DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS 4310: Women, Justice and Public Policy

Credit Weighting: .5

Pre-/Co-Requisites: (2 OF: 2250, 2300, 2350, 3250) (2 OF: HIST*3160, POLS*3050, 3130, 3210, 3270, 3300, 3370, 3440, 3470, 3670)

Restrictions: Priority Access Course; may be restricted to particular programs or specializations or semester levels during certain periods

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

This course considers the status of women in the context justice and public policy in the context of the greatest revolution in the history of humanity. We consider justice for women as a fundamental pre-requisite for improving the quality of life and economy for all humans [and even other species (ecofeminism)]. More justice for those identified as women is quite simply more justice for all. Feminisms are also integral to the to advancement of the overall project of sustainability.
Participants will develop their intersectional lens to consider and debate the meaning of justice and equality in various contexts (race, ethnicity, occupational status, income, wealth, etc.) especially as it applies to the distinct status of women through history to the present. We discuss the history, changing meaning and struggles of and for women, feminists, feminisms and gender. Participants explore where, when, how why people are treated and impacted differently on the basis of gender identity. We emphasize the Canadian policy context while considering other jurisdictions to consider the extent to the challenges of progress toward gender justice are being met. We consider the basis on which equitable public policies are more (or less) successful in both process and outcome.

Participants are encouraged to rigorously challenge the status quo and their own assumptions about sex and gender as a basis for differential treatment. Course requirements include conscientious in-class engagement, participation, weekly readings, quizzes, on-line discussions, leading a seminar and researching and writing a culminating course paper.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the relationship between feminisms, justice and public policy
- To develop a vocabulary regarding concepts of gender, equity and public policy
- To develop an advanced knowledge sociological and political concepts related to gender and public policy
- To apply critical analytical concepts and tools to different populations and interests in society
- To extrapolate and connect gender theory to political theory and policy
- To consider and debate a wide array of perspectives, ideas, concepts and theories both orally and in writing
- To advance logic and reasoning skills in writing, on-line discussions and speaking
- To increase confidence and skill in public speaking and presenting ideas to an audience

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

15% Participation
15% Reading Annotations
20% On-Line Discussions
25% Seminar Leadership Presentation & Peer Assessments
25% Research paper

REQUIRED READING

Various: Available on Ares