



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME
POLS/INTP 211: Special Topic: Public Opinion and Voting Behaviour
20 POINTS**

TRIMESTER 2 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 14 July to 16 November 2014

Teaching dates: 14 July to 17 October 2014

Mid-trimester break: 25 August to 7 September 2014

Last assessment item due: 16 October 2014 (in class test)

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: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm
Venue: EALT 206

Names and contact details

Hilde Coffé

hilde.coffe@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463 6681

Murphy Building, Level 5, Room 535

Office Hours: Monday 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Jack Vowles

jack.vowles@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 5126

Murphy Building, Level 5, Room 501

Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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/INTP 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 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)).
2. Sit the in-class tests.

Workload

This course has been designed on the assumption that students will devote approximately 200 hours to it throughout the trimester. This is an average of 14 hours per week across the 14 weeks of trimester and includes attendance at classes, preparing for lectures, working on assignments and preparing in-class tests.

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	18 August
2	1-hour test	20%	1, 2	21 August
3	2,000-word essay	30%	1, 3	13 October
4	1-hour test	20%	1, 2	16 October

Submission and return of work

Essays should be submitted in hard copy through the School office essay drop-off point, Murphy Room 518 and electronically through Blackboard. The hard copy should be handed in together with a completed cover sheet which is available from the office.

When marked, assignments will be returned to you in tutorials. Marked assignments and tests will be available from the Office, MY 518, between 2.00-3.00 pm.

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.

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.

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 on textbook purchases.

A list of readings will be provided on Blackboard at the start of trimester. All required readings will be accessible online via VUW 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:

Class Rep name and contact details:

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