

POLS4900(01) Seminar in Political Science (Ethics and Public Policy)

Credit Weighting: 1.0**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 14.00 credits, including
1.00 credits in Political
Science at the 3000
level.**Restrictions:** n/a**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Theresa Lee**Email:** tmlee@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** MacKinnon Rm 512**GENERAL DETAILS**

The course is structured along the line of applied ethics, which is a major area of study within the subfield of ethics in philosophy. Accordingly, the course focuses on the ethical issues involved in policymaking rather than on policymaking as a political and legislative process. Questions that the course aims to address include: Should every aspect of our lives be regulated? How does an issue become the subject of policymaking? How should we determine the goal of a policy in relation to the issue that generates such need? What are the respective roles and responsibilities of decision-makers and the citizenry? What are the factors that need to be taken into account in formulating a policy that is consistent with the basic values of a society?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course aims to provide students with a normative framework to tackle challenging policy issues, both as students in politics and as engaged citizens.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

1. Seminar Participation (15%)
2. Seminar Presentation (10%)
3. Research Presentation (10%)
4. Research Paper (35%)
5. Take-home Final Examination (30%)

REQUIRED READING

Welch, Don. Guide to Ethics and Public Policy: Finding our way. New York: Routledge, 2014.

Cohen, A. and Wellman, C. H., eds. Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics. 2nd ed. Wiley Blackwell, 2013.