PLS 308: INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Summer II, 2001

Instructor: Dr. Tom Barth
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Office Hours: 4:30 – 5:00 MW 9:00 – 9:30 MW

Class Schedule: Monday and Wednesday 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. SB 216

COURSE OBJECTIVES
As one of the prerequisite classes for the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program, the class is designed to socialize students to the field of public administration, which is concerned with the development and implementation of public policies and programs. Students will be introduced to the science, process, and art of the field, and examine concepts and cases from political, managerial, and legal perspectives. At the conclusion of the course, students should have an understanding of the historical development of the field, how public administration differs from the private sector, and key administrative elements including, but not limited to, politics, intergovernmental relations, ethics, organizing, planning, decision making, budgeting and managing human resources.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Contribution to Class (15%)
To maximize credit in this area, students are expected to be active contributors to the learning environment. This means attending class, coming prepared to engage in discussion and exercises, and generally not impersonating a fence post. Fence posts do not receive A’s, regardless of their performance on papers and tests. Due to the shortness of the summer sessions, attendance at all classes is crucial.

Case Questions (35%)
Students will be required to type answers to questions associated with cases from the textbooks. Papers should be one page in length, typed double-spaced. These answers must be prepared in advance of class so that they can be utilized in class discussions.
Late papers are not accepted, nor are handwritten papers. If a student knows they will not be able to attend class, their questions should be submitted in advance, preferably by email. Please note that computer or printer problems are not an excuse for lateness.

Final Exam (50%)
Open book exam testing the ability of students to apply and synthesize information from course to typical problems encountered in public administration.

COURSE SCHEDULE

June 25  
Introductions; What is Public Administration?
Starling, Chapter 1

June 27  
The Politics of Administration
Starling, Chapter 2; Stillman, pp. 6-16
Case Study: The Last Flight of the Space Shuttle Challenger, Stillman, pp. 110-121.

July 2  
Organizing
Starling, Chapter 7; Stillman, pp. 54-63.
Case Study: The Blast in Centralia No. 5, Stillman, pp. 30-45.
Written Assignment: Question #4.

July 9  
Planning
Starling, Chapter 5
Case Study: Waco, Stillman, pp. 277-293.
Written Assignment: Question #5.

July 11  
Administrative Responsibility and Ethics
Starling, Chapter 4; Stillman, pp. 501-511
Case Study: Madonna’s Sex, Stillman, pp. 513-521. Written Assignment: Question #2.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter/Sections</th>
<th>Case Study</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Implementation and Evaluation</td>
<td>Starling, Chapter 9</td>
<td>The Political Paradox of Rationing: The Case of the Oregon Health Plan, Stillman, pp. 427-437</td>
<td>Question #1.</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Relations</td>
<td>Starling, Chapter 3</td>
<td>Wichita Confronts Contamination, Stillman, pp. 146-154.</td>
<td>Question #4.</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>The Information Revolution</td>
<td>Starling, Chapter 12</td>
<td>Cases/Readings: To be assigned.</td>
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<td>July 25</td>
<td>Course Summary; Careers in Public Administration</td>
<td>Guest Speakers Panel</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>Final Exam (7:00 – 10:00 pm)</td>
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