

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Department of Political Science – Local Government Program

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9916a - THEORIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Course Outline - Fall 2011

Instructor: Ross Gibbons

Office Hours and Contact Information

UWO Social Science Centre
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OBJECTIVE

To review, discuss and understand theories of modern public administration and their application to the study and practice of public administration.

FORMAT

Classes during the weekends will center on lectures and discussions led by the instructor. At the conclusion of the third weekend the instructor will offer a summary of issues in theories of public administration. Students are expected to master the assigned readings for each session, to view the films and to participate actively in class discussions. Please note that only one-quarter (5% of the total course grade) of the Class Discussion and Participation mark is for attendance: **the balance must be earned in discussions, commentary and classroom seminars. Please note that in graduate classes the expectation for attendance by class members is 100% attendance.**

ASSESSMENT

Preparation assignment #1	3 PM Friday Sept. 9 2011	10%
Preparation assignment # 2	3 PM Friday Sept. 30 2011	10%
Preparation assignment # 3	3 PM Friday Nov. 18 2011	10%
Class Discussion and Participation		20%
Essay	December 18 2011	50%

All students will prepare essays of 3,000 (+/- 10%) words of text (this limit does not include bibliography or endnotes/footnotes). The essays and the preparation assignments are to be submitted electronically to the course site on WEBCT OWL as Word or Word Perfect documents.

Preparation Assignment # 1 (due at 3 PM, Friday, September 9th)

- View the film, *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, directed by Tony Richardson, 1968 (please do not confuse this with a 1936 film with the same title)...a copy will be available in the Multilevel Governance room.
- Read the Northcote/Trevelyan Report (1854) which is available at the Course website on WEBCT OWL or at
- Read: Greenaway John, *Celebrating Northcote/Trevelyan: Dispelling the Myths* Public Policy and Administration, Vol. 19, No. 1, 1-14 (2004) DOI: 10.1177/095207670401900101 (this is available at the Course website on WEBCT OWL or online through the UWO Libraries e-journals engine.
- View the film, *Saving Private Ryan*, directed by Steven Spielberg, 1998
- Read the article *The Logistics of Invasion*, on the Course website at WEBCT OWL
- In the readings and films please pay special attention to the apparent changes in public administration from 1854 to 1944 in terms of these issues:
 - Patronage versus merit
 - Efficiency
 - Command and control
 - Hierarchy
 - Specialization
 - Expertise versus muddling through

- Write a brief synopsis (no more than three pages of letter sized paper – double spaced, maximum of 1,000 words) of your observations of one or more of the issues above as they relate to the films/articles/reports and the course. Submit this to the Assignments Section of the course site on WEBCT OWL before 3 PM. This is worth 10 %.

Preparation Assignment # 2 (due at 3 PM, Friday, September 30th)

- read Jose Latour, *Havana Best Friends*
Jose Latour spent 31 years as a financial analyst in the Cuban Ministry of Finance before becoming a full-time writer. He now lives in Canada.
- His account of life in Cuba, Cuban policing and administration raises many questions. Does Latour's description suggest that public administration in an authoritarian state is quite different from that in a liberal democracy such as Canada?
- If so, how significant are the differences?
- If not, why?

Write a brief analysis (no more than three pages of letter sized paper – double spaced, maximum of 1,000 words) of your comments on the above as they relate to Latour's novel. Submit this to the Assignments Section of the course site on WEBCT OWL before 3 PM. This is worth 10 %.

Preparation Assignment # 3 (due at 3 PM, Friday, November 18th)

- read Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*
The film - The Road - based on this novel is excellent but it omits some important details relating to attempts to develop communes so please read the book!
- read Julian Cribb, *The Coming Famine: The Global Food Crisis and What We Can Do To Avoid It*.
- Please consider the following questions:
- Does life in McCarthy's *The Road* represent a failure of *politics* or a failure of *public administration*?

- Cribb suggests there are five major areas of concern regarding global famine. Identify one and comment on the significance for local public administrators in addressing this issue.
- If not, why?

Write a brief analysis (no more than three pages of letter sized paper - double spaced, maximum of 1,000 words) of your comments on the above. Submit this to the Assignments Section of the course site on WEBCT OWL before 3 PM. This is worth 10 %.

COURSE TEXTS

Cribb, Julian, *The Coming Famine: The Global Food Crisis and What We Can Do To Avoid It*. University of California Press, Berkley, California. 2010
ISBN: 9780520260719

Latour, Jose, *Havana Best Friends*, McClelland & Stewart
ISBN: 978-0-7710-4660-5 (0-7710-4660-X)

McCarthy, Cormac, *The Road*, Vintage International, Random House, New York.
2008 ISBN: 978-0-307-38645-8

Fry, Brian R. and Jos. C. N. Raadschelders, editors, *Mastering Public Administration: From Max Weber to Dwight Waldo*, Second Edition
CQ Press, Washington, DC 2008

FILMS

To be viewed prior to the September 9th - 10th weekend:

The Charge of the Light Brigade, directed by Tony Richardson, 1968

Saving Private Ryan, directed by Steven Spielberg, 1998, and

Monty Python and the Holy Grail, directed by Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones

The films listed are available at some video rental stores and online. *Monty Python and The Holy Grail* is not simply a funny film. It is a film which mocks the rational assumptions of modern society. As a bonus, it includes a discussion along Weberian lines of the source of state legitimacy (watch for King Arthur's argument with the peasants in the anarcho-syndicalist commune).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th

Objectives and Structure of the course; Science, Social Science and the Scientific method; the purpose of theory, the limitations of theory.

Lecture: Modernity, Science, Rationality and Bureaucracy: Perspectives on Public Administration in the Liberal-Democratic State

Readings:

- *Chapter Nine: The Nature and Necessity of Scientific Revolutions* from *The Structure of Scientific Revolution* by Thomas Kuhn
- Chapter Nine is posted on WEBCT OWL and also available here: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/kuhn.htm>
- Read the Northcote/Trevelyan Report (1854) which is available at the Course website on WEBCT OWL
- Read: Greenaway John, *Celebrating Northcote/Trevelyan: Dispelling the Myths* Public Policy and Administration, Vol. 19, No. 1, 1-14 (2004) DOI: 10.1177/095207670401900101 (this is available at the Course website on WEBCT OWL or online through the UWO Libraries e-journals engine.
- Read the article *The Logistics of Invasion*, on the Course website at WEBCT OWL Also available at http://www.almc.army.mil/alog/issues/NovDec03/Logistics_of_Invasion.htm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

Lecture: Classical Models of Public Administration: Weber and the Iron Cage; Elite Theory, Mosca and Michels; Pure Administration, Marx and Engels; The Politics/Administration Dichotomy, Woodrow Wilson.

Discussion: Problem Areas in the readings: please be prepared to raise these issues in class. We will work through the problem areas together using classroom discussions as a forum for understanding problem areas and seeking solutions and answers.

Essays: Review of expectations regarding course essays and discussion of possible topics.

Film: After lunch on Saturday we will view 'Conspiracy' and follow the viewing with a discussion of the many questions raised by this production with regard to the professional practice of public administration. (Note: *Conspiracy* is a 2001 BBC / HBO television film which dramatizes the Nazi Wannsee Conference of 1942...it stars Stanley Tucci, Kenneth Branagh and Colin Firth.)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

Lecture: Modern Theories of Public Administration: Pluralism; From Elitism to Corporatism; Neo-Marxist Theory; The Libertarian Right and the Libertarian Left.

Readings:

Latour, Jose, *Havana Best Friends* (all)

Fry, Brian R., *Mastering Public Administration: From Max Weber to Dwight Waldo*.

- *Chapter One through Ten inclusive*

Articles:

- *Libertarian Municipalism: The New Municipal Agenda*, Murray Bookchin, at http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/Anarchist_Archives/bookchin/libmuni.html

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

Lecture: Modernity, Globalization, Glocalization, multi-level states and Public Administration.

Discussion: The End of Ontological Security and the Individualization of Risk.

Lecture: Theories of Productivity, Theories of Organization.

Discussion: What makes a good organization? What makes a productive organization?

Lecture: Public Choice and the New Public Management

Discussion: Is the New Public Management much different from the Old Public Management? In this discussion students are expected to draw upon their readings, research-to-date and experience in the workplace to illustrate arguments for and against the above question.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18th

Lecture: Reprise: Ontological Security and the Individualization of Risk

Lecture: Public Administration: Modern, NPM and Post-Modern!

Readings: Julian Cribbs, *The Coming Famine*

Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

Posted on WEBCT OWL site:

Peter Bogason and Roskilde Universitetscenter, *Postmodern Public Administration*

Steven Kelman, *Unleashing Change: a Study of Organization Renewal in Government*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

Lecture: Ethics Issues in Public Administration

Film: After lunch on Saturday we will view ‘*Last Train Home*, (归途列车; 歸途列車)’ and follow the viewing with a discussion of the many questions raised by this production in regard to modernity, globalization and public administration.

Lecture: Conclusion

EVALUATION AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Please note the following policies regarding evaluation and late assignments:

1. all students will prepare essays of 3,000 (+/- 10%) words of text (this limit does not include bibliography or endnotes/footnotes). The essay and the three preparation assignments are to be submitted electronically to the Assignments section on the PA 9916a course site on WEBCT OWL as Word or Word Perfect documents.
2. a penalty of **2 (two) marks** per day for essays submitted after the deadline;
3. essays more than **14 (fourteen) days late** will not be accepted;
4. Preparation Assignments must be submitted by to to the Assignments section on the PA 9916a course site on WEBCT OWL by 3 PM on the respective due dates;
5. if Preparation Assignment # 1 is more than 2 hours but less than 24 hours late there is a 10% penalty;
6. if Preparation Assignment # 2 or Preparation Assignment # 3 are late more than 2 hours there is a 25% penalty;
7. any Preparation Assignment more than 24 hours late will receive a 50% penalty;
8. credit cannot be received for this course unless all written work including the three Preparation Assignments and the Essay has been received and accepted;
9. extensions will be granted only on **humanitarian grounds or on medical grounds**, except in unusual circumstances requests for extensions must be submitted in writing no less than **fourteen days** prior to the due date of the assignment;
10. Essays are to be submitted electronically to the PA 9916a WEBCT OWL site by 11:59 PM December 18, 2011.
11. students are required to keep an electronic copy of all written assignments until final grades for the course have been posted in January, 2012.
12. students are expected to master the assigned readings for each session, to view the films and to participate actively in class discussions

13. the Class Discussion and Participation mark is valued at 20%

14. the attendance portion of the Class Discussion and Participation mark is 5% of the 20%, **the balance – 15% of the 20% - must be earned in discussions, commentary and classroom seminars. Please note that in graduate classes the expectation for attendance by class members is 100% attendance.**

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

The statement: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

If written work will be assigned in the course and plagiarism-checking software might be used, the following statement to this effect must be included in the course outline:

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”