UNSW Course Outline

SRAP5018 Power, Politics and Policy - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : SRAP5018
Year : 2024
Term : Term 3
Teaching Period : T3
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](Class%20Timetable)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course asks you to engage with the central question "What is the role of the state in people's lives?" It considers the politics of public policy: that is, the powers, players, interests and approaches that shape policy making, implementation, and evaluation.

We begin from the understanding that policy-making is political in nature because the distribution of power among and between the groups and individuals involved is unequal. Therefore, as we study policy making as a political process we highlight the fact that making policy involves conflict and cooperation; struggles for power, influence and authority; and includes groups and individuals both inside and outside government.

The course will examine both the problems and methods of decision-making in the modern state from the perspective of a range of differently situated 'policy workers'. We will explore a range of ideological, analytical and theoretical approaches to public policy along with problems of participation and implementation. Fundamentally, the course is concerned with the power of the state and the exercise of that power in people's lives through the creation and implementation of public policy.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique issues to do with the creation, implementation and analysis of public policy.
CLO2 : Engage in debates concerning the role of non-state actors in the policy process.
CLO3 : Identify a range of key theoretical approaches to power and politics in public policy making and discuss them in relation to the role of the state.
CLO4 : Demonstrate skills in undertaking fieldwork and reporting on field observations.
CLO5 : Demonstrate skills in conducting research, constructing an argument, and writing persuasively.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique issues to do with the creation, implementation and analysis of public policy.	• Research essay outline • Research essay
CLO2 : Engage in debates concerning the role of non-state actors in the policy process.	• Research essay outline • Research essay
CLO3 : Identify a range of key theoretical approaches to power and politics in public policy making and discuss them in relation to the role of the state.	• Research essay outline • Research essay
CLO4 : Demonstrate skills in undertaking fieldwork and reporting on field observations.	• Fieldwork report
CLO5 : Demonstrate skills in conducting research, constructing an argument, and writing persuasively.	• Research essay outline

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Fieldwork report Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	20%	Due Date: 01/11/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 15/11/2024 12:00 AM
Research essay outline Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 06/10/2024 11:59 PM
Research essay Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 20/11/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 05/12/2024 12:00 AM

Assessment Details

Fieldwork report

Assessment Overview

Students are required to attend a local government meeting, either in person or by watching it online. Following the meeting they are required to complete the submit a fieldwork report of about 500 words in length. The report links their observations to the course theory.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO4 : Demonstrate skills in undertaking fieldwork and reporting on field observations.

Detailed Assessment Description

SRAP5018 features a fieldwork component. Students must attend, and report on, a local government meeting in NSW. Most councils hold regularly scheduled meetings, allowing in-person attendance at meetings while also streaming them live online. Many also provide recordings that can be watched after the event. Some councils also hold issue-specific meetings that include reporting from different committees. You can choose the type of meeting and attendance format the suits you best.

You must select a local council meeting from any local government area inside the state of New South Wales. You could choose to observe a council meeting in your local area. You may want to select which council you observe based on the quality and accessibility of their online council meetings. If you are not sure of your local government area, you can find out here: https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/find-my-council/

To complete the assessment, please follow these steps:

1. Choose a suitable meeting to watch online.
2. Do the readings for this assessment in Moodle. In particular, I recommend the movie 'Rats in the Ranks'. It is a fascinating insight into local government in Australia.
3. Listen to the short lecture on fieldwork for advice on the fieldwork task.
4. Watch the meeting and take notes.
5. Reflect on the ways in which what you saw in the meeting speaks to the topics under consideration in this course.
6. Download and respond to the questions and prompts from the fieldwork report form provided on Moodle, in your own document. Make sure you identify the question clearly.
7. Upload your report to Turnitin (note the due date).
8. Come to class in Week 8 ready to speak about your observations with your fellow students.

Assessment Length

1000 words

Submission notes

Assignment must be submitted as a Word Document via Turnitin.

Assessment information

Further details will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

Research essay outline

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students are required to produce a 1,500 word research essay outline. The outline will demonstrate how the student is approaching the research essay, including themes, case studies and literatures selected. Students will receive written feedback and a standard UNSW grade on this assignment

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique issues to do with the creation, implementation and analysis of public policy.
- CLO2 : Engage in debates concerning the role of non-state actors in the policy process.
- CLO3 : Identify a range of key theoretical approaches to power and politics in public policy making and discuss them in relation to the role of the state.
- CLO5 : Demonstrate skills in conducting research, constructing an argument, and writing persuasively.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

The research essay outline assignment is designed to get you working on your research essay early and to provide you with feedback to help you write a really outstanding final essay.

The first step is to **choose your essay question**. You must choose ONE of these questions to address:

1. Using a case study of a specific policy, analyze how power dynamics influenced the policy-making process and outcomes. Discuss the power dynamics between different actors and the role of groups such as government officials, interest groups, and non-governmental organizations, in shaping policy outcomes.
2. Investigate how political ideologies influenced policy decisions and outcomes in a particular case study. Choose an example where competing ideologies clashed and discuss how these competing ideologies influenced policy priorities, decision-making processes, and outcomes.
3. Policy networks are a web of relationships between public and private actors who cooperate to address public policy problems. Using this definition, dissect the role of policy networks in one specific case study. How did policy networks form, evolve, and exert influence on policy outcomes? Assess the extent to which these coalitions aligned or diverged in their goals and strategies and their impact on policy making processes and outcomes.

The next step is to **choose your policy case study.** You may choose a case study based on the guidelines below. The guidelines for choosing an appropriate case study are:

- Choose a public policy issue related to one of these broad fields: **health, education, the**

environment or social welfare policy

- Choose ONLY ONE public policy issue
- Choose a public policy issue that you are genuinely interested in
- You may find it easiest to research and write about a specific policy outcome (e.g. the passing of a particular law or regulation or the failure to pass a law/regulation that was highly anticipated or debated)
- Narrow down your focus to a particular country and level of government (i.e. national, state-level or local).
- Choose a case study that has previously been discussed in academic literature. You can agree or disagree with what has been written, but having some articles to start from will help you to build your own argument
- Think about the essay questions first and then think about how you would answer in relation to you chosen topic.

Other notes:

- The word limit for your assignment is 1500 words (not including extended reference list).
- To help you complete your assignment, see the **Research Essay Outline Template** which illustrates all the sections you must include in your assessment submission.
- Your document should be submitted via Turnitin as a WORD DOCUMENT (no PDFs).
- Your essay should be fully referenced using [Chicago](#) or [Harvard](#) style in-text referencing.

Assessment Length

1500 words

Assessment information

Further details will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Generative AI Permission Level

Simple Editing Assistance

In completing this assessment, you are permitted to use standard editing and referencing functions in the software you use to complete your assessment. These functions are described below. You must not use any functions that generate or paraphrase passages of text or other media, whether based on your own work or not.

If your Convenor has concerns that your submission contains passages of AI-generated text or media, you may be asked to account for your work. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct &

Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see [here](#).

Research essay

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

Students are required to produce a 3,000 word research essay that develops a cohesive and persuasive argument addressing the core themes and issues of the course in relation to a specified policy domain.

Students will receive written feedback and a standard UNSW grade on this assignment. This is the final assessment for the purpose of the attendance requirement.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO1 : Demonstrate the ability to analyse and critique issues to do with the creation, implementation and analysis of public policy.
- CLO2 : Engage in debates concerning the role of non-state actors in the policy process.
- CLO3 : Identify a range of key theoretical approaches to power and politics in public policy making and discuss them in relation to the role of the state.

<u>Detailed Assessment Description</u>

Write an academic essay of **3000 words** addressing a contemporary policy issue of your choice.

Choose one essay question to answer from the options below.

Your research essay outline (Assessment 1) and your research essay will both focus on the same questions. This essay should incorporate feedback provided on the essay outline you have previously submitted.

After you receive feedback on your research essay outline you may decide to make changes before you complete the research essay. It should be evident that your final essay draws on your essay outline and that you have developed ideas proposed in Assessment 1 to complete your final essay.

<u>Choose ONE of these questions to answer</u>

Question 1

Using a case study of a specific policy, analyse how power dynamics influenced the policy-making process and outcomes. Discuss the power dynamics between different actors and the

role of groups such as government officials, interest groups, and international organizations, in shaping policy outcomes.

Question 2

Investigate how political ideologies influenced policy decisions and outcomes in a particular case study. Choose an example where competing ideologies clashed and discuss how these competing ideologies influenced policy priorities, decision-making processes, and outcomes.

Question 3

Policy networks are a web of relationships between public and private actors who cooperate to address public policy problems. Using this definition, dissect the role of policy networks in one specific case study. How did policy networks form, evolve, and exert influence on policy outcomes? Assess the extent to which these coalitions aligned or diverged in their goals and strategies and their impact on policy making processes and outcomes.

Select ONE policy issue to write about

You have the opportunity to research and write about a policy issue that is of interest to you. When selecting your policy issue, please take the following into account:

- Choose only one public policy issue
- Choose a public policy issue that you are genuinely interested in
- Choose a specific policy outcome to address in your essay (e.g. the passing of a particular law or regulation or the failure to pass a law/regulation that was highly anticipated or debated)
- Narrow down your focus to a particular country and level of government (i.e. national, state-level or local).
- Choose a case study that has previously been discussed in academic literature. You can agree or disagree with what has been written, but having some articles to start from will help you to build your own argument
- Think about the essay questions first and then think about how you would answer in relation to you chosen topic

Other information

- Your document should be submitted via Turnitin as a WORD DOCUMENT (no PDFs).
- Your essay should be fully referenced using Chicago or Harvard in-text referencing. Incorrect or sloppy referencing **is not** an excuse for plagiarism. You may have marks deducted or be academically disciplined if you are found to have committed plagiarism, *either intentionally or unintentionally*.

Assessment Length

3000 words

Assessment information

Further details will be available on the course Moodle page.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

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

Hurdle rules

You must submit you Assessment 2 (Research Essay Outline) in order to receive a grade for this assignment.

Generative AI Permission Level

Planning/Design Assistance

You are permitted to use generative AI tools, software or services to generate initial ideas, structures, or outlines. However, you must develop or edit those ideas to such a significant extent that what is submitted is your own work, i.e., what is generated by the tool, software or service should not be a part of your final submission. You should keep copies of your iterations to show your Course Authority if there is any uncertainty about the originality of your work.

If your Convenor has concerns that your answer contains passages of AI-generated text or media that have not been sufficiently modified you may be asked to explain your work, but we recognise that you are permitted to use AI generated text and media as a starting point and some traces may remain. If you are unable to satisfactorily demonstrate your understanding of your submission you may be referred to UNSW Conduct & Integrity Office for investigation for academic misconduct and possible penalties.

For more information on Generative AI and permitted use please see here.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Student must submit all assessments in order to pass this course.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 9 September - 15 September	Lecture	Introduction to Course and Understanding Power In our first week, we will set the theoretical foundation for the course and explore some different ways of understanding 'power.' You will be introduced to prominent theoretical approaches to power and learn how this is a contested area of debate for scholars of politics and policy. We will also discuss practicalities of the course and expectations.
Week 2 : 16 September - 22 September	Lecture	Theories of Public Policy In Week 2 we will look at the public policy as a concept and process. What is public policy and what counts as public policy? Who makes public policy? What are the different types of public policy? And how is public policy implemented? Through a discussion of these questions, we will better understand the theories that are often used to understand policy and some of the issues that they raise.
Week 3 : 23 September - 29 September	Lecture	Ideology and Public Policy: What is the 'Propoer Role of Government'? How we view and critique the use of power in politics is influenced by our expectations of what the individuals and institutions who form "the government" should be doing for us and for society more broadly. In this lecture we will explore theoretical approaches to the role and responsibilities of government and look at the different, and sometimes conflicting, ideologies that shape what we think our governments should be doing. In particular, we consider how policy is made in a liberal democracy like Australia. We will reflect on different perspectives on the "proper role of government" in society. Should the government intervene to regulate the free market, or let market forces play out unimpeded? How much should we rely on the government to take care of our welfare, and how much responsibility should we take as individuals or families?
Week 4 : 30 September - 6 October	Lecture	Global and Supranational Influences on Public Policy In this lecture we will look at policy influences at the global or 'supranational' scale. What kinds of organisations shape the way that states think about and create policy. What kinds of global issues require a state response and what influences that response? Furthermore, it is not only International Organisations that contribute to policy outcomes, but also international relations and how states cooperate with eachother. These relationships may stem from bilateral or multilateral agreements. International relations can also be seen from the other perspective, such as when states want to punish or sanction a country for undertaking an action that they do not agree with.
Week 5 : 7 October - 13 October	Lecture	Policymaking in Non-Democratic States In this lecture we will explore what influences policy in non-democratic states. How are the dynamics different to those of liberal democracies? What role(s) can citizens play in shaping policy and, in particular, opposing policies.
Week 6 : 14 October - 20 October	Lecture	Policymaking in Australia In this lecture we shift our focus to Australia to investigate how public polices are made. We will focus on the government as a sphere for policy decision-making and explore the different actors within including politicians and bureaucrats.
Week 7 : 21 October - 27 October	Lecture	External Actors - The Third Sector This week we will explore the roles, interests and strategies of non-government actors in working with the government in the creation and implementation of policy. We will look, in particular at the "third sector"--a term used to describe not-for-profit organisations that often represent more vulnerable members of society, and at the business sector. The interactions and relationships between these groups and the government are shaped by power--who has it and who can use it to their advantage--as well as persuasion through various forms of advocacy.
Week 8 : 28 October - 3 November	Lecture	External Actors - The Private Sector The business sector has a strategic advantage when it comes to attracting the government's attention, given its importance to economic growth in a capitalist system. In a political system such as Australia where the dominant ideology is neoliberalism, the market has increasingly been allowed to expand the role of for-profit organisations and corporations in areas traditionally seen as the role of the government or the community sector, such as in the delivery of human and social services. This week we look at some of the ways in which corporations have exerted influence over policy decision making, and reflect on the diverse interests that are represented in the business sector.
Week 9 : 4 November - 10 November	Lecture	Case Study 1

Week 10 : 11 November - 17 November	Lecture	Case Study 2

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Prescribed texts can be found on the relevant Leganto list. Please see Moodle site for details.

Recommended Resources

Recommended texts can be found on the relevant Leganto list. Please see Moodle site for details.

Additional Costs

There are no additional mandatory costs associated with this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback from 2023 indicated that students would like a more balanced consideration of global and national (Australian) policy issues. In the 2024 course, there will be dedicated lectures looking at global structures that influence policy making and at least one transnational case study of policy making.

Student feedback will be reviewed and considered in developing SRAP5018 from year to year. Teaching staff consider feedback carefully and look to include improvements that align with the course aims and resources available.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Elisabeth Kramer		Room 145, Level 1, Morven Brown Building		By appointment	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Student equity and disability;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Examination information;
- Review of results;

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines

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.

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

Submission of Assessment Tasks

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.

Important note: UNSW has a "fit to sit/submit" rule, which means that if you sit an exam or submit a piece of assessment, you are declaring yourself fit to do so and cannot later apply for Special Consideration. This is to ensure that if you feel unwell or are faced with significant circumstances beyond your control that affect your ability to study, you do not sit an examination or submit an assessment that does not reflect your best performance. Instead, you should apply for Special Consideration as soon as you realise you are not well enough or are otherwise unable to sit or submit an assessment.

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