



UNSW
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SRAP5018

Power, Politics and Policy

Term Three // 2020

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Siobhan O'Sullivan	siobhan.osullivan@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange a meeting time.	126, Morven Brown	9385 0689

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course asks you to engage with the central question "What is the role of the state in people's lives?" It considers the politics of public policy: that is, the powers, players, interests and approaches that shape policy making, implementation, and evaluation.

We begin from the understanding that policy-making is political in nature because the distribution of power among and between the groups and individuals involved is unequal. Therefore, as we study policy making as a political process we highlight the fact that making policy involves conflict and cooperation; struggles for power, influence and authority; and includes groups and individuals both inside and outside government.

The course will examine both the problems and methods of decision-making in the modern state from the perspective of a range of differently situated 'policy workers'. We will explore a range of ideological, analytical and theoretical approaches to public policy along with problems of participation and implementation. Fundamentally, the course is concerned with the power of the state and the exercise of that power in people's lives through the creation and implementation of public policy.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique issues to do with the creation, implementation and analysis of public policy.
2. Engage in debates concerning the role of non-state actors in the policy process.
3. Identify a range of key theoretical approaches to power and politics in public policy making and discuss them in relation to the role of the state.
4. Demonstrate skills in undertaking fieldwork and reporting on field observations.
5. Demonstrate skills in conducting research, constructing an argument, and writing persuasively.

Teaching Strategies

Students taking this course will attend regular two-hour seminars, as well as undertaking some learning online in blended mode. Students will also undertake approximately 8-10 hours of independent study per week. The seminars will be largely student-led, including a short introduction/mini-lecture from the course convenor, a student-led discussion, and a weekly exercise that will vary depending on the subject for that week. The course will also use a web-based virtual learning environment to support the classroom seminar experience. The course also features a fieldwork component in which students attend a local government meeting, report their observations, and relate them to the course themes.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research essay outline	30%	16/10/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3,5
Fieldwork report	20%	20/11/2020 04:00 PM	4
Research essay	50%	25/11/2019 04:00 PM	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research essay outline

Start date:

Length: 1,500 words

Details:

Students are required to produce a 1,500 word research essay outline. The outline will demonstrate how the student is approaching the research essay, including themes, case studies and literatures selected. Students will receive written feedback and a standard UNSW grade on this assignment

Additional details:

Please see Moodle for additional information.

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

Assessment 2: Fieldwork report

Start date:

Length: 500 words

Details:

Students are required to attend a local government meeting, either in person or by watching it online. Following the meeting they are required to complete the submit a fieldwork report of about 500 words in length. The report links their observations to the course theory.

Additional details:

Please see Moodle for details.

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

Assessment 3: Research essay

Start date:

Length: 3,000 words

Details:

Students are required to produce a 3,000 word research essay that develops a cohesive and persuasive argument addressing the core themes and issues of the course in relation to a specified policy domain.

Students will receive written feedback and a standard UNSW grade on this assignment. This is the final assessment for the purpose of the attendance requirement.

Additional details:

Please see Moodle for additional information.

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
O Week: 8 September - 9 September	Reading	The Moodle site will be available from this time so you can start your doing your readings for the term.
Week 1: 14 September - 18 September	Seminar	The ideal type: how <i>should</i> policy be made in a liberal democracy? Case study: childhood obesity – where does power lie?
Week 2: 21 September - 25 September	Seminar	Policy, power and the role of the state.
Week 3: 28 September - 2 October	Seminar	Australian federalism and its impact on policy making.
Week 4: 5 October - 9 October	Seminar	The bureaucracy and its impact on policy making.
Week 5: 12 October - 16 October	Seminar	The third sector and its impact on policy making.
Week 6: 19 October - 23 October	Seminar	Corporations and their impact on policy making.
Week 7: 26 October - 30 October	Seminar	Welfare-to-work Case Study 1.
Week 8: 2 November - 6 November	Seminar	Welfare-to-work Case Study 2.
Week 9: 9 November - 13 November	Seminar	Welfare-to-work Case Study 3.
Week 10: 16 November - 20 November	Seminar	Power and Politics in practice: your observations from the field. Course revision and summary.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Students will have weekly reading to complete before each class. Details of the readings can be found in Leganto, within Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is used to further develop the teaching and assessment for this course.

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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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.