GSWS 350-4: Public Policy for Women

**Professor:** Dr. Marjorie Griffin Cohen  
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**Office hours:** TBC  
**Lecture:** Tuesdays 13:30 – 17:20; Room TBC

**Course Description:**
In Canada profound shifts are occurring in the ways that women and gender inequalities are treated in public policy. The kinds of progressive changes that characterized the results of earlier feminist action are being undermined: the issue of gender equality has been all but erased from government focus and action. This course will focus on the reasons for these changes, the kinds of actions that are effective in influencing public policy, and what would characterize public policy that would meet women's needs. The course also will examine how ideas about males and females either explicitly or implicitly influence policy makers on a wide variety of issues. In most instances public policy is silent about women, but this does not mean women are immune from the implications of any policy. This course will specifically expose students to current public policies and their relationship to women on topics such as intimate relationships, sexuality, labour, economic security, and race, ethnicity and inequality.

**Learning Outcomes:**
Students will gain an understanding of the way women are affected by public policy and government actions and also how public policy can be influenced by women to meet their different needs.

**Course Texts and Courseware:**
- Selected articles provided by professor

**Course Evaluation and Assignments:**
- Attendance & class participation: 15%
- Class presentations: 20%
- Mid-term test (in class): 20%
- Short Essay (2000 words): 20%
- Final Exam (scheduled): 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.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. IN ADDITION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW POLICY T10.02 WITH RESPECT TO “INTELLECTUAL HONESTY,” AND “ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE” (WWW.SFU.CA/POLICIES/TEACHING)