SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
2007 TRIMESTER 1

POLS 111: Introduction to Government and Politics
CRN: 7540

COURSE COORDINATORS:
Professor Margaret Clark, Room 515, Murphy Building
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Office hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 11-12am
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Dr Jon Johansson, Room 507, Murphy Building
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TUTOR COORDINATOR:
Dr Margaret Hayward, Room 605, Murphy Building
Phone: 463 5233 extn 8506
Office hours: Tuesday 11-12am
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LECTURE TIMES
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10-11 am plus one weekly tutorial

VENUE:
Lectures will be held in Kirk (KK)303

TUTORIALS
The University is introducing an on-line facility for students to sign up for tutorials in first year courses. Information on how to access and use S-Cubed will be handed out in the first week of lectures. Tutorials will commence in the third week of the trimester, after which students may not change their tutorial group without the permission of the tutor coordinator.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Any additional information will be communicated in the lectures and posted on the 5th Floor Murphy Building noticeboard.

COURSE AIMS
The course is designed to be an introduction to the study of politics with special reference to New Zealand government and comparative politics.

ASSESSMENT
50% in-term work (consisting of 2 essays, each essay worth 25%); 50% final three-hour examination conducted by the Faculty.
COURSE CONTENT

Lecture Programme:

26 Feb – 1 March
Introduction to Victoria University’s Political Science and International Relations Programme, and to POLS 111 and its requirements. Introduction to the discipline of Political Science. What kinds of questions do political scientists deal with? What kinds of answers can they give? What is politics? power? authority? Perennial political concerns e.g. Who guards the guardians? Elitism versus egalitarianism; Individual rights versus collective responsibility; Authoritarian versus accountable government; The comparative approach—advantages and problems.

(Professor Margaret Clark & Dr Jon Johansson)

Text Readings:
Harris/Levine Part I. Mulgan chapters 1, 2, & 13, Heywood chapters 1 and 2

Additional Readings
Les Cleveland, *The Politics of Utopia*, (Methuen, Wellington, 1979)
André Siegfried, *Democracy in New Zealand*, (Reprinted Victoria University Press, Wellington, 1982)

5 March – 15 March

(Professor Margaret Clark & Dr Jon Johansson)

Text Readings:
Harris/Levine Parts IV & V. Mulgan chapters 3, 4, 5, Heywood chapters 4 and 5

Additional Readings
Gary Hawke (ed.), *Changing Politics*, (Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University, 1993)

19 March – 29 March
Elections and electioneering. How we change our government. Our new electoral system (MMP) and our old electoral system (FPP). How and why was the change made?

(Associate Professor Nigel Roberts)

Text Readings:
Harris/Levine Part II. Mulgan chapters 11 and 12, Heywood chapter 11

Additional Readings:
Alan McRobie (ed.), *Taking It To the People? The New Zealand Electoral Referendum Debate*, (Hazard Press, 1993)
Jack Vowles and Peter Aimer (eds.), *Double Decision: The 1993 Election and Referendum in New Zealand*, (Victoria University Press, Department of Politics Occasional Publication No. 6, 1994)

5 April — First Essay due

2 April – 5 April  Introduction to political leadership. In this block of lectures classical ideas associated with political leadership will be discussed. Fundamental questions will be posed, such as: what is political leadership? Can an individual leader influence historical outcomes? What is the role of the Prime Minister? Examples drawn from international experience and New Zealand will be applied to answer these questions.

*(Dr Jon Johansson)*

Text Readings: Mulgan chapter 4

6 April -22 April —Easter Break and Mid-Trimester Break
23 April – 3 May  The history, ideologies, social bases and policies of New Zealand’s political parties.

(Professor Margaret Clark & Dr Jon Johansson)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Part III. Mulgan chapters 9 and 10, Heywood chapters 3, 9 and 12

Additional Readings (Available in the Study Hall)

Barry Gustafson, From the Cradle to the Grave, (Penguin, 1988).
Barry Gustafson, The First Fifty Years: A History of the New Zealand National Party, (Reed Methuen, 1986)
Margaret Clark (ed.), The Labour Party After 75 Years, (Victoria University Press, Department of Politics, Occasional Publication No 4, 1992)
Martin Holland (ed.), Electoral Behaviour in New Zealand, (Oxford University Press, 1992)
Colin James, New Territory, (Allen and Unwin, 1992)

14 May — Second Essay due

7 May- 17 May  Executive government and ‘governing’; the cabinet, ministers and the public sector, the ‘public service’ and the ‘state sector’; the identification of public problems and the formation and implementation of public policy; the structures and organisation of public sector work; current trends and issues – governing in the 21st century?

(Associate Professor Bill Ryan)

Text Readings: Harris/Levine Part VI. Mulgan chapters 6,7,8, Heywood 5,7,16,17.

J. Boston et al., Reshaping the State: New Zealand’s Bureaucratic Revolution, (Oxford University Press, 1991)
M. Clark and E. Sinclair (eds.), Purpose, Performance and Profit: Redefining the Public Sector, (Government Print Books, 1986)
R. Douglas and L. Callan, Toward Prosperity, (Bateman, 1987)
M. Durie, Te Mana, Te Kawanatanga, (Oxford University Press, 1998)


J. Martin, *Public Service and the Public Servant* (State Services Commission, 1991)


G. Scott, *Public Management in New Zealand*, (Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University 2001)


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21 May – 31 May

**Perennial Political Questions and Attempted Answers**

What is the appropriate role of the state in education? The provision of health? The economy? How far can the state deliver social security and equity to all its citizens? In a democracy what is the appropriate role of the trade unions? pressure groups? women? minorities? local government? What does it mean to be a New Zealander? What weight should we attach to the Treaty? Public Choice Theory. Theories underpinning the Welfare State. New Zealand as a nation-state.

*(Professor Margaret Clark & Dr Jon Johansson)*

**Text Readings:** Mulgan Chapters 1, 2, 7, 9 and 12, Heywood Chapter 4, 10, 13

**Additional Readings:**

- Angela Ballara, *Proud to be White: A Survey of Pakeha Prejudices in New Zealand*, (Heinemann, 1986)
- Harvey Franklin, *Cul-de-Sac: The Question of New Zealand’s Future*, (Allen & Unwin, 1985)
- David G. Green, *From Welfare State to Civil Society*, (New Zealand Business Round Table, 1996)
- Patricia Grimshaw, *Women’s Suffrage in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 1972)
- Bruce Jesson et al., *Revival of the Right*, (Heinemann Reed, 1988)
- Stephen Levine and Raj Vasil, *Maori Political Perspectives*, (Hutchinson, 1985)
P. Spoonley et al. (eds.), *Tauiwi: Racism and Ethnicity in New Zealand*, (Dunmore Press, 1984)
Raj Vasil, *What do the Maori Want?*, (Random Century, 1990)
Margaret Wilson (ed.), *Justice and Identity*, (Bridget Williams Books, 1995)

**COURSE READING**

**Essential texts**

- Andrew Heywood, *Politics*, (2nd edition, Macmillan, 2002), $60.95

**Recommended text:**

- Paul Harris, Stephen Levine et.al. *The New Zealand Politics Source Book*, (3rd edition, Dunmore Press, 1998), $89.95

Additional reading is suggested in the lecture outline and is placed on reserve in the library. 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.

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located in the Student Union Building on Kelburn Campus.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes 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.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays)
10.00 am – 1.00 pm Saturdays.
Phone: 463 5515

**Recommended Further Reading to Assist with Essays:**

- Margaret Clark (ed), *The Labour Party after 75 Years*, Occasional Publication, No.4, Department of Politics, (Victoria University of Wellington, 1992)
Margaret Clark (ed), *For The Record: Lange and the Fourth Labour Government* (Dunmore, 2005).


Andrè Siegfried, *Democracy in New Zealand*. Introduced by David Hamer, (Victoria University Press, 1982).


**Tutorial Programme**

Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. Without attendance at a **minimum of 80%** of tutorials throughout the trimester students will not have fulfilled the mandatory course requirements.

Weeks beginning 26 February and 5 March – NO TUTORIALS.

**Week beginning 12 March**
Read Mulgan chapter 1. What current political debates in New Zealand interest you? Why?

**Week beginning 19 March**
**The Constitution**
Read Harris/Levine Constitution Act 1986 (Document I.15) and Mulgan chapter 3, and be prepared to discuss their content with classmates. What constitutional changes would you like to see in New Zealand?

**Week beginning 26 March**
**Cabinet, the Prime Minister and Parliament**
Read Mulgan chapters 4 and 5 and Heywood chapter 1 and discuss where power resides in New Zealand’s political system, and where powerlessness is to be found.

**Week beginning 2 April**
**The Executive**
Read Heywood chapter 16 and Mulgan chapter 4. Do you think there are enough checks and balances on the Executive in New Zealand? Are there others you would like to advocate?

**6 April - 22 April**
**Easter and mid-trimester break**

**Week beginning 23 April**
**MMP**
Read Mulgan chapter 11, Heywood chapter 4. Has MMP made New Zealand more democratic? or less?

**Week beginning 30 April**
**Political Parties**
Read chapter 10 of Mulgan, and Heywood chapter 12. Discuss the role of political parties. Are they effective in making government responsive to the people? How might they be more effective?

**Week beginning 7 May**
**Coalition Governments**
Read Mulgan chapters 2 and 11 and Heywood chapter 14 and discuss whether New Zealand’s system of government conformed to “the Westminster model”? How has it changed under MMP?

**Week beginning 14 May**
**Interest Groups and the Media**
Read Mulgan chapters 9, 11 and 12 and Heywood chapter 13 and discuss the influence of the Media and ways in which people can try to affect Government decisions. Do you think governments are responsive to public pressure? Give examples.

**Week beginning 21 May**
**Political Ideas**
Read Mulgan chapter 13 and Heywood chapter 3 and discuss whether New Zealand’s political parties are ideological or pragmatic. Give examples.

**Week beginning 28 May**
Discuss the examination.
First Essay due 5 April; Second Essay due 14 May

Reading: Use your textbooks together with appropriate selections from the additional readings set out in the Course Outline.

NB Carefully study the School handout Notes on Essay Writing and follow the instructions therein.

Essays, together with coversheet, are to be placed in the marked box outside the administrators’ office, Murphy Room 518 before 4.30pm. Make sure you enter your name and the name of your tutor on the coversheet and sign the plagiarism declaration. Minimum standards of presentation are required and these are spelt out in the handout Notes on Essay Writing. Essays will be marked by tutors and returned to you in tutorials. (An electronic version of your essay must also be attached to the “Essays” folder on the course’s Blackboard website.)

NB. Late submissions will not be accepted unless you produce to Professor Clark a medical certificate, or other evidence of forces beyond your control. Under no circumstances will ‘pressure of work’ be accepted as sufficient cause for late submission.

First ESSAY DUE 5 April

Write 1200-1500 words on any one of the following topics.

(1) Why do you think that New Zealanders abandoned the First-Past-the-Post electoral system and adopted MMP? Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each system. Would you advocate a return to FPP? or changing to some other different system?

(2) Richard Mulgan has written “True equality and freedom may be unattainable in a liberal democracy, but existing practices and institutions may certainly be improved.” Politics in New Zealand, 3rd edition, p.328). Discuss.

(3) Writing fifty years ago in The Politics of Equality, Leslie Lipson remarked that while the Statue of Liberty stands guard over New York harbor, if any sculptured allegory were to be erected in New Zealand “it would assuredly be a Statue of Equality”. Do you think he would or could write like that today?

(4) How efficiently do you think that Parliament runs the nation’s business? What, if any, changes would you like to see made in its procedures?

(5) What debates do you think will dominate New Zealand’s politics in the run up to the 2008 election?

Second ESSAY DUE 14 May

Write 1200-1500 words on any one of the following topics.

(1) The bureaucracy is the machinery of government. It delivers government’s policies to the citizens. What avenues of redress do citizens have when dealing with the bureaucracy?

(2) What are the essential leadership skills required of a modern prime minister? Illustrate with examples.

(3) Outline the core policies and ideologies of the political parties currently represented in parliament. How many of these parties do you think will still be in parliament after the next election? Why?

(4) The Prime Minister has said that she wants New Zealand to become eco-friendly and “neutral” when it comes to carbon emissions. Do you think that green issues will become more central in our politics?

(5) New Zealand has taken some steps on the way to becoming a republic (e.g. abandoning appeals to the Privy Council, and abolishing honours titles). Do you think it inevitable that we eventually become a republic? Or do you think that there are advantages in remaining a monarchy?
Final 3 hour examination

The date and time of the final examination and the list of examination rooms will be available closer to the examination period. You should make yourself familiar with the University’s rules about cases where illness, personal bereavement, or other exceptional circumstances prevent attendance or impair performance at an examination; see the Assessment Handbook available at the Faculty Office. Students who would benefit from special facilities at examination time because of medical or other reasons, should contact the Faculty’s Examinations Officer in the FHSS office on 4th Floor Murphy Building or a member of the Student Health or Counselling Services at 2-4 Wai-te-ata Road as soon as possible.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students must submit the two essays by the due dates;
2. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials throughout the trimester;
3. Students must attain at least 40% in the final examination.

PLEASE NOTE that 2 June is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme, since this is the date on which we must determine whether students have met the course requirements. This means that the provision for late submission with a penalty does not apply beyond this date. Permission to submit work after 2 June must be sought in writing from the Head of Programme, and will only be granted for serious medical reasons (supported by medical certificate), or in case of serious personal crisis.

NB: A student who has not satisfied the mandatory course requirements, even if the student’s course mark reaches 50%, will receive a K (fail) grade. When a student’s overall course mark falls below the minimum pass mark, whether or not the mandatory course requirements have been satisfied, the standard grades of D and E will apply.

PENALTIES

Students will be penalised for late submission of essays—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 8 days late can be accepted for mandatory course requirements but will not be marked. However, penalties may be waived if there are valid grounds, e.g., illness (presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary) or similar other contingencies. In such cases prior information will be necessary.

WORKLOAD

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 12 hours per week. This includes 3 hours of lectures and a 1 hour tutorial per week.

AEGROTATS

Please note that under the revised Examination Statute (Sections 6-10) students may now apply for an aegrotat pass in respect of any item of assessment falling within the last three weeks before the day on which lectures cease. In the case of first trimester courses in 2007 the starting point for this period is Monday 14 May.

The following rules apply:

- where a student is not able to sit a test falling within these last three weeks because of illness or injury etc., an alternative test will be arranged where possible. If the student has completed in the view of the course supervisor, sufficient marked assessment relevant to the objectives of the course, an average mark may be offered. Where a student has an essay or other piece of assessment due in the last three weeks, and has a medical certificate or other appropriate documentation, the student will be given an extension.
- if none of the above is available to the student, e.g., if she/he has an ongoing illness, than an aegrotat will be considered. See Examination Statute 6-10 for a full explanation of the rules governing the provision of aegrotats in these circumstances.
GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

General University policies and statutes
Students should familiarise themselves with the University’s policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under ‘About Victoria’ on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct
The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University’s life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances
If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism
Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one’s own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course,
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website:
www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html
Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)
The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

- telephone: 463-6070
- email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School’s Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support
Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contact is Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Phipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Phipihinga Programme
This programme offers:
- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact Manaaki-Phipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Phipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services
In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.