

PLSC 270- Public Administration  
Winter 2016  
MW 3:30 am-4:45 pm  
Pray Harrold Room #421  
Dr. Barbara Patrick

Office: Department of Political Science, Pray Harrold Hall  
Office Hours: 12:15-3:30pm MW; 4:45-6pm MW or by appointment  
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**REQUIRED TEXT:**

J. Steven Ott and EW Russell (2001). Introduction to Public Administration: A Book of Readings. New York: Longman Press

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of public administration. They will be exposed to the operations and challenges found in the public sector. Topics of discussion will include the history of public administration, public v. private administration, organization behavior, executive, legislative, and judicial control over the bureaucracy, public budgeting, hiring practices, and decision making.

**Class Attendance and Etiquette:**

Class attendance is very important. You have 3 absences, after the third absence your grade will drop ½ a letter. Repetitive late arrivals will also result in an absence. If you arrive late or must leave early it is your responsibility to inform me. Also it is very important that you arrive on time on exam days. If you arrive after the first student completing the exam has left the room, you will not be allowed to complete the exam. Make-up exams are only given with adequate documentation at the end of the semester. Class attendance on days that student present days is also very important. Failure to appear on present days without an excused absence will result in a grade deduction. Late arrivals on presentation days will also affect your presentation grade.

**GRADING SCALE:**

Administrative Project and Presentation: 25%  
Class Participation and Assignments: 15%  
Test One: 20%  
Test Two: 20%  
Test Three: 20%

## Semester Project

This project requires students to serve as investigative task forces that examine different American government and public policy issues. They will study the issue, examine previous responses, and submit research that adequately addresses the problem. Grading is based on the ability to appropriately analyze the issue and to include relevant literature.

Students will be required to present their research to the class as well as submit a written paper to the instructor. The formal presentation of your analysis will count as 10% of your paper grade. The paper should present a well-established argument with documented sources. More and higher quality citations are worthy of higher grades. Papers should highlight the long term political and administrative implications of policies. It should include the use of scholarly sources. It should be 7 to 10 pages in length. **Out of fairness to all students, I will not accept late assignments.** Presentation will take place in a debate type format. Students will be assigned to groups or team during the first class session and will be afforded class to work with their teammate on the assignment.

I will allow students time to work on summer projects during class.

A list of possible topics is included below.

Topics:

- \*Police Office Accountability Reforms and the Use of Body Cameras (The Positives and Negatives)
- \*Michigan Emergency Manager System (Effective/Efficient Administration or Curtailing Democracy)
- \*Downsizing the Government and Contracting Out Public Services
- \*Hurricane Katrina (government respond/rebuilding the MS Coast and New Orleans)
- \*School Choice: Options for Students Attending Underperforming Schools (Good or Bad?)
- \*The Newton, Connecticut School Shooting and the Safety of Public Employees: Is Arming Public Administrators and Volunteers a Viable Solution?
- \*The PN State Scandal and Legal/Ethical Accountability: From the President to the Graduate Student and Janitor-What are the Implications for Organizational Ethics and Accountability?
- \*The NCLB Teacher Cheating Scandal: Is Meaningful Performance Management Reforms Possible? How Can Employees Be Motivated and Appropriately Sanctions?
- \*Race and Mistrust of Government: From Rodney King and Kanye West to the Black Lives Matter Movement-How Do We Build Trust and Engagement between administrators and citizens?

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

### **Week One (January 6, 2016)**

Wednesday- Introduction

### **Week Two (January 11-13, 2016) Defining Public Administration/Historical Overview**

Monday-Chapter 1

Wednesday-Chapter 2

### **Week Three (January 18-20, 2016) The Practice of Public Administration**

Monday-Holiday

Wednesday-Chapter 3

### **Week Four (January 25-27, 2016) Reinventing the Machinery of Government**

Monday-Chapter 4

Wednesday-Chapter 4

### **Week Five (February 1-3, 2016) Intergovernmental Relations**

Monday-Chapter 5

**Wednesday-Test One**

### **Week Six (February 8-10, 2016) Management and Organizational Theory**

Monday-Chapter 5

**Wednesday-Research Day Discussion and Assignment**

### **Week Seven (February 15-17, 2016) Organizational Behavior**

**Monday-Research Day**

Wednesday-Chapter 6 (**Research Assignment Due**)

### **Week Eight (February 22-24, 2016)**

Winter Break-No Class

### **Week Nine (February 29-March 2, 2016) Performance Management**

Monday-Chapter 7

Wednesday-Chapter 8

### **Week Ten (March 7-9, 2016) Strategic Planning and Management**

**Monday- Chapter 9**

Wednesday- **Test Two**

**Week Eleven (March 14-16, 2016) Leadership and Accountability/Personnel Management and Labor Relations**

Monday- Chapter 10

Wednesday- Chapter 11

**Week Twelve (March 21-23, 2016) Personnel Management and Labor Relations/Social Equity**

Monday- Chapter 12

Wednesday- Chapter 15

**Week Thirteen (March 29-30, 2016)**

Monday-Research Day

Wednesday- Presentation Day

**Week Fourteen (April 4-6, 2016)**

Monday-Presentation Day (Paper Due)

Wednesday-Presentation Day

**Week Fifteen (April 11-13, 2016)**

Monday- Presentation Day

Wednesday-Presentations

**Week Sixteen (April 18, 2016)**

Monday- Review Day

Final Exam Week Begins

The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus.