

PA 4350
Public Agencies, Management and Ethics
Summer 2016 Semester

Contact Information

Instructor: John McCaskill, Ph.D.

Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday: 3:00 pm – 5:15 pm GR 4.204

Office: GR 2.204

Email Address: john.mccaskill@utdallas.edu

Office Hours: 1:00 – 2:30 PM Tuesday & Thursday, and by appointment.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Description

This course provides an in-depth knowledge of several major issues in bureaucracy including internal dynamics of public organizations, acquisitions and allocation of public funds, the roles of ethics and accountability, as well as the roles of bureaucracy in relation to public policy, clients, the citizenry, and society. Decisions made by public administrators often affect people's lives in profound ways, so it is important to have a basic understanding of the ethical theories and traditions in public administration. This course will rely on various written texts to introduce students to the basic philosophical framework of ethics and on case studies to examine its application in the administrative context.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Understand basic philosophical concepts associated with ethical decision making in the public and nonprofit sectors
 - Become familiar with the literature on ethics in public administration
 - Apply ethical concepts to dilemmas in current public and nonprofit sector decision making
 - Refine academic writing skills
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Required Textbooks and Materials

Svara, James. 2015. *The Ethics Primer for Public Administrators in Government and Nonprofit Organizations*. 2nd edition. Boston: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Adams, Guy and Danny Balfour. 2015. *Unmasking Administrative Evil*. 4th edition. Armonk, NY: Thomson Wadsworth.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

May 24	Course introduction and syllabus distribution; <i>Instructions for Group Presentations and Case Analyses</i>
May 26	Svara (47-64) - Ethical Concepts: Virtue and Intuition, Relativism, Absolutism, Deontology and Teleology; Social Contract Theory
May 31	Svara (Chapter 7) - Ethical Analysis and Problem Solving
June 2	Adams & Balfour (Chapter 1) What is Evil?
June 7	Adams & Balfour (Chapter 2) Technical Rationality
June 9	The Milgram Experiments, The Stanford Prison Experiment
June 14	Svara (Chapter 3) Responsibilities of Public Administrators
June 16	Svara (Chapter 5) Ethical Codes and Developing an Ethical Style
June 21	Svara (Chapter 6) Challenges to the Ethical Behavior of Public Administrators - Public Ethical Conflict
June 23	Group Presentations (Groups 1-2) Group 1: Adams & Balfour, The Holocaust (Chapter 3) Group 2: Adams & Balfour, Mittelbau-Dora (Chapter 4)
June 28	Group Presentations (Groups 3-4) Group 3: Adams & Balfour, Organizational Dynamics (Chapter 5) Group 4: Adams & Balfour, Public Policy (Chapter 6)
June 30	Group Presentations (Groups 5-6) Group 5: Adams & Balfour, Abu Ghraib (Chapter 7) Group 6: Adams & Balfour, Public Ethics (Chapter 8)
July 5	Psychopathy and Rationalization; Pharmaceutical and other advantages; Transparency in democracy, The Neuroscience of Political Campaigns
July 7	Adams & Balfour (Chapter 9) Expiating Evil 1st Case Analysis Due
July 12 & 14	Review / Midterm Exam
July 19	Svara (Chapter 8) - Responsible Whistleblowing and Leadership
July 21	Edward Snowden
July 26	Svara (Chapters 9-10) - Ethics, Quality, and Performance; Mandating Duty
July 28	Proportionality – Walzer and Keiler
August 2	Film – The Fog of War
August 4	Film – The Fog of War 2nd Case Analysis Due

Grading Policy

Exam	20%
Case Analyses (2)	40% (each analysis is 20%)
Presentation	20%
Class Attendance & Participation	20%

A = 94-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-93	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72
B = 83-86	D = 65-69
B- = 80-82	F = <65

Exam: The midterm exam will consist of two short-answer questions and one essay question. Students may use one 5" X 8" note card, *but not text books*, during the exam.

Case Analyses: This course requires students to complete two separate 1,200 word ($\pm 10\%$) case analyses. For the analyses, students will select a case from the Case Options in eLearning. Students may choose one of the cases used in class discussions or select a different case. Specific instructions for the structure of the analyses will be discussed in class on May 24, 2016.

All papers should be written in 12 point font, Times New Roman, and double-spaced. Margins should be 1 inch on all sides and the paper should include page numbers on the bottom center of each page. Please include a header containing your name, date, and title of the case. **Proper citation of all sources is required.** The Public and Nonprofit Management program requires that all written work follow the Turabian format, which can be found in the 8th edition of Kate Turabian's book, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Please use the Reference list style, which is found in chapters 18 and 19.

Group Presentations: Groups of students will give a presentation reviewing the cases for the day to which they are assigned. Each presentation should be 20-25 minutes in length. Presenters will also be responsible for facilitating a class discussion on their cases after the presentation is finished. All members of a group need not participate in the presentation. Students are not required to use any specific format for the presentation, but PowerPoint slides, short films, and/or class handouts are often useful. It is very helpful to *practice* your presentation prior to standing before the class. Group assignments will be made during the second class meeting.

Class Attendance and Participation: I take attendance. Students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate in class discussions and activities. Students who do not attend classes and do not participate in class discussions will not receive an "A" for their final course grade.

Course & Instructor Policies

All assignments will be graded based on the student's ability to effectively communicate his or her knowledge of a subject. Students must clearly demonstrate that they understand the assigned material and can apply it to current and historical ethical dilemmas in public administration. Unless other arrangements have been made, all assignments must be turned in through the link on the eLearning course page (Turnitin) by 11:00 PM on the date the assignment is due. I will deduct 5% of the total credit for the assignment per day late. There will be no extra credit assignments.

GENERAL POLICIES

For UT Dallas policy related to the following go to: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Field Trip Policies / Student Conduct & Discipline / Academic Integrity / Email Use / Withdrawal from Class / Student grievance Procedures / Incomplete Grade Policy / Disability Services / Religious Holy Days

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.