



UNSW
SYDNEY

Australia's
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University



SOSS1000

Policy and Society

Term One // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
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School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Morven Brown C20

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject areas: Social Research & Policy

This course can also be studied in the following specialisations: Criminology and Social Work

This course explores the nature of the applied social sciences and provides information about how social science can be applied to real world problems. You will be introduced to ideas about the role and use of evidence in decision-making and policy-making at local, national and international levels. We also investigate how policy is developed, changed, implemented and evaluated in applied social science domains such as social policy, public policy, criminal justice and social work. We will also discuss the practical, political and ethical problems encountered in the communication of research and expertise to inform policy and social change.

The course introduces students to key ideas, debates and issues within the social sciences in relationship to policy and practice. We develop key strategies and skills that students can apply to particular areas of employment in the key areas of public and social policy, social work and criminal justice. A series of real-world policy case studies highlighting current research will be used to illustrate the connections between policy, practice and current debates.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Apply cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise knowledge pertinent to applied social science disciplines such as Social Research and Policy, Criminology and Social Work
2. Demonstrate an ability to adapt and use disciplinary knowledge and research skills in applied social science contexts
3. Use initiative and judgement in applied scholarship in Social Research and Policy, Criminology and Social Work
4. Interpret and communicate research findings to different audiences applicable to the applied social sciences

Teaching Strategies

We see UNSW student learners as participants in the production of knowledge and we pursue the implementation of a curriculum responsive to each student's individual needs. The design of this course is motivated by a desire to foster the skills of independent learning and critical thinking.

There are three main types of structured learning activity in this course, supplementing independent study (reading, note-taking, research):

1. LECTURES

This course consists of weekly large-group lectures, which may include the presentation of video clips, group activities and group discussions. The lectures are designed to be participatory and engaging supplementing independent study in the course that encourages close engagement with weekly

readings.

2. TUTORIALS

Tutorials allow students to discuss theoretical approaches, ask questions, further interrogate concepts and issues arising from their independent study. Tutorials also provide students with the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with their peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, formal and informal debates, quizzes and mini-projects.

3. INDEPENDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Independent learning activities must be completed each week. The learning activities are designed to foster independent study and to allow for engagement with different tasks that cannot be undertaken in a tutorial environment, such as conducting online research or watching a film. Students will also undertake fieldwork by observing and reporting on real-life policy making. Activities are will be explained and will mostly be facilitated by the University Learning Management System.

Assessment

Please see AIMS for detailed assessment information.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Minor Essay	30%	13/03/2020 04:00 PM	1,3
Major Essay	50%	28/04/2020 04:00 PM	2,4
Fieldwork Report	20%	24/04/2020 04:00 PM	2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Minor Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 1,200 words

Details: Students submit a short essay of 1,200 words on the content of the first set of lectures. This essay allows students to explore the issues in greater detail. Students will be provided with written feedback alongside a marking rubric on their submitted work. Assessments will be marked and returned within 10 working days.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Major Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 2,200

Details: Student submit a long essay of 2,200 words. Essay questions will be made available in class and online. This essay allows students to explore key issues in greater detail. Students will be provided with written feedback alongside a marking rubric on their submitted work. Assessments will be marked and returned within 10 working days.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Fieldwork Report

Start date:

Length: 600 words

Details: Students submit a 600 word fieldwork report. This is done after watching a local government meeting (either in person or online), and analysing the proceedings. The report will allow students to apply the theory learnt in the course to the real world of policy making. Students will be provided with written feedback alongside a marking rubric on their submitted work. Assessments will be marked and returned within 10 working days.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 17 February - 21 February	Lecture	Introduction to Key Concepts and Study Skills
Week 2: 24 February - 28 February	Lecture	Making Public Policy and the Role of Stakeholder
Week 3: 2 March - 6 March		Public Policy, Democratic Values and Liberalism
Week 4: 9 March - 13 March	Lecture	Ideology, Power and Public Policy
Week 5: 16 March - 20 March	Lecture	Evidence-based Policy
Week 7: 30 March - 3 April	Lecture	Case Study 1 (public policy and criminology)
Week 8: 6 April - 10 April	Lecture	Case Study 2 (public policy and social work)
Week 10: 20 April - 24 April	Lecture	Case Study 3 (public policy and social policy)
Week 11: 27 April - 28 April	Lecture	Course Revision and Public Policy in Practice

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All readings will be available digitally via Leganto, which can be found in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

All readings will be available digitally via Leganto, which can be found in Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

We use your feedback to update our lecture topics and assessments.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

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