SOSS1000

Policy and Society

Term One // 2021

School of Social Sciences // UNSW Arts and Social Sciences

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Diana Perche	diana.perche@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment.	Morven Brown, Office 138	Contact via Teams

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alison Wannan	a.wannan@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment.		

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 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 Moodle for detailed assessment information, including marking criteria.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Minor Essay	30%	12/03/2021 05:00 PM	1, 3
Fieldwork Report	20%	09/04/2021 05:00 PM	2, 3
Major Essay	50%	30/04/2021 05:00 PM	2, 4

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.

Additional details:

Essay questions will be posted on Moodle.

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

Assessment 2: Fieldwork Report

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.

Additional details:

Instructions for the fieldwork task will be provided in class and on Moodle.

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

Assessment 3: 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.

Additional details:

Essay questions will be available on Moodle.

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: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	

Resources

Prescribed Resources

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

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:

- 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 communitv

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/

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Parliamentary triangle, Canberra. Photo by D Perche

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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.