



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 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

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday 10.00-10.50am

Venue: MY LT101

Tutorials:	Monday	3.10-4.00pm	KK106
	Wednesday	2.10-3.00pm	AM102
	Wednesday	3.10-4.00pm	AM 104

Please note: Tutorials begin in the second week of trimester.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Dr Kate McMillan

Room No: MY 532

Phone: 04 4639595

Email: kate.mcmillan@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday 11-12

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 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. Identify the main theoretical approaches to the study of media and politics and use these to analyse aspects of the New Zealand media;
2. Analyse the roles played by media workers in the production of political news/current affairs;
3. Analyse the roles played by parliament, parties, interest groups, and the public service in setting the media agenda;
4. Critique the media's exercise of power in New Zealand, drawing from empirical and theoretical materials discussed during the class and in the readings.

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 keep up with the readings.

Mandatory course requirements

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

1. Submit two essays by the due date; and
2. Sit the end of trimester examination.

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 and tutorials, completion of all set weekly readings and research and writing for set assessment tasks.

Each student will differ in the amount of time they allocate to reading the set texts, researching for their essays and studying for the exam. As a rough guide, however, students might expect to allocate their time in the following way:

Preparation for and attendance at classes (including tutorials)	8 hours a week
Researching, drafting and proofreading essay	32 hours per essay
Preparation for final examination	40 hours

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2000 word essay	30%	1 - 4	Fri 11 April 5pm
2	2000 word essay	30%	1 - 4	Fri 30 May 5pm
3	Final examination (3 hours)	40%	1 - 4	13 June - 2 July

Attendance at all lectures and tutorials is not compulsory but strongly advised. Material covered in the tutorials will be examinable.

Submission and return of work

You are required to submit TWO copies of your essay on the due date: an **electronic copy** and a **hard copy**. The electronic copy is to be submitted via the designated folder in Blackboard. This course utilises the plagiarism detection site turnitin.com. Please submit hard copies of your essay, complete with cover sheet, into the box marked POLS 218, to the right of the School Office, Murphy Room 518. Cover sheets are available on Blackboard and from the office.

No essay will be marked unless both an electronic and a hard copy are submitted.

Essays will be returned in tutorials. If students fail to attend these times, they may collect their essay from the Office, Murphy Room 518 between the hours of 2.00 and 3.00 pm from Monday to Friday and must show their Student ID card before collection.

Marking criteria

Marking criteria for the essays will be posted on Blackboard.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

An extension (with no penalty) will be considered on the grounds of exceptional personal circumstances as set out in section 8 of the Assessment Handbook 2014. Extensions will generally require appropriate documentation (e.g. presentation of a medical certificate). ***If you think you may need consideration for an extension, please contact the course coordinator prior to the due date.***

Penalties

No essay will be marked unless both an electronic and a hard copy are submitted.

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 8 days 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

Babak Bahador, Geoff Kemp, Kate McMillan, Chris Rudd (eds), *Politics and the Media*, Pearson, Auckland, 2013.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard under 'Weekly readings'.

The text will be available from Vic Books: www.vicbooks.co.nz

Recommended reading

A list of recommended reading will be provided in class in the first week and posted on Blackboard.

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

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php. This will be discussed in first week of class.

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