



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 New Zealand Government and Politics

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 29 June 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24–30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Study period: 6–9 June 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 10–29 June 2016

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.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.00-9.50 am

Venue HMLT 205

Tutorials

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables.

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
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 tutorial 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 New Zealand politics and government through the lens of political science. We focus on key themes and current developments and because we are situated in Wellington we are able to call on politicians and other political actors 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 13 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 (MCR)

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

1. submit a credible attempt at two essays by the due dates (CLOs 1,2 & 3);
2. attend a minimum 8 tutorials throughout the trimester (CLOs 1,2 & 3);
3. attain at least 40% in the final examination (CLOs 1,2 & 3)

These requirements relate to the course learning objectives by ensuring that students put sufficient time and effort into the learning process to achieve those objectives.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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

To consider when planning your time:

- Tutorial preparation requires careful reading of set texts for meaning and argument, as well as note-taking and preparation of responses to discussion questions. 'Budget' for at least one hour per reading, including additional internet research to help understand the historic and/or historiographical context of readings.
- Essays and other written assignments require time to locate, retrieve and read a range of sources. Note-taking, planning, drafting and editing the draft are necessary before writing a final version. Begin assignments early.
- Revision and preparation should reflect the fact that the two essays, each worth 25%–combined total 50% of your course mark.

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 be from 10-29 June 2016.

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLOs	Due date
1 Essay 1: 1,200-1,500-word essay;	25%	1, 2 & 3	March 31
2 Essay 2: 1,200-1,500-word essay;	25%	1, 2 & 3	May 5
3 Examination: Final 3-hour examination	50%	1, 2 & 3	TBA

These are the University's Marking Criteria.

Grade, Range	Median	Means...
A+ 90%-100%	95	Outstanding performance
A 85%-89%	87	Excellent performance
A- 80%-84%	82	Excellent performance in most respects
B+ 75%-79%	77	Very good performance
B 70%-74%	72	Good performance
B- 65%-69%	67	Good performance overall, but some weaknesses
C+ 60%-64%	62	Satisfactory to good performance
C 55%-59%	57	Satisfactory performance
C- 50%-54%	52	Adequate evidence of learning
Fail D 40%-49%	45	Poor performance overall, some evidence of learning
E 0-39%	20	Well below the standard required

K Fail due to not satisfying mandatory course requirements, even though the student's numerical course mark reached the level specified for a pass, usually 50%. A student whose course mark is below 50 is given a D (40-49) or E (0-39), regardless of whether they met the mandatory course requirements.

To maximise the information we can give in your feedback, your essay will be assessed on a 0-10 scale on the following more specific criteria.

Addressing question

Sources and Referencing

Coherence and Argument

Use of evidence

Introduction

Conclusion

Standard of writing

Please note that these specific criteria are not of equal value and may interact with each other. Failure to answer the question, in particular, tends to 'trump' the other criteria. This means that they will not necessarily average out within the percentage range of your grade.

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).

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

The development of work discipline and time management skills are an important part of the education process and it is expected that each student takes responsibility for allocating sufficient time for their studies.

Late submission of **assignments will not be accepted without penalty** unless the student contacts the course coordinator as soon as practically possible 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). Workload pressure is **not** a valid reason for requesting an extension.

Penalties

In the absence of an extension granted as above, 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

Raymond Miller, *Democracy in New Zealand*. Auckland, Auckland University Press (\$45)

Recommended reading

Highly Recommended

Janine Hayward, ed. *New Zealand Government and Politics*, 6th ed., Melbourne, Oxford University Press (\$100).

Other Recommendations

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. *Moments of Truth: The New Zealand General Election of 2014*. Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2015).

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.

Shaw, Richard, and Chris Eichbaum, *Public Policy in New Zealand: Institutions, Processes and Outcomes*, 3rd ed. Auckland: Pearson New Zealand 2011

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

Walker, Ranginui, *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou / Struggle Without End*. 2nd ed. Auckland, Penguin, 2004

Additional readings will be recommended in lectures, tutorials, with essay topics, 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 or can email an order or enquiry to 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 feedback to POLS111 last year was very positive. Students particularly appreciate the number of guest lectures. Based on the feedback, lectures will contain more explanation of basic concepts, and we will make more connections with current events.

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
- 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
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- 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
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- 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