



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POLS 111: INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS: NEW ZEALAND 20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Easter/Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Study week: 9 – 13 June 2014

Examination/Assessment Period: 13 June to 2 July 2014

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 or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

LECTURE TIMES: **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-10.50am** plus one weekly tutorial

VENUE: Lectures will be held in Maclaurin LT 101

TUTORIALS: The University is introducing an on-line facility for students to sign up for tutorials in first year courses. Tutorials will commence in the third week of the trimester, the week beginning 17 March, after which students **may not change their tutorial group without the permission of the tutor coordinator**.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Jon Johansson, Room 507, Murphy Building
Room No: Murphy 507
Phone: 463 6424
Office hours: Wednesday 11-12 am
Email: jon.johansson@vuw.ac.nz

Other teaching staff: Professor Margaret Clark,
Room No: Murphy 515
Phone: 463 5262
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11-12am
Email: margaret.clark@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

This course uses Blackboard and presumes that all enrolled students have valid myvuw.ac.nz addresses. Additional information and any changes to the timetable or lecture and seminar programme will be communicated in the lectures and posted on the 5th Floor Murphy Building notice board, announced in lectures or posted on blackboard.

Prescription

The aim of this course is to develop knowledge of the New Zealand political system in comparative perspective. We focus on key themes and current developments in the political arena, and because we are situated in Wellington are able to call on politicians and political participants to contribute to the course.

Course content

The course encompasses the various dimensions of New Zealand's political system. Beginning with fundamental questions associated with the study of politics, the course will cover the main signposts of our domestic political history, the political system, parliamentary system, our political parties, political leadership, elections and electioneering, the policy process, and perennial questions in politics. The detailed lecture programme is provided further below.

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 perennial 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 and authoritative research.

Teaching format

This course is taught in 3 lectures per week and one tutorial per week. The course is delivered over 12 weeks of lectures and 10 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 classes regularly, take part in class discussion, and keep up with the reading.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit the two essays by the due dates;
2. Attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials throughout the trimester;
3. Attain at least 40% in the final examination.

PLEASE NOTE that **6 June** is the FINAL DATE on which any written work can be accepted by the Programme. Permission to submit work after the final date 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.

Workload

In accordance with Faculty 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)	130 hours
Examination	10 hours

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 conducted by the Faculty. The examination period will from Friday 13 June to Wednesday 2 July 2014.

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO's	Due date
1	<i>Essay 1: 1,200-1,500-word essay;</i>	25%	1,2 & 3	11 April
2	<i>Essay 2: 1,200-1,500-word essay;</i>	25%	1, 2 & 3	16 May
3	<i>Examination: Final 3-hour exam</i>	50%	1,2 & 3	TBA

Submission and return of work

All written work must be submitted in hard copy in the course essay box outside the School office on the fifth floor of the Murphy building. All assignments must have a Programme cover sheet attached, clearly indicating each student's name, student ID, tutor and tutorial time. Each Assignment Cover Sheet, which is available on Blackboard and at the fifth floor office, must be clearly marked "POLS

111/First Essay,” etc. Essays will be returned in tutorials. If not collected they will be made available from the School Office, Murphy 518, Monday to Friday between 2pm and 3pm.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Extensions will be provided (without penalty) only in those circumstances stipulated in s.3.2.1(d) of the Assessment Handbook 2014. Work load pressure is not a valid reason for requesting an extension.

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

Leslie Lipson, *The Politics of Equality*. 2nd Edition, with an Introduction by Jon Johansson. 2011. (Wellington, VUW Press). \$45.00 (approx.)

Richard Mulgan, *Politics in New Zealand*, (Auckland University Press, 3rd Edition, 2003), \$39.99

Recommended readings

Paul Harris and Stephen Levine, *The New Zealand Politics Sourcebook*, (Dunmore, 2nd Edition, 1994). \$60.00 (approx.)

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

Other Recommended Reading:

Michael Bassett, *The State in New Zealand 1840-1984: socialism without doctrines?* (Auckland University Press, 1998).

Jonathan Boston and Martin Holland (eds), *The Fourth Labour Government: Politics And Policy in New Zealand*, (2nd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1990).

Jonathan Boston, Stephen Levine, Elizabeth McLeay & Nigel S. Roberts (eds), *New Zealand Under MMP: A New Politics?* (Auckland University Press, 1996).

Colin James *New Territory: The Transformation of New Zealand 1984-92* (Bridget Williams Books, 1992).

Jon Johansson. *The Politics of Possibility: Leadership in Changing Times*. (Dunmore, 2009).

Jon Johansson and Stephen Levine. (Eds). *Kicking the Tyres: The New Zealand General Election and Electoral Referendum of 2011* (Victoria University Press, 2012).

Elizabeth McLeay, *The Cabinet and Political Power in New Zealand* (Auckland University Press, 1995).

Raymond Miller (ed), *New Zealand Politics in Transition*, (3rd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).

Geoffrey Palmer, *Unbridled Power: An Interpretation of New Zealand's Constitution & Government*, (2nd ed.) (Oxford University Press, 1987).

Keith Sinclair, *A History of New Zealand* (4thed.), (Penguin Books, 1991).

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

Jack Vowles, Peter Aimer, Susan Banducci & Jeffrey Karp (eds), *Voter's Victory: New Zealand's First Election Under Proportional Representation* (AUP, 1998).

Additional readings are also suggested in the lecture outline further below and these are mostly 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.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes 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. 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. Also, 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/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz