



## 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 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

**Last assessment item due:** 2 June

**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 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats)).

### Class times and locations

Lectures:

Tuesday 13:10 – 14:00 (Venue: MYLT220)

Thursday 13:10 – 14:00 (Venue: HULT 119)

### Tutorials

Please see the Academic Timetable 2016 [www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/timetables).

### Names and contact details

Course Coordinator:

Hilde Coffé

Murphy Building, Level 5, Room 535

Phone : 04 463 6681

[hilde.coffe@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hilde.coffe@vuw.ac.nz)

Office hours: Monday, 12:00-13:00

Jack Vowles

Murphy Building, Level 5, Room 501

Phone: 04 463 5126

[jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz)

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:

1. Submit a credible attempt at the two written works specified for this course on the specified dates (subject to the provisions for late submissions of work (see “extensions and penalties” below)), These essays relate directly to CLO’s 1 and 3 described above and cover topics of the whole course.
2. Sit the two in-class tests. These tests relate to CLO’s 1 and 2 described above and test the students’ knowledge of the whole course.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the Mandatory Course Requirements 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, 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	First 2,000-word essay	30%	1, 3	18 April
	Second 2,000-word essay	30%	1, 3	30 May
2	First 1-hour in class test	20%	1, 2	14 April

	Second 1-hour in class test	20%	1, 2	2 June
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1. Essay (Learning Objectives 1 and 3):  
2,000 words – to be submitted no later than 12.00 pm, **18 April and 30 May 2016**.  
In their essay, students will discuss a statement related to a topic addressed during the lectures in detail. A list of statements from which the students can choose will be provided.
2. In-Class Test (Learning Objectives 1 and 2): **14 April and 2 June 2016**  
The 1-hour in-class tests will test the knowledge of students about the topics discussed during the lecture programme.

Specific marking criteria will be discussed during the lectures and posted on Blackboard.

## 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](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.

## 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](http://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](http://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

Based on last year's students evaluations, greater attention will be paid to (the preparation for) the in class test during the lectures and tutorials.

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)
- 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)
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at [www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf](http://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](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)
- 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](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract)
- 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)