

University of Guelph
Department of Political Science
POLS*4100 (03)/POLS*6180 03
Women, Justice and Public Policy
Fall 2019

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Course Description:

How do policies that developed out of neoliberalism and ideas of social investment affect the lives of women, shape femininity and affect gender equality? This course will introduce participants to several theoretical gender-based perspectives on women, justice and public policy in the late 20th and early 21st century and will concentrate on Western democracies with an emphasis on Canada. Participants will be introduced to these theories and concepts through various academic debates on feminism, post-feminism, law and justice, and public and social policy. Participants will examine a series of justice and public policy issues affecting the lives of women including gender and fiscal policy, regulation of sexuality, lone mothers and welfare policy, child care policy and work/life balance, Indigenous women and public policy; immigrant women and public policy, sexual violence and the law and women in the criminal justice system.

Course Requirements:

Students will actively participate in a weekly seminar in which they are required to participate in small and large group discussions and take turns leading the seminar and facilitating discussions for one week. **Participation** is an important part of the seminar and the substantial participation mark is broken down into three categories: 1) individual participation in small and big group discussions 35%; 2) leading the seminar, along with two or three other students, and facilitating discussion through creative activities for one week (your creativity is encouraged!) 25%; and, 3) class performance overall 5%. Participants will also complete a written component (35%) by submitting a minimum of three review papers, each based on the course readings for a particular week and submitted to the Dropbox on CourseLink the next week. This can be done in any week except the one in which participants are conducting the seminar. Participants may also turn in as many discussion papers as they wish and the three highest marks will be counted.

Weekly Participation	35%
Conducting the Seminar	25%
Review Papers	35%
Class Performance	5%

Required Text: Alexandra Dobrowolsky (Ed.). 2009. *Women & Public Policy in Canada*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

Required readings other than the text

Other required readings have been made into **electronic documents** which are on the course reserves and linked to CourseLink.