



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
POLS/INTP 211: Special Topic: Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour
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: 18 October 2013

Withdrawal dates: Refer to

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

Class times and locations

Lectures

Time: Wednesday and Friday 10.00 am – 10.50 am

Venue: Hugh McKenzie (HM) LT104

Tutorials

Tutorial times and venue: See the website below:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/timetables/lecture-timetable.aspx>

Tutorials commence in the second week of the course.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Hilde Coffé

Room No: Murphy (MY) 535

Phone: 04 463 6681

Email: hilde.coffe@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Wednesday 11:00am – 12:00pm

Other teaching staff: Jack Vowles
 Room No: Murphy (MY) 501
 Email: jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz
 Phone: 04 463 5126
 Office hours: Wednesday 11:00am – 12:00pm

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 seminar programme will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course will focus on public opinion and voting behaviour. 100% internal assessment.

Course content

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 will be provided in the first class.

Day	Topic
17 July	General Introduction to the Course
19 July	Voting Turnout
24 July	Party Choice: Traditional economic left/right dimension
26 July	Party Choice: New Politics (authoritarian/liberal) dimension
31 July	Class and Voting
2 August	Education and Voting
7 August	Gender and Voting
9 August	Age and Voting
14 August	Socialization
16 August	Attitudes and Voting Behaviour (Issue Voting)
21 August	Support for democratic processes
23 August	In class test
26 August – 8 Sept.	MID-TRIMESTER BREAK
11 September	Elections and Democracy
13 September	Political Knowledge and Public Opinion
18 September	Alignment, Dealignment and Realignment
20 September	Economic Voting
25 September	Psychology, Personality, and Genetics
27 September	Institutions and Context

2 October	Strategic Voting
4 October	Surveys and Polling
9 October	Studying New Zealand Elections 1
11 October	Studying New Zealand Elections 2
16 October	How Voting Matters
18 October	In class test

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Analyse 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.

Teaching format

This course is taught in two lectures per week and one tutorial per week. The course is delivered over 12 weeks of lectures and 11 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 written work specified for this course on the specified dates (subject to provisions as are stated for late submissions of work (see “penalties” below).
2. Sit the in-class tests.

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

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2,000-word essay	25%	1, 3	20 Aug.
2	1-hour test	25%	1, 2	23 Aug.
3	2,000-word essay	25%	1, 3	14 Oct.
4	1-hour test	25%	1, 2	18 Oct.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box 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 (Turnitin) on the same due date for your

hardcopy submission. The electronic copy however does not constitute a formal submission and an electronic 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

A list of required readings will be provided at the beginning of the course.

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 reading

Dalton, R. (2013). *Citizen Politics. Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Washington DC: CQPress.

A detailed list of recommended readings will be provided at the beginning of the course.

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

The list of required and recommended readings has been updated and includes more New Zealand-related research. During the lectures, we also aim at discussing more New Zealand examples.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at 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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: 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/avcademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz