

SOSS1000

Policy and Society

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Diana Perche	diana.perche@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment.	Morven Brown, Level 1, Room 138	Contact via Teams

Lecturers

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Dr Alison Wannan	a.wannan@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment	Morven Brown, Level 1, Room 134	Contact via Teams

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Room 159

Morven Brown C20

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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

How does social science help us to solve problems in the real world? In this course, you will discover how public policy is formulated, implemented and evaluated. You will examine the role of power, ideology and interests in shaping policy and explore the types of evidence and research that are used to inform policy decision making. You will consider how individuals and groups can work to bring about change, and how issues make it on to the policy agenda. A series of real-world policy case studies will be used to highlight the connections between current research and policy in a range of domains including social policy, criminal justice, and social work.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the policy process, including the role of stakeholders inside and outside government.
2. Explain the significance of power, ideology and evidence in policy making.
3. Critically interpret social science research and apply it to real-world issues.
4. Use effective communication skills to present a coherent and well-substantiated argument

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.

All written assessments in this course must follow the SOSS Referencing Guide, which is available on Moodle.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Minor Essay	30%	11/03/2022 11:59 PM	2, 4
2. Campaign Report	30%	01/04/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2
3. Major Essay	40%	25/04/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Minor Essay

Assessment length: 1,000 words

Due date: 11/03/2022 11:59 PM

Students will write a short essay of 1000 words which critically analyses a theoretical concept or theme covered in the first set of lectures. Students will be given written feedback based on a marking rubric.

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

Additional details

Further instructions, including the essay question and marking criteria, will be posted on Moodle.

Assessment 2: Campaign Report

Assessment length: 1500 words

Due date: 01/04/2022 11:59 PM

Students will write a short report of 1500 words which evaluates a recent activist campaign aimed at bringing about policy change. A template for the report will be provided.

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

Additional details

Instructions for the campaign report will be provided in class and on Moodle.

Assessment 3: Major Essay

Assessment length: 2,000

Due date: 25/04/2022 11:59 PM

This is a research essay of 2000 words which allows students to explore one of the case studies in

depth, using theoretical concepts covered in the course. Students will be provided with written feedback based on a marking rubric.

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

Additional details

Essay questions will be available on Moodle.

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: 14 February - 18 February	Lecture	Introduction to SOSS1000 Power and politics
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Lecture	Ideology, political parties, and the federal election
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Lecture	Activism, campaigns and the role of interest groups and stakeholders
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Lecture	Making public policy
Week 5: 14 March - 18 March	Lecture	Evidence-based policy and climate change
Week 6: 21 March - 25 March	Reading	Flexibility week - no classes.
Week 7: 28 March - 1 April	Lecture	The changing role of government: key debates
Week 8: 4 April - 8 April	Lecture	Case Study 1: Gendered violence
Week 9: 11 April - 15 April	Lecture	Case Study 2: Drug harm minimisation
Week 10: 18 April - 22 April	Lecture	Case Study 3: Poverty, welfare and social inclusion Review of course

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All readings will be available digitally via Leganto, which is accessible using your UNSW library login. The link can be found in Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Recommended readings will be available digitally via Leganto.

Course Evaluation and Development

We use your feedback to update our lecture topics, readings, tutorial format and assessments. Your feedback will be sought mid-term and also at the end of term, via anonymous surveys.

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 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.

Correct referencing practices

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.)

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.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

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