



UNSW
SYDNEY

School of Social Sciences
UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture

SRAP5018

Power, Politics and Policy

Term 3, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Diana Perche	diana.perche@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange a meeting time.	Room 138, Morven Brown	

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

email: soss@unsw.edu.au

phone: 02 9385 1807

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 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

Please use the SOSS Referencing Guide for referencing in your assessment tasks.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Research essay outline	30%	09/10/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 5
2. Fieldwork report	20%	30/10/2022 11:59 PM	4
3. Research essay	50%	25/11/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment 1: Research essay outline

Assessment length: 1,500 words

Due date: 09/10/2022 11:59 PM

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

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

Additional details

Please see Moodle for additional information.

Assessment 2: Fieldwork report

Assessment length: 500 words

Due date: 30/10/2022 11:59 PM

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.

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

Additional details

Please see Moodle for details.

Assessment 3: Research essay

Assessment length: 3,000 words

Due date: 25/11/2022 11:59 PM

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.

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

Additional details

Please see Moodle for additional information.

Attendance Requirements

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Authority to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 12 September - 16 September	Seminar	Power and public policy: How <i>should</i> policy be made in a liberal democracy? Who has power?
Week 2: 19 September - 23 September	Seminar	Institutions and public policy: The Australian Constitution, federalism, parliamentary democracy, elections and policy making.
Week 3: 26 September - 30 September	Seminar	Ideology and public policy: what is the 'proper role of government'?
Week 4: 3 October - 7 October	Seminar	Actors: Politicians, parties and their impact on policy making.
Week 5: 10 October - 14 October	Seminar	Case Study 1: The 2022 Federal Election and public policy
Week 6: 17 October - 21 October	Seminar	Actors and institutions: The bureaucracy and its impact on policy making.
Week 7: 24 October - 28 October	Seminar	Actors: The third sector and its impact on policy making.
Week 8: 31 October - 4 November	Seminar	Actors: Corporations and their impact on policy making.
Week 9: 7 November - 11 November	Seminar	Case Study 2: From the Grim Reaper to 'Ending HIV' - the policy response to HIV/AIDS in Australia
Week 10: 14 November - 18 November	Seminar	Review: Politics, power, and governance

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Students will have weekly reading to complete before each class. All readings will be provided electronically through the UNSW Library's Leganto system, within Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended readings are provided through the UNSW Library's Leganto system.

Additional resources are provided on Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is used to further develop the teaching and assessment for this course. You are welcome to provide feedback to the convenor during the term, and you will be asked to complete the formal evaluation through a MyExperience survey at the end of term.

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 externaleltsupport@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, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Image Credit

Photo by Marvin Meyer on Unsplash

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G