



**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 1 2015**

**Important dates**

**Trimester dates:** 2 March to 1 July 2015

**Teaching dates:** 2 March to 5 June 2015

**Easter/Mid-trimester break:** 3–19 April 2015

**Study period:** 8–12 June 2015

**Examination/Assessment Period:** 12 June to 1 July 2015

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/students/study/withdrawals-refunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds). If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

**Class times and locations**

Lectures: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 13.10-14.00

Venue: MCLT101

Tutorials:

The University has an online facility for students to sign up for tutorials in first year courses. Information on how to access this will be provided in the first week of teaching. Tutorials will commence in the second week of the trimester, after which students may not change their tutorial group without the permission of the tutor coordinator.

**Names and contact details**

Course Coordinator: Professor Jack Vowles  
Room No: Murphy 501  
Phone: 463 5126  
Email: [jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office Hours: Monday, Thursday 11-12

## 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 advised by email, 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 politics, and because we are situated in Wellington are able to call on politicians and political participants to contribute to the course.

## Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. describe and distinguish between different elements of New Zealand's political system
2. exhibit an 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 an understanding of the dimensions of our party system, the bureaucracy, and the 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 research.

## Teaching format

POLS 111 is taught in three 50-minute 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 lectures regularly, attend at least 9 tutorials, 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 9 tutorials throughout the trimester;
3. attain at least 40% in the final examination.

## Workload

In accordance with University 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/seminars, and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Preparation and attendance at	
Classes & tutorials	60 hours
Essays (x2)	115 hours
Examination	25 hours

## Assessment

1. **Essay: 50%** in-term work (consisting of 2 essays, with each essay worth 25% of the overall grade);
2. **50%** final three-hour examination. The examination period will from Friday 12 June to Wednesday 1 July 2015.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLOs	Due date
1	<i>Essay 1: 1,200-1,500-word essay;</i>	25%	1, 2 & 3	3 April
2	<i>Essay 2: 1,200-1,500-word essay;</i>	25%	1, 2 & 3	15 May
3	<i>Examination: Final 3-hour examination</i>	50%	1, 2 & 3	TBA

## Submission and return of work

**Submission:** All work submitted for assessment must be dropped off in HARD COPY at the School Office (MY518) in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. You must add the name of your tutor, the course code, and a word count.

An electronic copy must also be uploaded through Blackboard as a check for plagiarism in Turnitin.com (see [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)).

Electronic copies emailed to teaching staff will NOT be accepted.

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, and then returned to the School Office, MY 518, where they can be collected between the hours of 2.00-3.00 pm, Monday to Friday. We will notify students via Blackboard when graded essays are available (generally between 2-3 weeks after the date submitted).

## Extensions and penalties

### Extensions

Late submission of **assignments** will **not be accepted** unless the student makes an appointment as soon as practically possible with the course coordinator to explain the lateness (preferably before the assignment is due to be submitted). The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook. Normally an extension will be on the basis of a medicate certificate or communication from Student Counselling. (See: [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf)). Workload pressure is **not** a valid reason for requesting an extension.

### 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. Extensions on deadlines for written work will only be granted under exceptional circumstances.

## Recommended reading

Mulgan, Richard, *Politics in New Zealand*, (3rd ed) Auckland: AUP, 2003

Miller, Raymond, ed., *New Zealand Government and Politics*, (5th ed) Melbourne: OUP, 2010.

## Further Recommended Reading

Geiringer, Claudia, Polly Higbee and Elizabeth McLeay. *What's the Hurry? Urgency in the New Zealand Legislative Process 1987-2010*. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2011.

Humpage, Louise. *Policy change, public attitudes, and social citizenship*. Bristol: Policy Press, 2014.

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

King, Michael. *The Penguin History of New Zealand*. Auckland: Penguin Books, 2012 (originally published 2003).

Malone, Ryan. *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Law-Making Under MMP*. Wellington: Institute for Policy Studies, 2008.

Marsh, Ian, and Raymond Miller, *Democratic Decline and Democratic Renewal: Political Change in Britain, Australia and New Zealand*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012.

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

Miller, Raymond, *Party Politics in New Zealand*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press 2005.

Palmer, Geoffrey. *Reform*. Wellington, Victoria University Press 2014.

Palmer, Geoffrey and Matthew Palmer, *Bridled Power: An Interpretation of New Zealand's Constitution & Government*, (4th ed.) Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Roughan, John. *John Key: Portrait of a Prime Minister*. Auckland: Penguin, 2014.

Vowles, Jack, ed. *The New Electoral Politics in New Zealand: the Significance of the 2011 Election*. Wellington, IGPS, 2014.

Additional readings will be recommended in lectures, tutorials, and on Blackboard. These are either placed on reserve in the library or posted in electronic form on Blackboard. 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 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. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details

## Student feedback

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course...

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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/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/students/study/progress/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades)
- Resolving academic issues: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: [www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- 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/about/governance/structure](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure)
- Victoria graduate profile: [www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)