



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME

POLS 211: Special Topic: Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour

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

Last assessment item due: Assignment, 4 June 2015.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to 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.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday, Tuesday 10:00-10:50

Venue: Monday LBLT118, Tuesday HMLT103.

Tutorials:

Monday	12:00	12:50	VZ506
Monday	15:10	16:00	KK105
Tuesday	14:10	15:00	OK406

Names and contact details

Course Coordinators:

Hilde Coffé

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Office hours: Monday, 11:00-12:00

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Office hours: Monday, Thursday, 11:00-12:00

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

This course will focus on public opinion and voting behaviour.

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

POLS 211 is taught in two 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute tutorial per week. A Lecture Programme will be available on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

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

- 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))
- sit the in-class tests.

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, approximately 13 hours a week across the trimester. This total includes the following:

- weekly attendance at lectures, and tutorials; (36 hours)
- completion of all set weekly readings for tutorials; (36 hours)
- research and writing for assessment tasks. (128 hours).

Assessment

The final grade will be based on a combination of:

- Two essays (each 30%)
- Two 1-hour in-class tests (each 20%)

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2,000-word essay	30%	1, 3	24 April
2	1-hour test	20%	1, 2	31 March
3	2,000-word essay	30%	1, 3	4 June
4	1-hour test	20%	1, 2	2 June

Submission and return of work

All assignments are due before 12pm on the due date.

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).

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.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

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 of other evidence of forces beyond your control. The circumstances under which an extension will be considered are outlined in section 3.2.1 of the Assessment Handbook.

(See: www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf).

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.

Set texts

Dalton, Russell. 2013. *Citizen Politics. Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Washington DC: CQPress. See www.vicbooks.co.nz for details of textbook purchases.

A list of required readings will be provided on Blackboard at the start of trimester. All required readings will be accessible online via Victoria University Library E-Reserves.

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

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:

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.

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
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: 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
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz