GSWS 350-4: Public Policy for Women

Marjorie Griffin Cohen
Email: mcohen@sfu.ca
Lecture: Tuesdays 13:30 – 17:20 WMC 3255
Office hours: TBA
Office: AQ 6052

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 on WebCt

Recommended Readings:

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & class participation 15%
Class presentations 20%
Mid-term test (in class) 20%
Short Essay (1400 words) 20%
Final Exam (scheduled) 25%

Prerequisite: 30 units.
This course is identical to POL 350 and students may not take both courses for credit.
Students who have taken this topic under GSWS 320 (or WS 320) may not take this course for further credit.

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)