GSWS 830-5: ST: Public Policy for Women

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

Course Description:
This is a seminar that looks at the way women have been affected by public policy and government actions. The course 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.

In Canada during the past twenty years there have been profound shifts 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 reversed: 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.

Course Texts and Courseware:
• Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Jane Pulkingham, eds. Public Policy for Women: The State, Income Security, and Labour Market Issues, (University of Toronto, 2009)
• Selected articles provided by professor

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & class participation 10%  
Class presentation 20%  
Policy Analysis or book review (1,000 words) 20%  
Research Paper (5,000 words) 30%  
Final Exam 20%

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)