University of Guelph  
Department of Political Science  
POLS*4100 (01)  
Women, Justice and Public Policy  
Fall 2017

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Course Description:
How do policies that developed out of neoliberalism and ideas of social investment affect the lives of women, shape femininity and affect gender equality? This course will introduce participants to several theoretical gender-based perspectives on women, justice and public policy in the late 20th and early 21st century and will concentrate on Western democracies with an emphasis on Canada. Participants will be introduced to these theories and concepts through various academic debates on feminism, post-feminism, law and justice, and public and social policy. Participants will examine a series of justice and public policy issues affecting the lives of women including gender and fiscal policy, regulation of sexuality, lone mothers and welfare policy, child care policy and work/life balance, Indigenous women and public policy; immigrant women and public policy, sexual violence and the law and women in the criminal justice system.

Course Requirements:
Students will actively participate in a weekly seminar in which they are required to participate in small and large group discussions and take turns leading the seminar and facilitating discussions for one week. Participation is an important part of the seminar and the substantial participation mark is broken down into three categories: 1) individual participation in small and big group discussions 35%; 2) leading the seminar, along with two other students, and facilitating discussion for one week (creativity is encouraged!) 25%; and, 3) class performance overall 5%. Participants will also complete a written component (35%) by submitting a minimum of three discussion papers, each based on the course readings for a particular week and submitted to the Dropbox on CourseLink within that week. This can be done in any week except the one in which participants are conducting the seminar. Participants may also turn in as many discussion papers as they wish and the two highest marks will be counted.

Weekly Participation  35%  
Conducting the Seminar  25%  
Discussion Papers  35%  
Class Performance  5%


Required readings other than the text
Other required readings have been made into electronic documents which are on the course reserves and linked to CourseLink.