UNSW Course Outline

SRAP5004 Policy, Accountability and Governance - 2024

Published on the 12 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : SRAP5004
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : Multimodal
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Postgraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course examines the mechanisms used to hold policy makers accountable in a democratic system, including administrative law, judicial review, ombudsmen, auditors-general, parliamentary committees, anti-corruption commissions, freedom of information and whistleblower

protections. The course explores different theoretical approaches to accountability and responsibility and applies these to current debates in the Australian context, as well as internationally. The course will also critically assess the reach of accountability mechanisms in the light of recent changes to government service delivery, including outsourcing, contestability and public private partnerships, and consider responsibility and integrity in the context of multi-level governance.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Explain the core concepts of responsibility and accountability and their role within democratic policy-making.
CLO2 : Investigate the role and processes of the key accountability mechanisms at work in the Australian political system.
CLO3 : Apply theories of responsibility and accountability to real-world cases in contemporary Australian policy-making.
CLO4 : Evaluate the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms with respect to the marketisation of government service delivery and the shift to governance.
CLO5 : Critically engage with current debates about democratic responsibility, accountability, participation, and redress in the policy process.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Explain the core concepts of responsibility and accountability and their role within democratic policy-making.	• Opinion Piece • Research Essay
CLO2 : Investigate the role and processes of the key accountability mechanisms at work in the Australian political system.	• Evaluation Report
CLO3 : Apply theories of responsibility and accountability to real-world cases in contemporary Australian policy-making.	• Opinion Piece • Research Essay
CLO4 : Evaluate the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms with respect to the marketisation of government service delivery and the shift to governance.	• Evaluation Report • Research Essay
CLO5 : Critically engage with current debates about democratic responsibility, accountability, participation, and redress in the policy process.	• Opinion Piece • Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Zoom

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Opinion Piece Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	30%	Start Date: 10/06/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 17/06/2024 11:59 PM
Evaluation Report Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	30%	Start Date: 04/07/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 11/07/2024 11:59 PM
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	40%	Start Date: 25/07/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 02/08/2024 11:59 PM

Assessment Details

Opinion Piece

Assessment Overview

This essay asks you to apply your understanding of accountability and responsibility to a current issue being reported in the Australian media. Word limit 1500 words. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the core concepts of responsibility and accountability and their role within democratic policy-making.
- CLO3 : Apply theories of responsibility and accountability to real-world cases in contemporary Australian policy-making.
- CLO5 : Critically engage with current debates about democratic responsibility, accountability, participation, and redress in the policy process.

Detailed Assessment Description

See the Assessment Brief in Moodle for more detailed information

Assessment Length

1000 - 1500 words

Submission notes

Submit via Turnitin

Assessment information

Details about this assessment task will be available on Moodle, along with the marking criteria and rubric.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Evaluation Report

Assessment Overview

For this report, you will identify an integrity agency that is active in the Australian policy context at the federal or state level, investigate its role and processes and evaluate its effectiveness. Word limit 1500 words. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Investigate the role and processes of the key accountability mechanisms at work in the Australian political system.
- CLO4 : Evaluate the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms with respect to the marketisation of government service delivery and the shift to governance.

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see the Assessment Brief on Moodle for more detailed information

Assessment Length

1500 words

Submission notes

Submit via Turnitin

Assessment information

Additional information will be provided in class and on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

For the research essay, you will be asked to apply theories of accountability and responsibility to a specific real-world case study. Details on the essay question will be posted on Moodle. Word limit 3000 words. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Explain the core concepts of responsibility and accountability and their role within democratic policy-making.
- CLO3 : Apply theories of responsibility and accountability to real-world cases in contemporary

Australian policy-making.

- CLO4 : Evaluate the effectiveness of accountability mechanisms with respect to the marketisation of government service delivery and the shift to governance.
- CLO5 : Critically engage with current debates about democratic responsibility, accountability, participation, and redress in the policy process.

Assessment Length

2500 - 3000 words

Submission notes

Submit via Turnitin

Assessment information

Essay questions will be posted on Moodle, along with marking criteria and rubric.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Referencing in this course

The SOSS referencing guide should be used for all assessment tasks in this course, and the guide is available on Moodle.

Permitted use of Generative AI (such as ChatGPT) in assessments in this course: SIMPLE EDITING ASSISTANCE ONLY

For assessment tasks in this course, you may use standard editing and referencing software, but not generative AI. You are permitted to use the full capabilities of the standard software to answer the question (e.g. Microsoft Office suite, Grammarly, etc.). If the use of generative AI such as ChatGPT is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Module	Accountability and responsibility in a democracy
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Module	The Legislature: Parliamentary mechanisms of accountability
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Module	The Executive: mechanisms of accountability in a Westminster system
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Module	The Judiciary: Judicial independence and judicial review
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Module	Administrative law: regulating and reviewing government decision making
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Module	Integrity agencies and the integrity system in Australian jurisdictions
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Module	Whistleblowers and protected disclosures
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Module	The importance of information: FOI and the role of the media
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Module	Royal Commissions and accountability
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Module	The politics of accountability

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required readings will be provided electronically through the Leganto reading list. You will be able to access this through Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Additional resources will be provided through Moodle.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered through formal process including UNSW's myExperience process, and will also be sought through informal surveys and discussion during the term. Student feedback is taken seriously and continual improvements will be made to the course based in part on your feedback.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Lecturer	Georgia Van Toorn		Morven Brown, Room 126		Email for appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

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.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

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

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

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.

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences