



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 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 31 October 2016

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 11.00-11.50 (MYLT220)
 Wednesday 11.00-11.50 (HULT119)

Tutorials

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

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Kate McMillan
Room No: MY 532
Phone: 463 9595
Email: kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: 2.10-3.00 Mon, Wed.

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

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 learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Critically reflect on the types of power exercised by the media in New Zealand.
2. Identify which individuals or groups exert power over the media in New Zealand and how they do so.
3. Engage critically and constructively with contemporary debates about the role of the media in New Zealand politics, inside and outside of the classroom setting.
4. Use information and insight gained in the course to write theoretically and empirically informed, well-structured and clearly argued essays.

Teaching format

The course is taught via 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 through which the course content is delivered. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and do the required readings ahead of class.

Workload

In accordance with University Guidelines, course design assumes students will devote 200 hours to the course throughout the trimester. The 200 hour total includes weekly attendance at lectures and tutorials, completion of weekly readings, and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

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 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 essays are worth a total 60% of your course mark.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLOs	Due date
1	Essay 2000 words	30	1,3,4	5.00pm Friday 5 August
2	Essay 2000 words	30	1,2,3,4	5.00pm Friday 23 Sept
3	One take-home test: Maximum 2500 words (Test questions will be posted in Blackboard on Monday 24 October. Students have a week to complete the test.)	40 %	1,2,3,4	10 am 24 October- 10 am 31 October

Marking criteria

Marking criteria will be posted on Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

Submission: Essays must be provided in a hard copy AND a digital format. The hard copy must be deposited in the POLS 218 box outside the School Office (MY518) in the slots provided with an essay cover sheet. You must ADD the name of your tutor and the course code, and sign the cover sheet.

The electronic copy must be submitted to turnitin via the link within the POLS 218 Blackboard site. **No essay will be marked unless both a hard copy and an electronic copy (via turnitin) are received.**

Graded essays will be returned to you in tutorials in the first instance, within 3 weeks of submission. Those essays not collected in tutorials will be 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** 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.

(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**. 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

Babak Bahador, Geoff Kemp, Kate McMillan, Chris Rudd (eds), *Politics and the Media*, Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2016. The text will be available from Vic Books: www.vicbooks.co.nz

Other required readings will be posted on Blackboard under 'Weekly readings'.

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 from 2014 indicated some students wanted more opportunities to relate the material covered to their own lives. Lecture materials have been adapted to provide more opportunities for student reflection.

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