School of Social Sciences course summary

Semester 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course convenor</th>
<th>Caroline Lenette</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email/ phone</td>
<td><a href="mailto:c.lenette@unsw.edu.au">c.lenette@unsw.edu.au</a></td>
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Summary of the course

This course introduces policy, both as a field of analysis and as a field of practice. It will examine policy as a way of making sense from the outside, of the processes through which we are governed, and also as part of the practice of governing. It is concerned both with policy as such, and with the application of the concept to make sense of, and manage, particular areas of social practice - e.g. 'education policy', 'environment policy', etc.

‘Policy’ is a rather problematic concept: it is a central idea in organising the way we are governed, but it seems difficult sometimes to get a handle on it. On the one hand, there are relatively clear things called ‘policies’ - the department’s policy on contracting, the government’s policy on urban growth, the National Competition Policy. There are Policy Officers, Policy Branches, and graduate programs in Policy Studies. On the other hand, it is not clear how much the process of governing (of organisations or industries or society as a whole) can be attributed to these activities and structures of ‘policy’. So we are concerned not only with what is meant by ‘policy’, but also with how it relates to the broader process of governing.

We are concerned with ‘analysis’ in the broadest sense: both analysis for policy and analysis of the policy process. In some contexts, ‘policy analysis’ is seen as a technique for appraising a particular policy, or for comparing one policy with another. In this course, we are interested in this approach, but we are also concerned to ask how matters become policy questions, how policies emerge, and what significance they have.

Course learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of a range of theoretical policy concepts and processes;
- Apply policy theory as a tool in the analysis of policy
issues;

- Demonstrate developed improved presentation and analytical skills; and
- Display a broader understanding of the organisations and dynamics that surround the policy development and policy decision-making processes.

Assessment
[NOTE: These must be the same as the tasks recorded AIMS for this course. You can add/delete rows as needed from the table below]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>LENGTH/DURATION</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Case Study 1: Individual Written Report (35%) + Group Presentation (15% - lecturer + peer marking)</td>
<td>Individual Written Report (IWR): 1500 words (+ or – 10%) Group Presentation (GP): 10 minutes max.</td>
<td>35% (IWR) 15% (GP: 10% group + 5% individual)</td>
<td>Week 5 (reading week) Monday by midnight (via Turnitin on Moodle – no hard copies) In class: Week 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Case Study 2: Individual Written Report (35%) + Group Presentation (15% - lecturer + peer marking)</td>
<td>Individual Written Report (IWR): 1500 words (+ or – 10%) Group Presentation (GP): 10 minutes max</td>
<td>35% (IWR) 15% (GP: 10% group + 5% individual)</td>
<td>Week 12: Monday by midnight (via Turnitin on Moodle – no hard copies) In class: Week 12</td>
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For the purpose of attendance monitoring, the final assessment for this course is Individual Written Report worth 35% of your overall grade for this course. This is the assessment item that will be graded at zero if you do not meet the attendance requirement for this course (see https://socialsciences.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/resources/policies-guidelines/).

The full course outline will be available in Moodle in Orientation (O) Week, from Monday 22 February 2016.