, 11 and 12 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 7 October** Elections & Prospects

Read Mulgan chapter 11. Why is turnout reducing so dramatically? What can or should be done about it? Are the rules governing elections and electioneering keeping pace with technology?

**Week beginning 14 October**

Discuss the examination.

Exam preparation.

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**

Essays, together with the provided coversheet, are to be placed in the marked box outside the administrators' office, Murphy Room 518 before 4.30pm on the day of submission. 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 Dr Johansson or 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 14 August**

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

- (1) Leslie Lipson wrote in 1948 that "In New Zealand, if any sculptured allegory were to be placed at the approaches of Auckland or Wellington harbour, it would assuredly be a statue of Equality." What did Lipson mean by this and do you think this still remains the case in 2010? Discuss.
- (2) To what extent did the First Labour Government build on the foundations established by the Liberal Governments of John Ballance and Dick Seddon? Discuss, giving examples.
- (3) With no Upper House or written constitution, and notwithstanding the electoral system change to MMP, New Zealand's unicameral parliament still lacks sufficient effective constitutional checks and balances against the exercise and abuse of executive power. Discuss, giving examples.
- (4) What personal and professional qualities does a Member of Parliament require to establish a successful parliamentary career and what separates those who make it into Cabinet from those who do not? Discuss.
- (5) What do you think the Constitutional Review Panel will recommend to the Government when it reports in late 2013? What would you recommend that you think the Constitutional Panel will not? Discuss.

## **Second ESSAY DUE 27 September**

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

- (1) Is there a distinctly New Zealand form of political leadership? If you think there is, then how does it differ from political leadership exhibited in other countries? If not, explain why?
  - (2) What do you think will be the defining issues that will decide the 2014 general election?
  - (3) In 2011 a referendum was held and keeping MMP was supported by the majority of voters, thereby triggering a review by the Electoral Commission. What changes would you recommend to MMP if you had made a submission to the review? Why?
  - (4) What are the prospects that New Zealand will hold a referendum on becoming a republic during the next ten years? Discuss, providing academic reasons to substantiate your argument.
  - (5) How many political parties do you think there should be in New Zealand's party system? Discuss and justify your answer with specific examples.
-