

## Gov 365N: Politics in Australia Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor John Higley

Unique #: 39255

Time & Place: TTH 3:30-5:00, Waggoner Hall 420

Office & Office Hours: Batts 4.154, Wednesdays 2:30-5:00

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Description: Australia is the principal democratic, economic, and military power in the Southwest Pacific and Southeast Asia. Inhabited originally by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Australia was settled by Europeans at the start of the nineteenth century, after which it consisted of six distinct British colonies that federated voluntarily in 1901 to form the independent Commonwealth of Australia. With a multi-ethnic and multi-racial population of 21 million dispersed across a continent nearly the size of the U.S., Australia has been a key ally of the U.S. since World War II. It is an important economic and political actor in the entire Asia Pacific region, with strong trading links to China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, the Philippines, and, increasingly, India and South Asia. After providing students with an overview of Australia's history and constitutional development, this course will focus on contemporary Australian political institutions, party politics, major public policy domains, and international relations. Throughout, Australia will be compared and contrasted with the other Anglo-American democracies, especially the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Requirements: (1) Two in-class hour examinations, on September 29th and November 5th, each worth 30% of the final grade; (2) A research paper 10-12 pages in length with 1.5 line spacing, normal margins and 12-point font, analyzing a facet of Australia's history, political institutions, public policies, or international relations, perhaps compared/contrasted with the U.S., due on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, and worth 40% of the final grade. Late papers will be penalized by the subtraction of a letter grade. There will be no final examination. Hour examination formats will be essay, short-answer, and multiple-choice. Final grades will utilize the plus-minus system. The instructor reserves the right to curve grades in order to achieve a reasonable overall grade profile for the course. Attending lectures, while not compulsory, will be crucial to examination and research paper performance, so students who anticipate missing more than two or three lectures are strongly advised not to enroll. Students using laptops during class meetings are asked to sit in the rear of the room to avoid distracting others.

Texts: (On 24-hour reserve at PCL and available for purchase at the Co-op\*)

Stuart Macintyre, *A Concise History of Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition published this past summer).

Andrew Parkin, John Summers, and Dennis Woodward, eds., *Government, Politics, Power and Policy in Australia*. Melbourne, Pearson/Longman Publishers, 2009 (9<sup>th</sup> edition published this past summer)

\* The Parkin et al. book is in transit from Australia and should be available during September.

## Required University Notices and Policies

**All faculty are required to provide students with a course syllabus by the first meeting day of all classes.**

### □ **University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

### □ **Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently—I recommend daily, but at minimum twice a week—to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin's policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>.

### □ **Documented Disability Statement**

If you require special accommodations, you must obtain a letter that documents your disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

### □ **Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

### □ **Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)**

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

### □ **Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

## **Schedule of Lectures, Examinations and Research Paper Preparation**

08/27: Introduction: Australia's Geography, Peoples, and Main Political Features

### **Part I: Australia's History in Comparative Perspective**

09/01: Aboriginal Australia

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 1-34

09/03: Convict Australia and the Colonies Before Home Rule

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 35-85

09/08: Home Rule, Gold Rush, and Progress

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 86-121

09/10: Federation and Independence

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 122-155

09/15: World War I, the Hard Interwar Years, and World War II

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 156-199

09/17: "The Lucky Country"

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 200-242

09/22: Constitutional Crisis and the Competition for Political Power

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 243-301

09/24: Review of Part I: Taking Stock of Australia's History and Prospects

Read: Macintyre, Concise History, 302-308

09/29: FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION

### **Part II: Australia's Political Institutions, Politics, and Public Policies\***

10/01 Constitution and Parliament

Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 3-4

10/06: Executive Government and the Public Service

Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 5-6

10/08: Federalism and the High Court

Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 7-8

\* Reading assignments for Part II may change when the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of Parkin et al. arrives if its organization differs from the 8<sup>th</sup> edition.

10/13: Student identifications of research paper topics with 1-2 page description of the topic due at this class meeting.

10/15: Political Parties and the Electoral System  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 9-10

10/20: The Main Parties: Liberals and Labor  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 11-12

10/22: The Other Parties and Voting Patterns  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 13-15

10/27: Leaders and Principal Interest Groups  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 16-18

10/29: Media, Elites, and Feminists  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 19-21

11/03: Review of Part II

11/05: SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION

### **Part III: Domestic and Foreign Policies and Dilemmas\***

11/10: Economy and Taxation  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 22-23

11/12: Welfare and Health  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 24-25

11/17: Indigenous Affairs and Environment  
Read: Parkin, GPPPA, Chaps. 26-27

11/19: The Australia-US Alliance Today  
No reading assigned

11/24: Defense Policy  
No reading assigned

11/26: Thanksgiving holiday

12/01: The Rudd Government's Achievements, Setbacks, and Prospects  
No reading assigned

12/03: Course summary and evaluation. Research papers due at this class meeting.

\* It is anticipated that students will be working intensively on their research paper during this last part of the course and that many papers will be dealing with topics canvassed in it.

## Supplementary Readings, Media, and Website Sources

James Jupp, ed. *The Australian People. An Encyclopedia of the Nation, Its People and Their Origins*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2001

James Jupp and John Nieuwenhuysen, eds., *Social Cohesion in Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2007.

J.D. McCausland et al., eds., *The Other Special Relationship: The U.S. and Australia at the Start of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, 2007. (This text can be accessed online at [www.StrategicStudiesInstitute.army.mil](http://www.StrategicStudiesInstitute.army.mil))

*Australian Journal of Political Science*. Published quarterly, this is the principal political science outlet in Australia. It can be obtained in the PCL serials section and online via the link to the publisher, Taylor & Francis: [www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/caip](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/caip)

Principal daily Australian newspapers and broadcasters:

*The Australian* (published by Rupert Murdoch's News Limited Corp.):  
[www.theaustralian.news.com.au/](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/)

*The Australian Financial Review* (online subscription required): [www.afr.com.au/](http://www.afr.com.au/)

*The Sydney Morning Herald*: [www.smh.com.au/](http://www.smh.com.au/)

*The Canberra Times*: [www.canberra.yourguide.com.au/](http://www.canberra.yourguide.com.au/)

*Special Broadcasting Service* (SBS): [www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au/](http://www.worldnewsaustralia.com.au/)

*The Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (ABC): [www.abc.net.au/](http://www.abc.net.au/)

### Some Other Useful Books

David Carter. *Dispossession, Dreams & Diversity. Issues in Australian Studies*. Sydney: Pearson/Longman, 2006.

Richard Eccleston, Paul Williams, and Robyn Hollander. *Foundations of Australian Politics*. Sydney: Pearson/Longman, 2006. (Concise treatment of institutions and parties.)

Wayne Errington, and Peter Van Onselen. *John Winston Howard: The Biography*. Melbourne: Melbourne Univ. Press, 2007. (Authoritative biog. of Australia's second-longest serving prime minister, who was defeated by Kevin Rudd in late 2007).

David M. Farrell, and Ian McAllister. *The Australian Electoral System*. Sydney: Univ. of Sydney Press, 2006. (Authoritative and data-based treatment.)

Robert Hughes. *The Fatal Shore*. New York: Vintage, 2003. (Classic account of the British settlement of Australia.)

Graham Maddox. *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice*. Sydney: Pearson/Longman, 2005 (5<sup>th</sup> edition). (One of the other principal textbooks on Australian politics.)

Jason L. Pierce. *Inside the Mason Court: The High Court of Australia Transformed*. Durham NC: Carolina Academic Press, 2006 (Pierce is a Ph.D. graduate of UT-Austin now chairing the Dept. of Political Science at Univ. of Dayton and his book, a substantial revision of his doctoral dissertation, has stirred a fair amount of controversy in Australia.)

Marian Sawer. *A Woman's Place. Women and Politics in Australia*. Sydney: Allen & Unwin (successive editions since 1984).

Greg Sheridan. *The Partnership: The Inside Story of the US-Australian Alliance Under Bush and Howard*. Sydney: New South Books, 2006. (Strongly conservative and pro-U.S. treatment based on privileged access to Howard and Bush foreign policymakers.)

David E. Smith. *The Republican Option in Canada*. Toronto: Toronto Univ. Press, 1999 (Compares the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand monarchical forms of government and how they might be changed to republican forms.)

Frank Welsh. *Australia: A New History of the Great Southern Land*. New York: Overlook Press, 2004. (A more detailed alternative to Macintyre's concise history.)

### Some Possible Research Paper Topics

Aspects of Australia's climate change crisis, e.g., large hole in the ozone over Australia, increasingly dire droughts and bush fires, record high temperatures in the Outback.

Australia's effort, unsuccessful so far, to adopt a carbon emissions cap and trade system; its preparations for the December world meeting in Copenhagen on climate change. (On a per capita basis Australia is one of the world's principal carbon emitters.)

A whole range of topics dealing with the indigenous peoples: the pivotal 1992 *Mabo* land rights High Court case and successive cases; Rudd's January 2008 "apology" for past injustices, such as the "Stolen Generations" travesty; the Howard (and Rudd) government interventions in the Northern Territory to reduce alcoholism, drugs, and abusive behavior among Aboriginals living there; the politics swirling around government-sponsored bodies that have some political authority over indigenous peoples; the late 1960's "Freedom Rides" that aped the US civil rights movement; and in general, aspects of the continued deprivations and disadvantages suffered by the indigenous peoples.

A whole range of topics dealing with Australia's immigration policies and practices. The country is one of the world's principal receivers of immigrants and has been so throughout its history. Its current policies for assessing immigration applications are among the most successful in the world. Its advantage of having no land border with other countries is important, yet illegal "boat people" continue to arrive or try to land in Australia via Indonesia. There are related issues about how recent immigrants settle and where, conflicts between

them and longer-settled immigrant and other local communities, the success or failure of assimilation and/or multicultural policies devised to integrate immigrants, and so on.

Australia's controversial military involvements in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Australia has now withdrawn from Iraq but is boosting its force in Afghanistan.

Australia's booming trade with China, Japan, and other East and Southeast Asian countries, and/or Australia's increasing involvements in regional security arrangements.

Should or must Australia "go nuclear" for energy? It possesses some 40% of the world's known uranium deposits, for example.

Striking similarities between Australia and Texas as regards population sizes, topographies, energy-based economies, "frontier" cultural legacies, water shortages, droughts, etc.

Australia's pressing water crisis and government efforts to deal with it.

The "republic question" and whether the Rudd government will resurrect it (after a republic was rejected in a 1999 referendum) and in what form.

Australia's public/private health care system and whether it might be a model for the U.S., how it differs from Canada's public/private system, Britain's NHS, etc.

Anti-American attitudes during the Bush administration years and whether these are abating with the Obama administration's advent.

Transformation of Australia's parliamentary and prime ministerial political system into a de facto "presidential" system or into what Max Weber termed a "leader democracy".

Heated issues of religion and church-state relations (Australian governments support sectarian religious schools), not least in light of growing conflicts over Muslim practices and demands (roughly 300,000 Muslims now live in Australia).

Plenty of topics concerning the treatment and situation of women in Australian history, the highly active feminist movements of the past 30 or so years, the entrance of women into parliaments and top government positions, the academic and business worlds, etc., the position women's movements take on such things as abortion, equal pay, maternal/parental leave and many other issues that pertain especially to women.

