

**PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9916
THEORIES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Spicer
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Public administration is a rich and diverse field of study with broad theoretical underpinnings. This course explores the foundational thinking in the study and practice of public administration, with an emphasis on how these approaches have changed over time and across venues. Literature included in this course will be drawn from a number of sources and jurisdictions. Ultimately, class discussions will focus on the administration of local governments.

This course will encourage students to understand and integrate influential theoretical approaches to the study and practice of public administration by working through a diverse range of readings, applying their own experiences and learning from the experiences of others.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the traditional delivery of courses at The University of Western Ontario. While usually offered in-person, this course will be delivered entirely online. Students should be aware of several different online components of this course that require their attention.

Video Lectures: Recorded video lectures will introduce the material of the week. Students should view the lecture prior to weekly seminars to familiarize themselves with the material for the week.

Online Seminars: Seminars will take place via videoconference on Friday nights (5:00pm - 7:00pm) and Saturday afternoons (12:00pm - 2:00pm), as indicated below in the course schedule.

Group Meetings: An additional block of time will be available to students on Saturday mornings from 10:00am until 12:00pm. This time can be used to meeting as a group. If needed, the instructor is available to join these meetings to support students.

REQUIRED READING

An important way to address gaps between theory and practice is through discussion, comparing viewpoints and learning from each other. Assigned readings are listed below, in our meeting schedule. All of these readings should be available from the UWO library. If you are unable to locate any of these readings, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 25%

This class is designed as a seminar. As such, each student must be prepared and participate regularly in video seminars. Students will be graded based upon their attendance, understanding of reading material and quality of participation.

Group Presentation: 25%

Students will be sorted into groups and expected to work together to prepare a presentation during the final class. The structure of the presentation is entirely up to students. Students will find their groups on OWL. They should immediately contact the others in their group and make a plan to meet. As mentioned above, meeting times for each group will be available from 10:00am to 12:00pm each Saturday. Groups are obviously free to meet outside this time at their convenience. Each group will be required to apply one of the main theories discussed in this course to a major event in the local government sector. Use the theory to make sense of the event. Presentation topics are available online.

Online Article Responses: 20% (2 x 10%)

On two occasions, students will submit a news article at the conclusion of one of our meetings that they believe encapsulates the theory or content from that class. Students should include the full article (pasted and copied) with a description of no more than 1,000 words describing how the article is applicable to the week's material. Students can determine on their own which week in which they submit an article and response. No outstanding submissions will be considered after the final class. This material should be submitted through OWL at the conclusion of the class.

Article Review and Critique: 30%

Choose one of the following classic articles in public administration and provide a comprehensive (and critical) review.

Dahl, Robert. 1947. "The Science of Public Administration: Three Problems."

Public Administration Review 7 (1): 1-11

Kaufman, Herbert. 1956. "Emerging Conflicts in the Doctrines of Public

Administration." *American Political Science Review* 50 (4): 1057-1073.

Ostrom, Vincent. 1971. "Public Choice: A Different Approach to the Study of Public Administration." *Public Administration Review* 31 (2): 203-216.

Reflect upon the article's main arguments. Has the article stood the test of time? What was the article's impact on the discipline since it was originally written? How has public administration changed and shifted since its original publication?

This paper should be no more than 8 double-spaced, pages in length, include at least 6 other academic sources and be submitted electronically by the conclusion of our October 24th meeting.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS

September 25, 2020

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Introduction & Machinery of Government

Readings	<p>Raadschelders, Jos C.N. 2008. "Understanding Government: Four Intellectual Traditions in the Study of Public Administration." <i>Public Administration</i> 86 (4): 925-949</p> <p>Hodgetts, J.E. 1997. "The Intellectual Odyssey of Public Administration in English Canada." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 40 (2): 171-185</p> <p>Rutgers, Mark R. 1997. "Beyond Woodrow Wilson: The Identity of the Study of Public Administration in Historical Perspective." <i>Administration and Society</i> 29 (3): 276-300</p> <p>Henderson, Keith M. 2009. "Parallel Universes: Canadian and U.S. Public Administration Study." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 52 (2): 271-290</p>
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September 26, 2020

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Theories of Bureaucratic Politics and Political Institutions

Readings	<p>Prendergast, Canice. 2007. "The Motivation and Bias of Bureaucrats." <i>American Economic Review</i> 97 (1): 180-196</p> <p>Spicer, Michael. 2007. "Politics and the Limits of the Science of Governance." <i>Public Administration Review</i> 67 (4): 768-779</p>
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	<p>Brehm, John and Scott Gates. 1993. "Donut Shops and Speed Traps: Evaluating Models of Supervision on Police Behaviour" <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>. 37 (2): 555-581</p> <p>Demir, Tansu. 2009. "Politics and Administration: Three Schools, Three Approaches and Three Suggestions." <i>Administrative Theory & Praxis</i> 31 (4): 503-532</p> <p>May, Peter J. and Soren C. Winter. 2009. "Politicians, Managers and Street-Level Bureaucrats: Influence on Policy Implementation." <i>Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory</i>. 19 (3): 453-476</p>
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October 23, 2020
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Accountability

Readings	<p>Doberstein, Carey. 2013. "Metagovernance of Urban Governance Networks in Canada: In Pursuit of Legitimacy and Accountability." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 56 (4): 584-609.</p> <p>Conteh, Charles. 2016. "Rethinking Accountability in Complex and Horizontal Network Delivery Systems." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 59 (2): 224-244</p> <p>Romzek, Barbara and Melvin Dubnick. 1987. "Accountability in the Public Sector: Lessons from the Challenger Tragedy." <i>Public Administration Review</i> 47 (3): 1987</p> <p>Anderson, Jonathan. 2009. "Illusions of Accountability: Credit and Blame Sensemaking in Public Administration." <i>Administrative Theory & Praxis</i> 31 (3): 322-339</p>
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October 24, 2019
12:00pm – 2:00pm
Institutional, Economic & Legal Approaches to Public Administration

Readings	<p>Raadschelders, Jos. C.N. 2010. "Identity Without Boundaries: Public Administration's Canon(s) of Integration." <i>Administration & Society</i> 42 (2): 131-159</p> <p>Meyer, John W. and Brian Rowan. 1977. "Institutionalized Organizations: Formal Structures as Myth and Ceremony." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 83 (2): 340-363</p>
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	<p>Farmer, David John. 2010. "Public Administration in a World of Economics." <i>Administrative Theory and Praxis</i> 32 (3): 373-384</p> <p>Harlow, Carol. 2005. "Law and Public Administration: Convergence and Symbiosis." <i>International Review of Administrative Sciences</i> 71 (2): 279-294.</p> <p>McCormick, Peter. 2004. "New Questions about an Old Concept: The Supreme Court of Canada's Judicial Independence Decisions." <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i> 37 (4): 839-862</p>
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November 13, 2020

5:00pm – 7:00pm

Interest Groups and Responsiveness

Readings	<p>Carpenter, Daniel. 2004. "Protection Without Capture." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 98 (4): 613-631</p> <p>Vigoda, Eran. 2002. "From Responsiveness to Collaboration: Governance, Citizens and the Next Generation of Public Administration." <i>Public Administration Review</i> 62 (5): 527-540</p> <p>Irvin, Renee and John Stansbury. 2004. "Citizen Participation in Decision-Making: Is it Worth the Effort?" <i>Public Administration Review</i> 64 (1): 55-65</p> <p>Richardson, Jeremy. 2000. "Government, Interest Groups and Policy Change." <i>Political Studies</i> 48 (5): 1006-1025</p>
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November 14, 2020

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Ethics

Readings	<p>Langford, John. W. 2004. "Acting on Values: An Ethical Dead End for Public Servants." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 47 (4): 429-450</p> <p>Heintzman, Ralph. 2007. "Public Service Values and Ethics: Dead End or Strong Foundation." <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> 50 (4): 573-602</p> <p>Wheeland, Chaig M. "Gregory C. Smith: A Township Manager</p>
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	Effectively Managing Ethical Dilemmas." <i>Public Integrity</i> 15(3): 265-81
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	De Graaf, Gjalt and L.W.J.C. Huberts. 2008. "Portraying the Nature of Corruption Using an Explorative Case Study Design." <i>Public Administration Review</i> 68 (4): 640-653.
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	Kernaghan, Kenneth. 2003. "Integrating Values into Public Service: The Values Statement As Centrepiece." <i>Public Administration Review</i> 63 (6): 711-719
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December 5, 2020

10:00am - 2:00pm

Presentations