POL 831
Political Parties and Policy
S1 Evening 2014

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convener
Geoffrey Hawker
goeffrey.hawker@mq.edu.au
Contact via geoffrey.hawker@mq.edu.au
W6A 428
Thursday 5-6pm or by appointment

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MPP or PGDipPP or PGCertPP or MPASR or PGCertPASR or PGDipPASR

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit looks at the impact of elections, party politics and changes of government on the policy process. Case studies drawn from recent federal and state elections are used to evaluate the conduct and impact of election campaigns, the extent to which policy formation within political parties is participative and democratic, and the impact of the transition to government on pre-election policies. The unit explores the evolution of theories around political representation and the functions of political parties in democratic systems. It critically analyses scholarly debate around the cartelisation and decline of political parties, and its application to the Australian context.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

  Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
  Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
Critically analyse the links between information, 'facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes
Use intelligible argument to explicate dilemmas and issues in policy making in political parties
Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems
Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties
Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Documentary Analysis</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Thursday 3 April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>19 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20 June 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Documentary Analysis**

Due: **Thursday 3 April 2014**  
Weighting: **30%**

For this assessment task you are expected to reflect on the material covered in the lectures and course readings, and use these to develop a critical analysis of the following Quarterly Essay. You can purchase a copy of the Essay from many bookshops and newsagents, or access it via the journal databases on the Macquarie University library website.


Your critical analysis should be presented in essay form, and answer this:

Has Latham got it right for Labor and, by extension, for other major parties? Can one party exhibit major flaws in policy development and implementation and other competitive parties not?

Word limit: **2000 words**

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of
political mobilisation

• Critically analyse the links between information, 'facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes
• Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems
• Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties
• Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions

Research Essay

Due: 19 May 2014
Weighting: 50%

Each student should select a broad area of public policy, in consultation with the lecturer, and research the different policy approaches of the major and minor parties towards this policy area in the period leading up to the 2013 federal election.

You should have made your selection and had it approved by the lecturer before the mid-semester break. You can do this using the “Communicate privately with teaching staff” section on the iLearn website.

In writing your essay, you should consider issues such as how the policies were developed, which constituencies they were designed to attract, how the policies were promoted by the parties, and the impact of the electoral cycle. In particular you should examine the extent to which the various parties' policies converged or not. Your observations will help you to answer the overall question, which is:

What role do political parties continue to play in public policy?

Word limit: 4000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
• Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
• Use intelligible argument to explicate dilemmas and issues in policy making in political parties
• Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems
• Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties
political parties
- Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions

**Examination**
Due: 20 June 2014
Weighting: 20%

Questions based on the material covered in the semester will be distributed in Week 13 in class and posted on the website on the same day.

Word limit: 2000 words

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
- Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
- Critically analyse the links between information, 'facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes

**Delivery and Resources**

**MPP Information**

This unit outline should be read alongside the **Master of Politics and Public Policy Guidelines**. These notes relate specifically to the MPP program. Please familiarise yourself with the guidelines. They are available on the iLearn website for this unit, or can be provided in hard copy by your convenor.

**Classes**

For lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetable website: [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au). This website will display up-to-date information on your classes and classroom locations.
**Internal students** are expected to attend the following classes each week:

Lecture: Monday 6-7pm

Seminar: Monday 7-9pm

**External students**: The lecture is digitally recorded and can be downloaded from the iLearn website shortly after it is delivered. You will also find lecture slides on the website.

External students are also required to attend two on-campus sessions of four hours each over the semester. The dates for these sessions are:

Sunday 13 April: 2pm - 6pm in room E8A 188
Sunday 1 June: 2pm - 6pm in room E8A 188

External students are encouraged to attend weekly lectures and seminar classes whenever they can.

**ATTENDANCE**

University regulations prescribe regular attendance at classes. Students are expected to attend all lectures and seminars, or on-campus sessions for external students.

For **internal students**, failure to attend at least three-quarters of seminars risks exclusion from and no credit for the unit.

For **external students**, failure to attend the first on-campus session will risk exclusion from and no credit for the unit.

If you are unable to attend a class, you should provide documentary support for your absence (e.g. medical certificate). If you know that you will be unable to attend a class, or on-campus session, you should contact the convenor as early as possible.

**Assignment submission**

All assignments must be submitted using the “Turnitin Assignments” facility on the iLearn website. This facility includes software which scans the uploaded assignments for plagiarism. Follow the instructions on the screen carefully. Your assignment should be uploaded before midnight on the due date.

**In all cases**, you should ensure that you keep a copy of the assignment.

**Return of marked work**

Marked assignments will be returned via the same facility on iLearn. When marks are released, you will need to go back in to the assignment submission box, and open
your uploaded assignment. When you click on the “GradeMark” button, you will be able to see the marker’s comments on your work. You can save or print the essay with the comments.

**Extensions and special consideration**

Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, and will require documentary evidence such as a medical certificate to support the request for an extension. You should contact the convenor as early as possible if you think you may need an extension. While we do understand that most students are engaged in paid employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone.

Penalties for late submission: Assignments which are submitted after the due date, without having an extension granted by the convenor, will be penalised, at a rate of 3% of the mark for each week day after the due date. Any paper submitted more than 3 weeks after the due date will not be marked, and the student will be failed for the assignment.

**Special Consideration Policy**


**Applying for Special Consideration**

Students applying for Special Consideration circumstances of three (3) consecutive days duration, within a study period, and/or prevent completion of a formal examination must submit an on-line application with the Faculty of Arts. For an application to be valid, it must include a completed Application for Special Consideration form and all supporting documentation.

The online Special Consideration application is found at: [http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/special_consideration](http://www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/special_consideration).

**UNIVERSITY POLICY ON GRADING**

**University Grading Policy**


The grade a student receives will signify their overall performance in meeting the learning outcomes of a unit of study. Grades will not be awarded by reference to the achievement of other students nor allocated to fit a predetermined distribution. In
determining a grade, due weight will be given to the learning outcomes and level of a unit (ie 100, 200, 300, 800 etc). Graded units will use the following grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HD</td>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>85-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>75-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cr</td>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>65-74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information on the rubric used in determining grades in MPP units will be distributed in class and posted on the iLearn website.

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**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Academic honesty is an integral part of the core values and principles contained in the Macquarie University Ethics Statement:


Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- All academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim.
  - All academic collaborations are acknowledged.
  - Academic work is not falsified in any way
  - When the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

The link below has more details about the policy, procedure and schedule of penalties that will apply to breaches of the Academic Honesty Policy which can be viewed at:


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**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

[https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/34060/unit_guide/print](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/34060/unit_guide/print)
Macquarie University provides a range of Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at:


Another useful support service is provided by the Learning Skills unit which you can find at: http://www.mq.edu.au/learningskills/.

**Arts Student Centre**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phone:</th>
<th>+61 2 9850 6783</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:artsenquiries@mq.edu.au">artsenquiries@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office:</td>
<td>W6A/Foyer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Centre staff are there to smooth the way into university life; answer questions; give informed advice; provide a sympathetic ear; de-mystify uni ways and procedures.

The Faculty of Arts online submissions for Special Approval, Special Consideration, Grade Review and Grade Appeal are located at: www.arts.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate.

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**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS**

**REQUIRED READING**

All students should purchase the **Unit Readings** from the Coop Bookshop.

**RECOMMENDED READING**

Participants who have not already completed POL820, or previously examined the Australian political and party systems in any detail, should refer to a good introductory text-book on Australian Government and Politics, such as:


also suitable)

REFERENCE MATERIAL

The following is a list of books which you may find useful in this unit. Most of them are available at the Macquarie University Library. The list is not exhaustive.


Barns, G: Selling the Australian Government: Politics and Propaganda from Whitlam to Howard, UNSW Press 2005


Benson, S: Betrayal: Underbelly of Australian Labor, Pantera Press, 2010

Bramston, T: Looking for the Light on the Hill: Modern Labor’s Challenges, Scribe, 2011


Browne, P and Thomas, J: A win and a prayer: scenes from the 2004 Australian election, UNSW Press, Sydney, 2005


Cassidy, B: The Party Thieves: The real story of the 2010 election, Melbourne University Press, 2010


Costar, B and Curtin, J: Rebels with a Cause: Independents in Australian Politics,
UNSW Press, 2004


Fitzgerald, J: *Lobbying in Australia: You can’t expect anything to change if you don’t speak up!* Rosenberg, Sydney 2006


Leach, M (eds.): *The Rise and Fall of One Nation*, UQP, 2000.


McKnight, D: *Beyond Right and Left: New Politics and the Culture Wars*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney 2005


Manne, R (ed): *The Howard Years*, Black Inc Melbourne, 2004


Megalogenis, G: *The Longest Decade*, Scribe Melbourne, 2006


Smith, Rodney: *Australian Political Culture*, Pearson Sydney, 2001


Walter, J and Strangio, P: *No, Prime Minister: Reclaiming Politics from Leaders*, UNSW Press 2007


**ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

**Journals**

The most clearly relevant academic journals (many of which are available on-line through the Macquarie Library) are:
Australian Journal of Political Science
*Australian Journal of Politics and History*
*Australian Journal of Public Administration*
*Australian Journal of Social Issues*
*Government and Opposition*

The easiest way to access these journals is through the **Journal Finder** pathway on the Library website. In some cases older issues of the journal are available in hard copy only and more recent issues on-line only. Some journal publishers prevent on-line access to the most recent (1 year) issues. On-line journals are being added to the Library’s resources regularly.

**Websites**

Useful links to websites are posted on iLearn.

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**WEEKLY SEMINAR PROGRAM:**

All “Required Readings” are in the Unit Reader.

**Week 1: Political Parties and Democracy**


**Week 2: Party Functions and Representation**


Week 3: Party systems and political cleavages


Week 4: Party Structure and Organisation


Week 5: Party Ideology


**Week 6: Convergence, and the Left/Right divide**


David McKnight (2005) “Beyond Right and Left” in *Beyond Right and Left: New Politics and the Culture Wars*, Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest

**MID-SEMESTER BREAK**

**First On-Campus Session for External Students:**

**Sunday 13 April, 2-6pm**

**Week 7: Leadership**


John Lyons (2008) “Anger builds around Rudd as chaos reigns at the top”, *The Australian*, 21 June
George Megalogenis (2010) “Rudd rides the digital age to dominance”, *The Australian* 9 January
Annabel Crabb (2011) “Prime Minister, Interrupted”, *The Monthly* August, 30-41

**Week 8: Essay preparation and consultation: no class this week**

**Week 9: Minor Parties and Independents**

David Charnock (2009) “Can the Australian Greens Replace the Australian Democrats as a ‘Third Party’ in the Senate?”, *Australian Journal of Political Science* 44(2) 245-258
Sally Neighbour (2012) “Divided We Fall”, *The Monthly*, February, pp20-28
Guy Rundle (2009) “Crazy Barnaby shooting from the heartland”, *Crikey* 14 December

**Week 10: Electoral Systems**


https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/34060/unit_guide/print
Robert Hoffman and Brian Costar (2012) “Direct enrolment will just make democracy easier”, *Canberra Times* 20 March

**Week 11: Election Campaigns**


Sally Young (2011) “‘From the campaign trail’: The framing of election news” in *How Australia Decides: Election reporting and the media*, Cambridge University Press


Mike Steketee (2007) “Debate won’t matter without a big stumble”, *The Australian* 20 October


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**Final On-Campus Session for External Students:**

**Sunday 1 June 2-6pm**

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**Week 12: Alternative conduits**


John Warhurst (2007) “Losers scramble for a place in Rudd’s new queue”, *Canberra*
Unit Schedule

Times 13 December
Peter van Onselen and Wayne Errington (2005) “Like minds don’t make ideas work”, Sydney Morning Herald 4 March
Annabel Crabb (2008) “In political speed dating, he who hesitates is lost”, Sydney Morning Herald 19-20 January

Week 13: Party Decline?
Stefano Bartolini and Peter Mair (2001) ”Challenges to Contemporary Political Parties” in Larry Diamond and Richard Gunther (eds) Political Parties and Democracy, John Hopkins University

Unit Schedule

**Weekly Schedule:**

**Week 1**
Introduction: Before parties; Political parties and democracy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Party functions and representation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Party systems and political cleavages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Party structure and organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Party ideology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Convergence, and the Left/Right Divide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Essay preparation &amp; consultation: – no class this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Minor parties and independents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Electoral systems</td>
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</table>
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://stu](http://stu)
Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
- Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties

**Assessment tasks**

- Documentary Analysis
- Research Essay
• Examination

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Critically analyse the links between information, 'facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes
• Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems
• Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties

Assessment tasks

• Documentary Analysis
• Research Essay

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
• Critically analyse the links between information, 'facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes
• Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems
• Apply theories of power to contemporary and historical contexts of policy-making in political parties
• Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions
Assessment task

• Research Essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
• Use intelligible argument to explicate dilemmas and issues in policy making in political parties
• Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions

Assessment tasks

• Documentary Analysis
• Research Essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
• Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
• Critically analyse the links between information, ‘facts' and judgment in explaining policy outcomes
• Show abilities in written and oral form in communicating ideas, arguments and conclusions
conclusions

Assessment task

• Research Essay

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Explain how political parties formulate public policy using different theoretical lenses and show the conflicts and agreements between different approaches
• Explain differences and similarities over time between different organisational forms of political mobilisation
• Use intelligible argument to explicate dilemmas and issues in policy making in political parties
• Undertake research in a self-directed way against stated problems

Assessment tasks

• Research Essay
• Examination