PLSC 510- Modern Public Administration  
Winter 2014  
Tuesday 6-8:40 pm  
Livonia Campus  
Dr. Barbara Patrick  

Office: Department of Political Science, Pray Harrold Hall  
Office Hours: T/TH 12:15-2 pm, W 1-3 pm or by appointment  
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REQUIRED TEXT:  

We will also make use of handouts and other reading material to supplement the text.  

COURSE OBJECTIVE:  
This course is designed to provide students with an in depth understanding of the intellectual origins of modern public administration. Its purpose is to familiarize students with the major questions being asked by scholars, help students gain a better understanding of the general trends in public administration subfields, and to expose students to classical, neoclassical and more recent approaches to the theory and practice of public administration. Emphasis throughout the semester will be on critical thinking and reading, as well as class discussion. A major theme of the course is current trends and issues in modern American public administration.  

Class Attendance and Etiquette:  
Class attendance is very important. You have 2 absences, after the second absence your grade may be lowered. Repetitive late arrivals can 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**
Midterm 20%
Final Exam 20%
Class Participation/Article Critiques 20%
Current Issues Assessment 20%
Semester Paper 20%

**Examination:**
Students must take the midterm exam when it is given in class; make ups will only be scheduled for extraordinary circumstances. You must notify me in advance. If you miss the exam I will assume that you have chosen to receive a “0” for your grade on that exam. The final exam will be a take home exam for which students will be given one week to complete.

**Class Participation and Article Critique:**
Because this class is structured as graduate level seminar, a significant portion of your grade will be based on your level of contribution to class discussions. Therefore it is imperative that you come to class prepared to discuss the reading.

Each student will review and present two articles that are assigned for class reading. On the evening of your presentation day, you should submit a 1 to 2 page written critique of the week’s reading. You should also provide a brief handout for your classmates and the instructor. Assignments for presentation will be made during the first class session.

**Current Issues in Public Administration:**
As future leaders in the field of public administration it is important that you posse the skills to think critically and offer solutions to issues or problems that will occur in the field. The ability to critically analysis materials and issues will be especially important to those of you who may continue on to a doctoral program. Given the significance of this skillset students will work in pairs or in some cases individually, to assess a current issue in the field of public administration. The assessment will require students to identify central questions related to the issue, why it’s important to the field of public administration, key stakeholders impacted by the issue, and viable alternatives on how the issue may be adequately addressed by administrators and policymakers. Topics and groups will be assigned on the first day of class. Throughout the semester students will be allotted to strategize and organize ideas in class. They will present their finished product to the class. A 4 to 7 page synopsis should also accompany the presentation.

Issue/Topics Include:
*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 Sanctioned?*
*Attracting & Retaining the Best and Brightest in the Public Sector*
*E-Government Expansion: What the cost and benefits; should the movement be expanded or constricted?
*Race and Mistrust of Government: From Rodney King to Kanye West-How Do We Build Trust and Relationship?
*Contracting Out Government Services: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly
*Emergency Managers In Michigan: Positive Reforms or Unintended Consequence?

**Semester Paper:**
Each student is required to complete a 10 to 15 page research paper that relates to material from the course. The paper should be analytical and written in a professional manner. Grammar and spelling will be considered in determining the grade of the paper. Professional journals should be used. You should use a minimum of 10 peer review journal articles in your paper. Sources that may be helpful in locating journal articles include EBSCO HOST, JSTOR and other indexes available through EMU Library. The final product should double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman format using APA style format.

Your proposed topic must be submitted to the professor for approval **by February 18, 2013**. It should be typed, clearly explaining what topic you plan to investigate and why. You will present your final research paper to the class.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability EMU Board of Regents policy #8.3 requires that you first register with the Access Services Office (ASO) in room 203 King Hall. You may contact ASO by telephone at (734) 487-2470. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with ASO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

**Academic Integrity:**
Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Penalties for an act of dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The **Student Conduct Code** contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, and it can be accessed online at [www.emich.edu/sjs](http://www.emich.edu/sjs)
COURSE OUTLINE:

Week One (January 6, 2014)
Introduction

Week Two (January 14, 2014) Defining Public Administration/Historical Overview
Chapters 1 and 2


Week Three (January 21, 2014) The Practice of Public Administration
Chapters 3 and 4


Week Four (January 28, 2014) Market and Performance Management Reforms
Chapter 8


No Child Left Behind Case Study

**Week Five (February 4, 2014) Personnel Issues in Organizations**


**Week Six (February 11, 2014) Intergovernmental Relations**

Chapter 5


Week Seven (February 18, 2014)
Midterm Exam

Week Eight (February 25, 2014)
Winter Break-No Class

Week Nine (March 4, 2014) Ethics and Public Administration
Chapters 12 and 15


Research Paper Discussion

Week Ten (March 11, 2014) Race, Gender, and Equity
Affirmative Action and Employment Handout- See My Courses


Week Eleven (March 18, 2014)
Research Day

Week Twelve (March 25, 2014) Administrative Response to Natural Disaster In Class Video


Week Thirteen (April 1, 2014)
Current Issues Presentation Day (Research and Current Issues Papers Due)

Week Fourteen (April 8, 2014)
Research Presentation Day

Week Fifteen (April 15, 2014)
Wrap up session and discussion of final exam
The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus.