

## Gov 365N: Politics in Australia Fall 2010

Instructor: Professor John Higley, Director, Center for Australian & New Zealand Studies  
Unique #: 38655  
Time & Place: TTH 3:30-5:00p, BUR 130  
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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 22 million dispersed across a continent nearly the size of the lower US 48 states, Australia has been a key US ally 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 political development, this course focuses on contemporary Australian government institutions, party politics, and major public policy domains. The course seeks to broaden students' comprehension of Australia, the world region in which it is located, as well as sharpen their recognition of America's unique political history and institutions.

Requirements: (1) **Two in-class hour examinations**, 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, politics, public policies, or international relations, perhaps compared/contrasted with those of the U.S., **and due at the last class meeting on December 2, 1010. 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. The instructor reserves the right to curve grades in order to achieve a reasonable overall grade profile for the course. Though voluntary, attendance at lectures will be crucial for examination and research paper performance, and to encourage attendance PowerPoint slides used in lectures will not be posted on Blackboard.

Texts (on 24-hour Reserve in PCL):

Stuart Macintyre, *A Concise History of Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009 (3<sup>nd</sup> edition).

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

## 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**

08/26: Introduction: Australia's Geography and Peoples

08/31: Introduction (cont.): Australia's Main Political Features; Outcome of the Parliamentary Elections held on August 21, 2010

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

09/02 Aboriginal Australia

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

09/07: Convict Australia and the Colonies Before Home Rule

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

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

Read: Macintyre, *Concise History*, 86-121

09/14: Federation and Independence

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

09/16: World War I, the Hard Interwar Years, and World War II

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

09/21: "The Lucky Country"

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

09/23: Constitutional Crisis and the Competition for Political Power

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

09/28: Review of Part I: Taking Stock of Australia's History and Prospects

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

09/30: FIRST HOUR EXAMINATION

## Part II: Political Institutions, Politics, and Public Policies

10/05 Constitution and Parliament

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 3-4, 50-96

10/07: Executive Government and the Public Service

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 5-6, 97-139

10/12: Federalism and the High Court

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 7-8, 140-184

**Student nomination of a research paper topic with 1-2 page description the topic and likely research plan due at this class meeting. The instructor will provide feedback and suggestions more or less immediately.**

10/14: Political Parties and the Electoral System

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 9-10, 185-209

10/19: The Main Parties: Liberals and Labor

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 11-12, 210-248

10/21,: The Other Parties and Voting Patterns

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 13-15, 249-300

10/26: Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Government-Business Relations

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 18-19, 335-373

10/28: Media and Feminist Power

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 20-21, 374-414

11/02: Economic, Tax, and Welfare Policy

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPPA*, Chaps. 23-24, 417-449

11/04: The Health Care System

Read: Woodward et al, *GPPA*, Chap. 25, 451-477

11/09: Review of Part II

11/11: SECOND HOUR EXAMINATION

### **Part III: Additional Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues\***

11/11: Immigration Policy

11/16: Water Scarcity and Environmental Issues

11/18: The Australia-US Alliance Today

11/23: No class scheduled, but if students desire it a class will be held

11/25: Thanksgiving Day

11/30: Other Dilemmas Confronting the New Federal Government

12/02: Course summary and evaluation. **Research papers due at this class meeting. Papers received after this date will be penalized by the subtraction of a full letter grade.**

**\* It is expected that students will be working intensively on research papers during these last weeks of the semester, so no readings are assigned for Part III.**

#### **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/)

#### **Annotated Supplementary Readings**

John Higley, Desley Deacon, and Don Smart. *Elites in Australia*. New York: Routledge, 1979. A book now well out of date, but still the only wide-ranging study of Australia elites that has been conducted.

John Higley, John Nieuwenhuysen, and Stine Neerup. Eds., *Nations of Immigrants: Australia and the USA Compared*. Cheltenham UK: Edward Elgar Publishers, 2010. Takes stock of the two countries' massive immigration intakes between the early 1990s and the onset of economic crisis in 2008. A follow-up volume analyzing immigration to both countries during

the “harder times” that have ensued will be published early in 2011 by the same editors and publisher.

James Jupp, ed. *The Australian People. An Encyclopedia of the Nation, Its People and Their Origins*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2001. This is a comprehensive overview of all ethnic and racial groups, concentrating extensively on Aborigines, in modern Australia.

James Jupp and John Nieuwenhuysen, eds., *Social Cohesion in Australia*. Cambridge Univ. Press, 2007. A useful set of articles looking at multiculturalism and its effects.

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). This canvases the two countries policy actions and dilemmas in the Asia Pacific region as of the mid-2000s.

*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)

Graham Maddox. *Australian Democracy in Theory and Practice*. New York and Melbourne: Pearson Longman 2005 (5<sup>th</sup> edition). An alternative, but less up-to-date, text to the Woodward et al text assigned in this course.

Frank Welsh. *Australia: A New History of the Great Southern Land*. New York: Overlook Press, 2006. At 720 pages, this is a considerably less concise history than Macintyre’s, assigned in this course.

Narelle Miragliotta, Wayne Errington, and Nicholas Barry. *The Australian Political System in Action*. Melbourne: University of Oxford Press. Concentrates on the constitutional structure and political party system, with little attention to policy domains.

Richard Eccleston, Paul Williams, and Robyn Hollander. *Foundations of Australian Politics*. Also covers the constitutional and party systems but includes overviews of interest groups, voting patterns, and the media.

David M. Farrell and Ian McAllister. *The Australian Electoral System: Origins, Variations and Consequences*. Sydney: University of New South Wales Press, 2006. An authoritative but reasonably succinct analysis of the complex federal and state electoral systems.

Robert Hughes. *The Fatal Shore*. New York: Vintage, 1987/2003. The now classic account of British settlement of Australia.

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. Sawer is generally regarded as the principal political scientist  
working on women in Australian politics.

Greg Sheridan. *The Partnership: The Inside Story of the US-Australian Alliance Under Bush  
and Howard*. Sydney: New South Books, 2006. A 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.

David Savoie. *Power: Where Is It?* Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010. A just-  
published book by a leading Canadian scholar arguing that representative democracy in the  
Anglo-American countries – Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, and the U.S. – is but a  
shadow of its former self, with politics having become a soap opera that systematically dupes  
voters and with power nowadays concentrated not in parliaments and legislatures, but in  
presidents, prime ministers, and a few “star” business leaders.

### **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, abandoned by the Rudd Government in April 2010, to adopt a carbon  
emissions cap and trade system, following the shambolic summit meeting in Copenhagen on  
climate change last December. (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; Kevin 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.

Another 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 has boosted 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 The gigantic Gorgon Gas Project off Western Australia is worth an assessment.

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 it will at some point be resurrected after transition to 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 have abated since the Obama administration's ascendance.

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" (see the annotated reference above to the new book by David Savoie).

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 pugnacious 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.