

**Public Administration 9916
Theories of Public Administration
Fall 2015**

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Office Hours
Thursdays 1pm-3pm

Objective

This course reviews the history of ideas in Public Administration and analyzes key ethical and political challenges that the discipline and the practice of public administration face today.

Format

Classes will be centered on discussions led by the instructor and presentations made by students.

Student Assessment

Participation: 30%
Book review: 20%
Essay: 50%

Participation

Students in this course are expected to master the assigned readings and to actively participate in the discussions that will take place throughout the semester. They will be invited to formally introduce the assigned readings for the second and third weekend sessions.

All students will be required to post a critical assessment of the readings assigned for the second and third weekend sessions on the *Theories of Public Administration Bulletin Board* that has been created for this purpose. To visit the Public Administration Bulletin Board on the web, go to:

<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/publicadministration>

Critical assessments must be posted on or before the following dates:

Readings for October 23/24: October 18
Readings for November 20/21: November 15

Book Reviews

Students will be required to critically review the following book:

Jocelyne Bourgon, *A New Synthesis of Public Administration: Serving in the 21st Century*. Kingston/Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011.

The book review will be due on October 23 **IN CLASS**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor during the first weekend session.

Essay

Each student will write an essay of a maximum of 4000 words. The essay will be due on **18 December 2015**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor during the first weekend session.

Texts

Jocelyne Bourgon, *A New Synthesis of Public Administration: Serving in the 21st Century*. Kingston/Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011.

Camilla Stivers, *Governance in Dark Times: Practical Philosophy for Public Service*. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2008.

Michael W. Spicer, *In Defense of Politics in Public Administration: A Value Pluralist Perspective*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010.

NB The instructor will provide required readings not contained in the above books.

Note on academic offences and plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

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

Note for students with disabilities:

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

TOPICS AND READINGS

PART I: THE STUDY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: PAST AND PRESENT

Friday, September 11: Objectives and structure of the course

Lecture: Globalization, Power, and Public Administration: The Changing Nature of Governance and State Legitimacy in the 21st Century.

John Scott, "Power, Domination and Stratification: Towards a Conceptual Synthesis", Sociologia, Problemas e Práticas, No. 55, 2007, 25-39.

Donald E. Klingner, "Globalization, Governance, and the Future of Public Administration: Can We Make Sense Out of the Fog of Rhetoric Surrounding the Terminology?" Public Administration Review, Vol. 64, No. 6, 2004, 737-743.

Saturday, September 12: Substantive and Instrumental Reasoning in Public Administration

H.T. Wilson, "Use Value and Substantive Rationality in the Work of Marx and Weber," Journal of Classical Sociology, Vol. 4, No. 1, 2004, 5-30.

Polya Katsamunska, "Classical and Modern Approaches to Public Administration," Economic Alternatives, No. 1, 2012, 74-81.

B. Guy Peters, "After Managerialism What? The Return to Political and Strategic Priorities," HKJU – CCPA, Vol. 3, No. 11, 2011, 605-625.

Janet V. Denhardt and Robert B. Denhardt, "The New Public Service Revisited," Public Administration Review, Vol. 75, No. 5, 2015, 664-672.

DeLysa Burnier, "Making It Meaning Full: 'Postmodern Public Administration' and Symbolic Interactionism," Administrative Theory & Praxis, Vol. 27, No. 3, 2005, 498-516.

PART II: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL REASONING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Friday, October 23: Pragmatism in Public Administration

Camilla Stivers, Governance in Dark Times: Practical Philosophy for Public Service. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2008, 1-124.

Mark Johnson, Morality for Humans: Ethical Understanding from the Perspective of Cognitive Science. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2014, 192-221.

Saturday, October 24: Democratic Values, Market Values, and Public Administration

Camilla Stivers, Governance in Dark Times: Practical Philosophy for Public Service. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2008, 125-156.

J.I. Gow, "Between Ideals and Obedience: A Practical Basis for Public Service Ethics," in David Siegel and Ken Rasmussen, eds., Professionalism and Public Service: Essays in Honour of Kenneth Kernaghan. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2008, 99-126.

Arthur M. Okun, Equality and Efficiency: The Big Tradeoff. Featuring a new foreword by Lawrence H. Summers. Brookings Institution Press, 2015.

[http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/OKUN_EQUALITY_AND_EFFICIENCY_\(AS08\).PDF](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/OKUN_EQUALITY_AND_EFFICIENCY_(AS08).PDF)

Lawrence H. Summers, "Okun's Equality and Efficiency", Brookings Institute, May 4, 2015.

<http://larrysummers.com/2015/05/04/okuns-equality-and-efficiency/>

See also: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/books/2015/equality-and-efficiency-brookings-classic>

MOVIE: *Conspiracy*. This is a BBC/HBO docudrama about the 1942 Wannsee Conference. The film explores the psychology of Nazi bureaucrats involved in the planning and execution of the Holocaust.

Albert Breton and Ronald Wintrobe, "The Bureaucracy of Murder Revisited," Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 94, No. 5, 1986, 905-926.

Alan E. Steinweis, Review of *Conspiracy* (BBC/HBO Films), directed by Frank Pierson from a script by Loring Mandel, University of Nebraska - Lincoln DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2002.

PART III: POWER, DEMOCRACY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Friday, November 20: Legitimacy and Public Administration

Michael W. Spicer, In Defense of Politics in Public Administration: A Value Pluralist Perspective. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010, 1-69.

Victor Bekkers and Arthur Edwards, "Legitimacy and Democracy: A Conceptual Framework for Assessing Governance Practices," in Jon Pierre, ed., Debating

Governance: Authority, Steering and Democracy. Oxford University Press, 2007, 35-60.

Camilla Stivers, Gender Images in Public Administration: Legitimacy and the Administrative State. London: Sage Publications, 2002, 1-38.

O. P. Dwivedi, "The Challenge of Cultural Diversity for Good Governance," United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Managing Diversity in the Civil Service, New York, 3-4 May, 2001.

Saturday, November 21: Public Administration for What? For Whom?

Michael W. Spicer, In Defense of Politics in Public Administration: A Value Pluralist Perspective. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2010, 70-106.

Claire Donovan, "Consuming Social Science," in Mark Bevir and Frank Trentmann, eds., Governance, Consumers and Citizens: Agency and Resistance in Contemporary Politics. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007, 69-94.

J. I. Gow and V. Seymour Wilson, "Speaking What Truth to Whom? The Uneasy Relationship Between Practitioner and Academic Knowledge in Public Administration," Canadian Public Administration, Vol. 57, No. 1, 2014, 118-137.

Richard C. Box, Critical Social Theory in Public Administration. New York: M. E. Sharpe, 2005, 1-31.

Guy Peters, "The Future of Public Administration," in James Bickerton and B. Guy Peters, eds., Governing: Essays in Honour of Donald J. Savoie. Kingston/Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013, 203-221.