



POL 826

Gender and Policy

S1 External 2017

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

Emily Cachia

emily.cachia@mq.edu.au

email to arrange

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MPPP or MPASR or MIntRel or GradDipPASR or GradCertPP or GradDipPP or GradDipIntRel or MIntLawGovPP or MIntBusMIntRel or MTransInterMIntRel

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the compatibility of gendered political institutions with a contemporary society that embraces modern ideals of equality, liberty, anti-discrimination and individual choice. Students will theorise and analyse the structural processes that position gendered individuals in unequal relations of power. They will analyse how gendered institutions and systems work in practice; the role of the state in sustaining them; the claims of those who contest these normative institutions; and gender's specific products and effects, such as women's lower wages; the exclusion of homosexuality from normative public life; sex segregation in employment; and heterosexual male dominance in political life.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.

Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)

Assess the significance of gendered assumptions in select policies governing the

intimate arena (eg sex roles, heteronormativity, hegemonic masculinity) and their relationships to pronatalist government agendas.

Identify the evolution of critical thinking about gendered policies more broadly, especially the transition from gender specific programming, to gender mainstreamed programming including approaches of intersectionality.

Critically evaluate Australian Gender Mainstreaming policy approaches in an international (global) context.

Analyse and evaluate how, in practice, gendered assumptions in policy relate to contemporary political ideals such as antidiscrimination, equality, liberty and individual choice.

General Assessment Information

A detailed **Assessment Guidelines pdf** explaining the requirements for each assignment will be available on the POL826 iLearn page in the **Assessment Resources** section. It is necessary to have read these guidelines in order to successfully complete each task.

All written work is to be submitted electronically through Turnitin on the POL826 iLearn page.

In the event of ill health or misadventure please contact the convenor to discuss an extension. Approved extensions will not incur a late penalty. [Disruption to Studies](#) requests will require appropriate supporting documentation.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date and without an approved extension will incur a 3% penalty each day they are late. Any paper submitted more than 3 weeks after the due date will not be marked and the student will be failed for that assignment.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Documentary Analysis	20%	No	Sunday 2nd April
Critical Essay	30%	No	Sunday 7th May
Research Essay	40%	No	Sunday 11th June
Participation	10%	No	On-Campus Sessions

Documentary Analysis

Due: **Sunday 2nd April**

Weighting: **20%**

- compose a documentary analysis of a critical essay and the selected correspondence offered in response to it

- all source material for this analytic essay will be available online through iLearn and iShare
- please see the **Assessment Guidelines pdf** on iLearn for further details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
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Critical Essay

Due: **Sunday 7th May**

Weighting: **30%**

- critically evaluate (parts of) two government reports provided on iLearn
- use this material to develop a response to the essay question
- please see the **Assessment Guidelines pdf** on iLearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
- Assess the significance of gendered assumptions in select policies governing the intimate arena (eg sex roles, heteronormativity, hegemonic masculinity) and their relationships to pronatalist government agendas.

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Research Essay

Due: **Sunday 11th June**

Weighting: **40%**

- select a broad area of public policy
- analyse its gendered assumptions and research the outcomes of the policy that are relevant to gender
- please see the **Assessment Guidelines pdf** on iLearn for details

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
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Participation

Due: **On-Campus Sessions**

Weighting: **10%**

- Attendance and contribution within POL826 on-campus sessions is a requirement of this unit for external students. In the event of illness, misadventure or other serious circumstances please contact the convenor to discuss alternative assessment. Supporting documentation explaining any absence will need to be provided.
- Participation should provide evidence that the student has listened to the lectures, completed the readings and thought about the issues raised in relation to both local and global events and contexts.
- Please see the **Assessment Guidelines pdf** on iLearn for further details.

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Delivery and Resources

Delivery

Evening (internal students) and External.

The lecture is recorded and can be listened to and/or downloaded from iLearn shortly after delivery on Wednesday evenings. Lecture slides will also be available for download on the POL826 website.

External students are required to attend two on-campus sessions during semester. Each session is 4hrs long. Please note the following dates:

- Sunday 30th April: 10am - 2pm in W5C 221
- Sunday 4th June: 10am - 2pm in W5C 221

For current updates on lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>

Technologies used and required

This unit has an online presence on iLearn (<http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>). Students are required to have regular and reliable access to a computer and broadband internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.

Required and recommended resources

Required readings will be accessible online through iShare via hyperlinks on the POL926 iLearn page or by searching Unit Readings on the MQ library website.

Unit Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic
Week 1	Gender and the State
Week 2	Gender Mainstreaming: Approaches & Critiques
Week 3	Pronatalism & the Economy
Week 4	The Case of Same Sex Marriage
Week 5	Reproductive Rights & Responsibilities
Week 6	Intersectionality in Policy: spotlight on Indigenous families
Week 7	Gender & Development
Week 8	Gender, Culture, Rites & Rights
Week 9	Hegemonic Masculinity: spotlight on prison masculinities and crime
Week 10	Gendered Harm: Domestic Violence & Policy
Week 11	Gender and the Global Sex Economy
Week 12	Gender Identity and Expression: spotlight on transgender
Week 13	No Lecture - essay consultation

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
- Assess the significance of gendered assumptions in select policies governing the intimate arena (eg sex roles, heteronormativity, hegemonic masculinity) and their relationships to pronatalist government agendas.
- Identify the evolution of critical thinking about gendered policies more broadly, especially the transition from gender specific programming, to gender mainstreamed programming including approaches of intersectionality.
- Critically evaluate Australian Gender Mainstreaming policy approaches in an international (global) context.
- Analyse and evaluate how, in practice, gendered assumptions in policy relate to contemporary political ideals such as antidiscrimination, equality, liberty and individual choice.

Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay
- Participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
- Assess the significance of gendered assumptions in select policies governing the intimate arena (eg sex roles, heteronormativity, hegemonic masculinity) and their relationships to pronatalist government agendas.
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay
- Participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
- Assess the significance of gendered assumptions in select policies governing the intimate arena (eg sex roles, heteronormativity, hegemonic masculinity) and their relationships to pronatalist government agendas.
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay
- Participation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay
- Participation

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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contemporary political ideals such as antidiscrimination, equality, liberty and individual choice.

Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay
- Participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand and apply the main conceptual, theoretical and analytical repertoire developed and used by scholars of gender and politics.
- Identify and explain the ideological approaches informing evolving understandings of gender and policy (eg feminism, conservatism, neoliberalism etc)
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Assessment tasks

- Documentary Analysis
- Critical Essay
- Research Essay

- Participation

Unit Description

Gender is central to politics. Gender informs our identities, social norms, behaviours, stereotypes and expectations for men and women. Studying gender and policy means analysing how gendered institutions and systems work in practice, the role of the state in sustaining them, the claims of those who contest these normative institutions, as well as gender's specific products and effects, such as women's lower wages, the exclusion of homosexuality from normative public life, sex segregation in employment and heterosexual male dominance in political life. It entails theorising and analysing the structural processes that position individuals in unequal relations of power. In *Gender and Policy* we will examine the compatibility of gendered institutions with a postmodern society. That is, a society embracing modern political ideals of equality, liberty, antidiscrimination and individual choice; along with the social organisation of sex, sexuality and kinship that has transcended its traditional proprietorial origins.