



UNSW Course Outline

SOSS2005 Politics and Policy - 2024

Published on the 13 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : SOSS2005

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 : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Politics, power and policy are closely intertwined. Policy making involves a dynamic process that often involves conflict and compromise, and competition over values and interests. This course will equip you to critically analyse the role of the state in defining, controlling, punishing,

supporting and caring for citizens and non-citizens. You will examine the influence of politics on policy making, and engage in interactive and critical discussion on who wins and who loses in the process. You will analyse the party-political context of contemporary policy debates, and consider the impact of elections, parliamentary politics, and partisan and ideological differences. You will use theories of policy change to observe the role of powerful interests and institutions in constraining and enabling genuine participation by affected communities. The course will introduce different models of political representation and engagement that explain whose voices are heard in the policy process, and whose voices are marginalised or stifled. Finally, you will reflect on how citizens hold governments accountable.

Course Learning Outcomes

| Course Learning Outcomes |
|---|
| CLO1 : Critically analyse contemporary policy agenda setting and formulation in terms of power, inequality, and structure and agency. |
| CLO2 : Identify and evaluate the role of political ideology and party politics in contemporary policy debates. |
| CLO3 : Analyse the role of interests and institutions in shaping political decisions that affect specific groups and communities. |
| CLO4 : Explain how citizens hold governments accountable for policy decisions and outcomes in a democratic system. |
| CLO5 : Examine, critically read and synthesize research findings from a range of sources and effectively communicate an argument which is persuasive and substantiated. |

| Course Learning Outcomes | Assessment Item |
|---|---|
| CLO1 : Critically analyse contemporary policy agenda setting and formulation in terms of power, inequality, and structure and agency. | • Research essay |
| CLO2 : Identify and evaluate the role of political ideology and party politics in contemporary policy debates. | • Comparative analysis |
| CLO3 : Analyse the role of interests and institutions in shaping political decisions that affect specific groups and communities. | • Opinion piece • Comparative analysis • Research essay |
| CLO4 : Explain how citizens hold governments accountable for policy decisions and outcomes in a democratic system. | • Opinion piece |
| CLO5 : Examine, critically read and synthesize research findings from a range of sources and effectively communicate an argument which is persuasive and substantiated. | • Comparative analysis • Research essay • Opinion piece |

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Assessments

Assessment Structure

| Assessment Item | Weight | Relevant Dates |
|--|--------|--|
| Comparative analysis Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days) | 30% | Start Date: 17/06/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 24/06/2024 11:59 PM |
| Research essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days) | 40% | Start Date: 11/07/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 18/07/2024 11:59 PM |
| Opinion piece Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days) | 30% | Start Date: 02/08/2024 11:59 PM Due Date: 09/08/2024 11:59 PM |

Assessment Details

Comparative analysis

Assessment Overview

You will compare the key elements of the policy proposals of two different political parties presented at the last election on an issue of your choice, and analyse the political and ideological motivations behind these. Word limit 1200 words. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO2 : Identify and evaluate the role of political ideology and party politics in contemporary policy debates.
- CLO3 : Analyse the role of interests and institutions in shaping political decisions that affect specific groups and communities.
- CLO5 : Examine, critically read and synthesize research findings from a range of sources and effectively communicate an argument which is persuasive and substantiated.

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see Assessment Brief in Moodle for more detailed information

Assessment Length

1200 words

Assessment information

Detailed instructions and the marking rubric are provided on Moodle.

For this assessment task only, you may use standard editing and referencing software, and also 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.). We will use ChatGPT in the Week 3 class to develop the first draft of your report. You will then be expected to fact check the report, and add your own original critical analysis. You will be required to provide the material generated by ChatGPT as an appendix to your report submission. Further details will be provided in class.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Research essay

Assessment Overview

You will choose a social issue and analyse the influence of politics on a real-world policy that relates to this issue. Word limit 2000 words. Details on the essay questions will be shared in class. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Critically analyse contemporary policy agenda setting and formulation in terms of power, inequality, and structure and agency.
- CL03 : Analyse the role of interests and institutions in shaping political decisions that affect specific groups and communities.
- CL05 : Examine, critically read and synthesize research findings from a range of sources and effectively communicate an argument which is persuasive and substantiated.

Detailed Assessment Description

See Assessment brief on Moodle for more information

Assessment Length

2000 words

Assessment information

Detailed instructions and the marking rubric are provided on Moodle.

For this assessment task, 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.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Opinion piece

Assessment Overview

You will write a persuasive piece in the form of an opinion piece, editorial, or blog post exploring issues of government accountability in policy. Word limit 800 words. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. You will receive written feedback within 2 weeks of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO3 : Analyse the role of interests and institutions in shaping political decisions that affect specific groups and communities.
- CLO4 : Explain how citizens hold governments accountable for policy decisions and outcomes in a democratic system.
- CLO5 : Examine, critically read and synthesize research findings from a range of sources and effectively communicate an argument which is persuasive and substantiated.

Detailed Assessment Description

Please see Assessment Brief in Moodle for more detailed information

Assessment Length

800 words

Assessment information

Detailed instructions and the marking rubric are provided in Moodle.

For this assessment task, 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.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

General Assessment Information

For assessment tasks in this course, you should use the SOSS Referencing Guide, which sets out

a simplified Harvard style of referencing. The guide is provided on Moodle.

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

| Teaching Week/Module | Activity Type | Content |
|------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June | Module | Democracy and representation |
| Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June | Module | Elections and electoral systems |
| Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June | Module | Parties and policy |
| Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June | Module | Power, democracy and policy design |
| Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June | Module | Influencing policy |
| Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July | Reading | No classes this week (Flexibility Week) |
| Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July | Module | Case study: Housing Affordability |
| Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July | Module | Case Study: Climate Policy |
| Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July | Module | The politics of prediction: Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and policy |
| Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August | Module | Politics, policy and accountability |

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All required readings will be made available electronically via Leganto, accessible via Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Media and current affairs

You are strongly encouraged to keep up with media coverage of Australian politics while studying this course. Some news media sources that are not paywalled include:

ABC <https://www.abc.net.au/news>

SBS <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/topic/australia>

The Conversation <https://theconversation.com/au>

The Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/au>

News.com.au <https://www.news.com.au/national/politics>

Inside Story <https://insidestory.org.au/>

Michael West Independent Media <https://michaelwest.com.au/>

You may also like to subscribe to daily news digests from some of the media outlets listed above, in addition to

The Monthly's daily political newsletters, Post, and The Politics (subscribe at <https://www.themonthly.com.au/newsletters>)

Background reading

If you are new to studying Australian politics and policy, you may find some of the chapters in this free online textbook helpful.

Barry et al (eds) Australian Politics and Policy, 2023 edition (Sydney University Press) at <https://open.sydneyuniversitypress.com.au/9781743328873.html>

Course Evaluation and Development

Your feedback is very valuable in helping to improve the course for future years. You will be asked to provide informal feedback during the term, and you will be able to provide formal feedback through the MyExperience evaluation at the end of term.

Staff Details

| Position | Name | Email | Location | Phone | Availability | Equitable Learning Services Contact | Primary Contact |
|----------|-------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Lecturer | Georgia van Toorn | | Morven Brown, Room 126 | | Consultation time 2-3pm Thursdays (after the tutorial) or by 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 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

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.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

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](#).

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>