

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
POLS 218: Politics and the Media in 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

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

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: Tuesdays, Thursdays 11.00-11.50 am
Lecture Venue: Easterfield LT206

Tutorials: Sign-up for tutorials will be via S-Cubed, available in the first week of classes. Tutorials begin in the second week of trimester.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Kate McMillan
Room No: MY 532
Phone: 463 9595
Email: kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: 3-4 pm Wednesday

Other teaching staff: Jeremy Seed
Room No: TBA
Email: TBA
Phone: TBA
Office hours: TBA

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 programme will be advised by email, announced in lectures, and posted on the course Blackboard site.

Prescription

This course focuses on the political roles, functions and effects of the media in New Zealand. Topics studied will include: media and elections (including voting behaviour); news management and production; the role of public relations in political lobbying and electioneering; the political uses of opinion polls and experts; the regulatory environment within which the media operates; ownership and control of the media, public service broadcasting; Māori politics and the media; and the media and political leadership.

Course content

A detailed outline of the course content including lecture topics and required readings will be provided in the first week of class and posted on Blackboard.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Identify the main theoretical approaches to the study of media and politics and use these to analyse aspects of the New Zealand media;
2. Analyse the roles played by media workers in the production of political news/current affairs;
3. Analyse the roles played by parliament, parties, interest groups, and the public service in setting the media agenda;
4. Critique the media's exercise of power in New Zealand.

Teaching format

The course is taught by two weekly fifty-minute sessions and one fifty-minute tutorial. 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 two essays by due date; and
2. Sit the end of trimester examination.

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	2000 word essay	30%	1 - 4	16 August
2	2000 word essay	30%	1 - 4	26 September
3	Final examination	40%	1 - 4	TBA

Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is not compulsory but strongly advised. Material covered in the tutorials will be examinable.

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in both hard copy and electronic copy. The hard copy must be deposited into 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 an electronic copy of your essay to **turnitin.com** on the same due date for your hardcopy submission. Please see the instructions in the next section for using turnitin.com.

Essays will not be marked unless both the hard copy and the electronic copy are submitted.

Essays and tests will be returned in tutorials. Any uncollected essays will be available from the School Office, Murphy 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday.

Instructions for using Turnitin.com

This class will use the plagiarism detection site turnitin.com. You will need to enrol as a user of turnitin.com. If you are already enrolled as a user you will need to log in. The class ID is 6585084 and the password is POLS 218.

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

Babak Bahador, Geoff Kemp, Kate McMillan, Chris Rudd (eds), *Politics and the Media*, Pearson, Auckland, 2013.

POLS 218 Book of readings.

The text and the book of readings will be available from Vic Books: www.vicbooks.co.nz

Recommended reading

A list of recommended reading will be provided in class in the first week and posted on Blackboard.

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 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/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/vicliffe/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