

**Public Administration 9916**  
**Theories of Public Administration**  
**Fall 2016**

Andrés Pérez  
SSC4164  
aperez@uwo.ca

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 14/15: October 10  
Readings for November 11/12: November 7

## **Book Reviews**

Students will be required to critically review the following book:

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

The book review will be due on October 14 **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 **12 December 2016**. Guidelines for this assignment will be provided by the instructor during the first weekend session. The book by Donald J. Savoie (*What is Government Good At?* McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015) will play a central role in this assignment.

## **Texts**

Donald J. Savoie, *What is Government Good At?* McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015.

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

## **Note for students with disabilities:**

Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto: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 9: Objectives and structure of the course**

**Lecture:** Power, and Public Administration: The Changing Nature of Governance and State Legitimacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

Christopher Morris, "State Legitimacy and Social Order," in Jörg Kühnelt, ed., Political Legitimation Without Morality? New York: Springer, 2008, 15-32.

Dylan Riley "The New Durkheim: Bourdieu and the State", Critical Historical Studies, Vol. 2, No. 2, Fall 2015, 261-279.

#### **Saturday, September 10: Substantive and Instrumental Reasoning in the History of Public Administration**

Lisheng Dong, Public Administration Theories: Instrumental and Value Rationality. London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2015, 1-21; 23-58.

Recommended: Jessica E. Sowa, Review of *Public Administration Theories: Instrumental and Value Rationality*, Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory, Vol. 26, No. 3, 2016, 588-590.

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.

Cheryl Simrell King, "Postmodern Public Administration: In the Shadow of Postmodernism," Administrative Theory & Praxis, Vol. 27, No. 3, 2005, 517-532.

### **PART II: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL REASONING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Friday, October 14: Pragmatism and 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 15: 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>

Donald J. Savoie, What is Government Good At? McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015, chapters 2, 8, 9, 10.

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 11: Legitimacy, Politics 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.

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

Carol Agocs, "Representative Bureaucracy? Employment Equity in the Public Service of Canada." Paper presented at the 2012 Annual Conference of the Canadian Political Science Association. Edmonton, June, 13-15, 2012.

#### **Saturday, November 12: 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.

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.

Donald J. Savoie, What is Government Good At? McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015, chapters, 11, 12.