

SOSS1000

Policy and Society

Term 1, 2023



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	
Dr Naama Carlin	n.carlin@unsw.edu.au	Please email to arrange an appointment	Morven Brown, Level 1	

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Melissa Nyholm	m.nyholm@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

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. Online & Class Participation	15%		1, 2, 4
2. Campaign Report	35%	12/03/2023 11:59 PM	1, 2
3. Major Essay	50%	21/04/2023 11:59 PM	1, 2, 3, 4

Assessment 1: Online and Class Participation

This task is designed to help level 1 students to develop skills and confidence in expressing themselves in front of their peers, both in class and through online discussions on Moodle. Students will be given specific tasks to complete in discussion with their peers in tutorials based on the set readings. The tasks will require students to prepare for class, respond to the set readings, and interact thoughtfully and respectfully with others. In most instances, the tasks will result in an artefact such as short blog post on Moodle, or a contribution to a shared document or whiteboard notes that can be reviewed after class. Tasks are designed to allow for effective participation in both face-to-face and online tutorials.

Students will receive feedback via a marked rubric which will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards. Students will receive formative feedback in week 6 and numerical mark at the end of term.

Assessment 2: Campaign Report

Assessment length: 1500 words

Due date: 12/03/2023 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.

Students will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards

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: 21/04/2023 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.

Students will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within ten working days of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly defined standards

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: 13 February - 17 February	Lecture	Introduction to SOSS1000 Power and politics
Week 2: 20 February - 24 February	Lecture	Ideology, political parties, and the federal election
Week 3: 27 February - 3 March	Lecture	Activism, campaigns and the role of interest groups and stakeholders
Week 4: 6 March - 10 March	Lecture	Making public policy
Week 5: 13 March - 17 March	Lecture	Evidence-based policy
Week 6: 20 March - 24 March	Reading	Flexibility week - no classes.
Week 7: 27 March - 31 March	Lecture	The changing role of government: key debates
Week 8: 3 April - 7 April	Lecture	Case Study 1: Drug policy
Week 9: 10 April - 14 April	Lecture	Case Study 2: Global health and Covid-19
Week 10: 17 April - 21 April	Lecture	Case Study 3: Gender-based violence Review of course
	Assessment	Major Essay

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, 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.

This course outline sets out the description of classes at the date the Course Outline is published. The nature of classes may change during the Term after the Course Outline is published. Moodle should be consulted for the up to date class descriptions. If there is any inconsistency in the description of activities between the University timetable and the Course Outline (as updated in Moodle), the description in the Course Outline/Moodle applies.

Image Credit

Parliamentary triangle, Canberra. Photo by D Perche

CRICOS

CRICOS Provider Code: 00098G