

**SCHOOL OF HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMME**

**POLS 206 – NEW ZEALAND POLITICS: POWER, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

**TRIMESTER 2, 2009**  
**13 July to 15 November 2009**



**LECTURER:**

Professor Nigel S. Roberts. (For further details see <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/pols/Staff/nroberts.aspx>> and <<http://www.nigel-roberts.info>>.)

**OFFICE:**

MY 533 (in the Murphy annexe).

**PHONE:**

463-5288.

**EMAIL:**

Nigel.Roberts88vuw.ac.nz (remember to replace "88" with the @ symbol). **Note:** Emails to Nigel Roberts about POLS 206 *must* have POLS 206 in the subject line; if they don't, they are liable to be deleted as spam.

**LECTURE TIMES:**

Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:00-10:50 am.

**VENUE:**

Hunter Building (HU) LT 119.

**TUTORIALS:**

Details about the 2009 tutorial programme for POLS 206 are contained on pages 5 and 6.

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Mondays 9:00-9:50 am; Tuesdays 9:00-9:50 am. You are also welcome to telephone or email me.

**TRIMESTER DATES:**

Teaching dates – 13 July to 16 October 2009; study week – 19 to 23 October 2009; and examination / assessment period – 27 October to 15 November 2009.

**COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Whenever it's necessary to do so, additional information about POLS 206 will be posted as announcements on the POLS 206 2009 Blackboard website. As soon as they have been finalised, relevant details from the end-of-year exam timetable will also be placed on this site. *It is, of course, essential that all students consult Blackboard and check their emails regularly, preferably at least once a day.*

**COURSE AIMS:**

In recent years, New Zealand's constitutional structure has frequently been in the news. For example, last year former Prime Minister Mike Moore warned that New Zealand's constitution "could be ... damaged by incremental changes"; in September 2007 *The Dominion Post* chose the hundredth anniversary of its founding to publish an editorial calling for New Zealand to become a republic; and in August 2005 Parliament's Constitutional Arrangements Committee presented a 170-page report to the House of Representatives entitled *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements*.

As a result, the primary focus of POLS 206 in 2009 will be on analysing and reviewing New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.

**COURSE DELIVERY:**

The course will be delivered via two 50-minute lectures per week, and – as is explained on pages 3, 5 and 6 – students also have to attend a range of sessions at Parliament for a minimum of eight hours in order to write about their Tutorial Reports.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

Students passing the course should have a thorough understanding of (1) the key constitutional structures of the New Zealand political system; (2) the principal sources of power, equality and diversity in New Zealand; and (3) the contents of – including the facts and the arguments in – the POLS 206 set text (namely, the fourth edition of Raymond Miller, ed., *New Zealand Government and Politics*).

**GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES:**

As with all POLS and INTP courses, the aims and objectives of this course contribute to the attainment of specific attributes in the areas of critical thinking, creative thinking, communication and leadership. Please consult the 2009 *Political Science and International Relations Prospectus*, p. 10, for more details. The URL for the *Prospectus* is: <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/undergrad/publications/Pols-Intpol.pdf>>.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

An outline of the structure and contents of the course can be found on page 5.

**COURSE READINGS:**

- **Essential text**

It is expected that all students will purchase the POLS 206 textbook, which is Raymond Miller (ed.), *New Zealand Government and Politics* (Auckland: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, 2006).

- **Recommended readings**

Constitutional Arrangements Committee, *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements* (Wellington: House of Representatives, I.24A, 2005). This report can be found on Parliament's website (see <[http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/575B1B52-5414-495A-9BAF-C9054195AF02/15160/DBSCH\\_SCR\\_3229\\_2302.pdf](http://www.parliament.nz/NR/rdonlyres/575B1B52-5414-495A-9BAF-C9054195AF02/15160/DBSCH_SCR_3229_2302.pdf)>).

Ryan Malone, *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Government Law-Making under MMP* (Wellington: Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 2008).

Geoffrey Palmer and Matthew Palmer, *Bridled Power: New Zealand's Constitution and Government* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 4th edition, 2004).

Textbooks can be purchased from Vicbooks located on the top floor of the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. Books of Reading are distributed from the Student Notes Shop on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. 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. 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 to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays), and 10.00 am to 1.00 pm on Saturday. Phone: 463-5515.

### **EXPECTED WORKLOAD:**

In accordance with Faculty Guidelines, this course has been constructed on the assumption that students will devote 15 hours per week to POLS 206. This includes 2 hours of lectures per week, as well as attending a range of Parliamentary sessions for an average of about an hour a week.

### **ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

The course will be assessed on the following basis:-

- A tutorial report (about three pages long), which is worth 10% of the overall grade awarded to students.
- Two major essays, each of *at least* 1,600 words, will each count for 25% of the overall grade awarded to students.
- A 3-hour end-of-year examination, which will contribute 40% to students' overall grades. (Note: This will *not* be an open-book exam, and the examination will be held sometime during the period from 27 October to 15 November 2009.)

The purpose of the tutorial report and of the other two written assignments is to ensure that students have an in-depth, detailed and accurate understanding of key components of New Zealand's political system. The aim of the examination is to assess the ability of students to integrate and use the knowledge they acquire during the course when tackling specific questions or statements.

Full details of the topics for the two main essays, and the dates on which they are due, are given on page 6.

Your tutorial report and your essays must be submitted by their due dates. Extensions will be granted only to those who meet the University's *aegrotat* rules (e.g., students with a medical certificate, a family bereavement, or critical personal circumstances beyond their control). Late essays must be handed directly either to Professor Roberts or to a Political Science and International Relations Administration Assistant who will record on the essays the date and time they were received.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

POLS 206 has the following mandatory requirements:

- To gain a pass in POLS 206, each student must submit the written work specified for the course on or by the specified dates (subject to the provisions stated below in the section entitled PENALTIES for the late submission of work).
- Students must attend at least **eight** Parliamentary meetings / sessions and – in their tutorial reports – submit evidence that they did so.

A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for the course, will receive a K grade for the course, while a course mark of less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (namely, a D or an E).

### **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 (for example, illness [presentation of a medical certificate will be necessary] or similar other contingencies). In all such cases, prior information will be necessary.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM:**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website: <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>>.

#### **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS:**

All Political Science and International Relations Programme assignments must be handed in together with a signed Assignment Cover Sheet, a copy of which is appended to this course outline. Students are required to submit **both hard copies and electronic copies** of all their POLS 206 all assignments.

#### **THE USE OF TURNITIN:**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <<http://www.turnitin.com>>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

#### **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* or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>>.

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information for students in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at: <<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>>.

**COURSE CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS:**

Date	Topic	Required readings from the textbook
Monday, 13 July	Introduction to POLS 206	Chapters 1.1 to 1.8
Tuesday, 14 July	Constitutions and their structures	Chapters 2.1 and 2.2
Monday, 20 July	The Head of State in NZ	Chapter 2.3
Tuesday, 21 July	Alternative models for a Head of State	
Monday, 27 July	The art and science of essay writing	
Tuesday, 28 July	Parliamentary vs Presidential government	Chapters 2.5 to 2.7
Monday, 3 August	The legislative branch of government in NZ	
Tuesday, 4 August	Reforming the legislature	
Monday, 10 August	Legislative elections in NZ	Chapters 4.1 to 4.4, and 7.4
Tuesday, 11 August	Referendums and plebiscites	
Monday, 17 August	Forming a government	Chapter 3.4
Tuesday, 18 August	Forming a government in NZ	
Monday, 7 September	The executive branch of government in NZ	Chapters 3.1, 3.5 and 3.6
Tuesday, 8 September	The role of the Prime Minister in NZ: 1	Chapters 3.2 and 3.3
Monday, 14 September	The role of the Prime Minister in NZ: 2	
Tuesday, 15 September	Reforming the executive	Chapters 3.1 to 3.6 again
Monday, 21 September	The judicial branch of government in NZ	Chapter 2.4
Tuesday, 22 September	Reforming the judiciary	
Monday, 28 September	The Treaty of Waitangi and the constitution: 1	Chapters 8.3 and 8.4
Tuesday, 29 September	The Treaty of Waitangi and the constitution: 2	
Monday, 5 October	Local government in NZ	Chapter 3.7
Tuesday, 6 October	Civil liberties and the constitution	Chapters 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4 again
Monday, 12 October	Establishing and amending a constitution	
Tuesday, 13 October	Exam briefing	

**TUTORIAL REPORT:**

You are required to attend a *minimum* of **EIGHT** Parliamentary "meetings" including

- at least **two question times**;
- at least **two debates** (**note**: you must attend **at least two different types of debates** – such as General debates; Urgent debates; First, Second, or Third Reading debates; or In-Committee debates);
- **at least two select committee hearings** (**note**: you must attend **the hearings of at least two different select committees**)

and then produce a three-page (*i.e.*, a roughly 750- to 900-word) **tutorial report** analysing what happened in the Parliamentary sessions you attended and outlining how they could have been improved or reformed. Note, too, that it is expected that you will attend Parliament for at least an hour on each occasion.

A calendar containing the 2009 Parliamentary sitting days is on page 8 of this course outline and reading list. As you will be able to see, Parliament is not sitting the first week of the trimester and there are, in fact, only eight Parliamentary sitting weeks left before your tutorial report is due in on Friday, 25 September, so you are strongly urged to start planning your visits to Parliament straight away and also to start your visits as soon as possible. Please note, too, that page 7 of this course outline and reading list also contains examples of the type of stickers

given to visitors to Parliament, and that you are required to include a minimum of 8 separate stickers in an appendix to your tutorial report (original copies are required; photo-copies are unacceptable).

Please note that I will, of course, be available **either** by appointment at times individual students arrange with me **or** without appointment during my regular office hours (which – as noted on page 1 of this course outline – are on Monday and Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to 9:50 am) to see students who want to discuss what they intend to do for their tutorial reports (for instance, you may initially want to discuss which Parliamentary meetings you plan to attend); to review any aspect of the course; and/or to assist you with your research and writing.

**Your tutorial report must be handed in** (*both* electronically by email it to me *and* by putting a printed copy in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 25 September 2009.**

### **POLS 206 ESSAYS:**

As indicated on page 3, you will be required to write two essays for POLS 206, namely:-

- The first essay will be an essay of *at least* 1,600 words on one of the following four topics (most are quotations from chapters in the textbook that haven't been listed in the course outline on page 5):
  - (1) (a) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "there is an obvious correspondence between the pluralism of Labour's list and its roots in the electorate". (This quotation is from a chapter in Part D of the textbook.)
  - (1) (b) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that in New Zealand "[s]ince 1999 there has been a shift away from an explicitly ideological programme." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part E of the textbook.)
  - (1) (c) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "[t]he Māori seats are an incentive for political parties to include Māori in favourable positions on their party lists." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part E of the textbook.)
  - (1) (d) Evaluate the arguments and the evidence for and against the claim that "New Zealand has been a leader neither in green planning nor in environmental integration." (This quotation is from a chapter in Part E of the textbook.)

**The first major essay must be handed in** (*both* electronically by email it to me *and* by putting a printed copy in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 21 August 2009.**

- The second major written assignment will also be *at least* 1,600 words long and will be on one of the following two topics:
  - (2) (a) Design and write a constitution for New Zealand.
  - (2) (b) Write a detailed, reasoned critique of the Constitutional Arrangements Committee's report, *Inquiry to review New Zealand's existing constitutional arrangements*.
  - (2) (c) Write a detailed, reasoned critique of the arguments put forward by Ryan Malone in his recent book, *Rebalancing the Constitution: The Challenge of Government Law-Making under MMP* (Wellington: Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, 2008).

**The second major essay must be handed in** (*both* electronically by email it to me *and* by putting a printed copy in the POLS 206 essay box in the Political Science and International Relations' foyer) **by no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, 9 October 2009.**

Please note that your essays must make careful, deliberate, and reasonably extensive use of *authoritative written sources*. For essays (1) (a) to (1) (d), as well as for essays (2) (b) and 2 (c), evidence will be required to show that you have used at least six articles, chapters or books *in addition to chapters in the textbook*, and **unnecessary and / or overuse of the Internet will be penalised.**

### THE END-OF-YEAR EXAMINATIONS:

As explained on page 3, the end-of-year examination for POLS 206 counts for 40% of the total marks for the course. It is a three-hour examination. It will *not* be an open-book exam. The exam will be very fair: it will contain a wide selection of questions covering all aspects of the course. You will be required to answer 4 questions – three essay questions and one *compulsory* question with a range of multiple-choice and / or very brief answers.

Nigel S. Roberts  
Monday, 15 June 2009

#### Page 1 photographs:

*Top row from left to right:*

- Pita Sharples and Tariana Turia, co-leaders of the Māori Party;
- The New Zealand coat of arms carved into the wall of the Court of Appeal building in Wellington;
- Dr Lockwood Smith, Speaker of the House of Representatives, 2008- ; and
- Parliament Buildings at night.

*Bottom row from left to right:*

- Sir Anand Satyanand, Governor-General of New Zealand, 2006- ;
- Statue of Richard Seddon (Premier from 1893-1906) in front of the Beehive, the executive wing of Parliament;
- Kerry Prendergast, Mayor of Wellington, 2001- ;
- Government House (the official home of the Governor-General); and
- John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand, 2008- .

