

GOV 365N: Politics in Australia (Unique 38813)

Dr. Evans Case, Fall 2012

Class Meetings: T/TH 9:30-11:00AM @ WAG 214

Office Hours: T/TH 11:00 AM-12:30 PM @ BAT 4.150

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Australia is the principal democratic, economic, and military power in the Southwest Pacific. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples inhabited the continent and its surrounding islands for some 50,000 years before Europeans arrived. In 1788, British colonization began with establishment a penal colony near present-day Sydney. Six distinct colonies federated voluntarily in 1901 to form the Commonwealth of Australia. Today, the country boasts a multi-ethnic population of 22 million, dispersed unevenly across a landmass nearly the size of the lower 48 US states. It has served as a key US ally since World War II. While Australia retains special ties to Britain and the US, it has become an important economic and political actor in the Asia Pacific region, with strong trading links to China, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, the Philippines, and, increasingly, India. This course will (1) provide a succinct overview of Australia's history and constitutional development; (2) examine the country's political institutions and party politics; and (3) consider distinct opportunities and challenges that Australia faces across a range of domestic and foreign policy areas, including energy, trade, immigration, welfare, and issues concerning its Indigenous population.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Exams: There will be three exams worth a total of 90% of the final course grade. The first two exams will consist mainly of short-answer, multiple-choice, and true-or-false questions. The final exam will be cumulative and administered during the final examination period. In addition to short-answer, multiple-choice, and true-or-false questions, it will also include essay questions. **Failure to take any of the exams without a University-approved excuse will automatically result in a failing grade.**

<i>Course Requirement</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Exam 1	25%	Thursday, October 4
Exam 2	25%	Thursday, November 8
Exam 3	40%	Tuesday, December 18 (9:00 AM-12:00 PM)
Class Participation	10%	All Semester

Class Participation: Attendance and participation will determine the remaining 10% of the course grade. I will be on time and prepared for each class. I expect the same from you. If you are late for class, expect to get called on, a lot. Being "prepared for class" means that you have read and engaged the assigned materials. Participation, therefore, includes *consistently* answering questions in class (expect to be randomly called upon). It also includes asking questions in class that indicate that you've engaged the assigned material. Students who add the course late are nonetheless responsible for all of the material set forth on this syllabus. This grade is for *participation* not *attendance*. Perfect attendance without participation will earn you a below-average participation grade. Poor attendance and voluminous participation, regardless of its quality, will earn you a below-average grade. Your participation grade will be based upon the professor's evaluation of your performance. Is this subjective? Yes, but as a professional educator I am qualified to make this assessment. More than three non-university-approved absences from the date upon which you are formally enrolled in the course will adversely affect your participation grade.

Grading Scale: Plus and minus grades will be used for final course grades. Letter grades will be assigned based upon the standard ten-point grading scale. Note: A= Excellent; B = Good; C = Average; D = Barely Passed; F = Failed. All grades, including the final course grade, will be rounded up only if the grade is within .5 of the next letter grade. Thus, an 89.5 would be rounded up, whereas an 89.4 would not.

Extra Credit: Don't ask; there will be none.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

You are expected to complete all of the assigned reading prior to the class meeting. We will use two books: (1) Stuart Macintyre, *A Concise History of Australia*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2009) and (2) Dennis Woodward, John Summers, and Andrew Parkin, eds., *Government, Politics and Policy in Australia*, 9th ed. (Pearson/Longman Publishers, 2010). Additional readings, particularly but not exclusively for the final third of the course, will be posted on Blackboard (BB). Students will be advised via email when this occurs. For this reason, you are expected to regularly check your UT email account and possess competent BB usage skills.

Because I will refer in class to current political events in Australia, you will be expected to read an Australian news source on a regular basis. *The Australian* serves as the country's major national newspaper and can be accessed online for a small fee (<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/>). Both the *Sydney Morning Herald* (<http://www.smh.com.au/>) and the (Melbourne) *Age* (<http://www.theage.com.au/>) provide free access to their online content. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation also serves as a reliable source of news (without charge) (<http://www.abc.net.au/>).

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

Use of Laptops and Other Electronic Devices: Classroom laptop use for taking notes related to this course only. Laptop activities unrelated to this course will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). Repeat offenders will result in a filing of a report of academic problems. All other electronic devices (cell phones, Blackberry, iphone, etc.) must be turned off during class. Any use of these devices, including texting, web surfing, etc. will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). Repeat offenders will result in a filing of a report of academic problems.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education at UT; therefore, I will not tolerate acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify. Should I determine that an academic integrity violation has taken place, I will follow the University's formal process for dealing with such matters. You are expected to be familiar with the UT Honor Code: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>. I am a former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the State of Ohio. Do not give me a reason to slip back into prosecutorial mode.

The Professional Environment: I expect to be addressed in person as either "Dr. Evans Case" or "Professor Evans Case." I will personally address you by your own preferred name. Do not share with me explanations for your poor performance. You either come to class or you don't; you either do the work as outlined herein or you don't. Any reasons why you fail to come to class or fail to perform the required work at an acceptable level are irrelevant. You will receive the grade that *you earn*. Spare me the details of your lives. I will extend the same professional courtesy to you.

Email Policy: The text of your email should be addressed to either "Dr. Evans Case" or "Professor Evans Case." It should clearly state the nature of your inquiry, and it should contain your name as it appears on the course roster. All email correspondence concerning this class will occur through Blackboard, which means that my emails to you will be automatically sent to your official UT email address. Therefore, you should know your official UT email address,

and as a matter of practice, you should check your account regularly. I have endeavored to make this syllabus as thorough and clear as possible. Before emailing me with questions about the course, review the syllabus. It will likely contain the answer that you seek. Substantive questions about the course material will only be answered in class (where they are especially welcomed) or during my office hours; I will not respond to these types of questions by email.

Make-Up Exams: Just get yourself to the exams, and save us both the hassle. Make-up exams will be considered only under exceptional circumstances and will require written documentation of the excuse proffered. All make-up exams will be scheduled for a single date and time; at the professor's discretion, they may not follow the same format as the exam administered to the class. There will be no departure from the printed schedule of final examinations. Changes for individual emergencies of a serious nature will be made only with the approval of the instructor, the chair of the department or dean of the school involved, and the dean of undergraduate studies. The department chair or school dean will, if a serious emergency is believed to exist, forward a written request to the assistant vice chancellor for academic advising setting forth the nature of the emergency. A student who is absent from an examination without excuse will be given a grade of zero. An incomplete (I) will be given in the case of a student absent from the final examination who has presented a satisfactory excuse to the instructor or an official university excuse.

Classroom Behavior: It's important that we have a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, and we all share the responsibility for creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Here are some guidelines for classroom behavior: (1) be on time to class; (2) packing up your things early is disruptive to others around you and to the instructor; (3) classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing; and (4) any discussion from class that continues on any listserv or class discussion list should adhere to these same rules and expectations. Touching your phone during an exam will result in a failing grade.

Accommodations for Religious Holidays and Students with Disabilities: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least 14 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, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, (512) 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction

08/30: Australia's Geography and Peoples
No reading assignment

09/04: Australia's Main Political Features and Current Political Scene
No reading assignment

PART I: Australia's History in Comparative Perspective

In order to guide your reading of the Macintyre book, discussion questions for each class meeting are posted in the "Assignments" folder on Blackboard. You are expected to bring the book with you to class each day and arrive prepared to discuss your answers to these questions.

09/06: Australia's Origins

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 1-34

09/11: Convict Australia and the Colonies before Home Rule

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 35-85

09/18: Federation and Independence

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 122-155

09/20: World War I, the Hard Interwar Years, and World War II

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 156-199

09/25: “The Lucky Country”

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 200-242

09/27: Constitutional Crisis and the Competition for Political Power

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 243-301

10/02: Review of Part I: Taking Stock of Australia’s History and Prospects

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, pp. 302-308

10/04: FIRST EXAMINATION

PART II: Political Institutions, Politics, and Public Policies

There are no discussion questions for this material.

10/09: Constitution and Parliament

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 3-4

10/11: Executive Government and the Public Service

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 5-6

10/16: Federalism and the High Court

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 7-8

10/18: Political Parties and the Electoral System

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 9-10

10/23: The Main Parties: Liberals and Labor

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 11-12

10/25: The Other Parties and Voting Patterns

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 13-15

10/30: Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Government-Business Relations

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 18-19

11/01: Media and Feminist Power

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 20-21

11/06: Review of Part II

11/08: SECOND EXAMINATION

PART III: 21st Century Public Policy Challenges

11/13: Economic, Tax, and Welfare Policy

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 23-24

11/15: Immigration and Refugee Policy Issues

Read: TBA

11/20: The Health Care System

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPA*, Chap. 25

11/22: Thanksgiving Day: No Class

11/27: Energy and Environmental Policy Issues

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPA*, Chap. 27

11/29: The Australia-US Alliance Today

Read: TBA

12/04: Indigenous Policy Issues

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPA*, Chap. 26

12/06: Course Summary and Evaluation

**FINAL EXAM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18
9:00 AM-12:00 PM**