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:


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


**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 9: Objectives and structure of the course


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


PART II: ETHICAL AND POLITICAL REASONING IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Friday, October 14: Pragmatism and Public Administration


Saturday, October 15: Democratic Values, Market Values, and Public Administration


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.

MOVIEW 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.


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


Saturday, November 12: Public Administration for What? For Whom?


