GSWS 350-4: Public Policy for Women

Professor: Dr. Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
Email: tmullerm@sfu.ca
Office: AQ 5092
Office hours: TBC
Lecture: Thursdays 13:30 – 17:20; WMC 2220

Course Description:
In Canada, profound shifts are occurring in the ways that women and gender inequalities are treated in public policy. The progressive changes that characterized the results of earlier feminist action have been undermined: the issue of gender equality has been all but erased from government focus and action. This course will address the reasons behind, and responses to, these changes at different scales of government (e.g., municipal, provincial, federal). The course will also interrogate how policies are explicitly or implicitly gendered and racialized, and will identify what characterizes public policy that meets women’s needs. The course will expose students to current public policies and their relationship to women on a wide range of topics (including, but not limited to, child care, economic security, policing, and safety). An integral part of this course is student research into and analysis of existing public policy.

Educational Goals:
Students will develop an understanding of the way women across a range of diverse backgrounds are affected by public policies at all scales of government. Students will also explore how women influence public policy to meet their needs. Students will contribute to the policy conversation by producing an op-ed piece and submitting it for publication.

Course Texts and Courseware:
• Various texts (municipal policies, policy analyses, journal articles, etc.) available online and/or via SFU library databases.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & class participation  15%
Policy Brief  20%
Policy Analysis  40%
Op-Ed  25%

Prerequisite: 30 Units - Students with credit for POL 350 or GSWS 320 (or WS 320) under this topic may not take this course for further credit.