WS 830 Public Policy for Women

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Lecture: Tuesday 8:30 am - 12:20 pm
+extra hour to be arranged
Office hours: TBD
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Course Description:
This is a seminar that looks at the way women are 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 profound shifts have occurred 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. It 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.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Jane Pulkingham, eds. Public Policy for Women, (University of Toronto, 2009)
- Janie Brodie and Isabella Bakker, Where Are the Women? Gender, Equity, Budgets and Canadian Public Policy (Ottawa: CCPA, 2008).
- Custom Courseware (available in bookstore)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance & class participation 10%
- Class presentation (research paper) 20%
- Book Review (1,500 words) 15%
- Policy Analysis (1,500 words) 15%
- Research Paper (7,500 words) 40%

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)