PADM 5010  
Public Administration and Society  
Fall 2016  
Associate Professor: Brian K. Collins

Class: Monday 6:00 p.m. – 8:50 p.m.  
Office: Chilton 204C; Phone: 565-2318  
E-mail: brian.collins@unt.edu  
Course URL: https://learn.unt.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This survey course introduces the discipline and profession of public administration, and provides students with an understanding of the cultural, constitutional, institutional, organizational, and ethical context of public administration. Students will be introduced to the central issues, dilemmas, and roles of public administration. This document is the course syllabus, but it is augmented at the course website that should be reviewed periodically. Students are expected to complete the following objectives:

1. Recall and explain key justifications for public policy, especially those grounded in economic theory and institutions of a market economy.
2. Recall and explain the political institutional context in which public administrators operate.
3. Compare and contrast major schools of thought regarding the role of public administration in the United States.
4. Analyze existing public agencies and services in light of policy, political, administrative, and ethical concerns.

REQUIRED READINGS


All other assigned readings should be posted on Blackboard as pdfs.

COURSE GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Projects</td>
<td>20% (200 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>35% (350 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35% (350 pts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10% (100 pts)</td>
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(1) **Exams:** You will have two exams throughout the semester. The midterm will cover material from the first part of the semester and will be in class. You must use a computer to type your exam. The final exam will emphasize material from the midterm forward, but there will be a comprehensive component as well. The exams will be long essay, short essay and terminology based, typically multiple choice.

(2) **Class participation:** The instructor will evaluate in class comments and responses for quality and quantity. The ability to utilize course readings and make cogent and logical responses to questions. Participation also includes various in class activities that cannot be retaken so attendance is implicitly a component of participation. This is worth 100 points.

(3) **Class attendance:** Class attendance is correlated with overall performance. You should attend class. Absences are neither excused nor unexcused. Attendance is mandatory for exams.

(4) **Organizational Analysis Project.** At the beginning of the semester, students will be randomly assigned to groups for the production of one paper that describes and analyzes a public agency (governmental or nonprofit). More information is available on the website.

As you collaborate with your team members, you will work as a team, and consequently you should rely on each other in selecting, designing, and presenting the material. By working in a team, each of you should demonstrate your ability to work with others and manage project tasks. Carry your share of the workload. Group work is more challenging, but these skills are a significant in public administration.

**All team members will receive the same grade.** However, the instructor reserves the right to adjust an individual’s grade for failure to contribute to the group project. If a group is having problems with a particular member, then they should do the following:

a. One member of the group should discuss the situation with the member, and inform the instructor about this action.

b. Next, the entire group should discuss the situation with the free-rider, and inform the instructor about this action.

c. If necessary, the instructor will meet with the group to discuss the situation.

d. The instructor will take appropriate action during the grading process if no resolution is reached.

We expect that all students will be good team members. However, action should be immediately taken if a free-rider problem emerges. Waiting until the end of the semester will indicate that the problem is not that severe and the instructor is less likely to take corrective action.

**ACADEMIC POLICIES**

(1) **Attend class each week.** There is no formal attendance policy, but attendance affects participation. The instructor will not post PowerPoint slides so please attend and take notes. Attendance for exams is mandatory. Excused exam absences are rare and require
prior notification and documentation explaining absence. I reserve the right to ask
different questions on make-up exams.
(2) Reach each week’s assignments prior to class and be prepared to discuss the material.
Regular attendance and meaningful participation is often the margin of difference for
those on the borderline between grades.
(3) Assignments are due at the times identified on the course website. These times vary by
assignment so please review them carefully. Late assignments are not accepted.
(4) Incompletes will be assigned ONLY in the MOST EXCEPTIONAL circumstances. Please
complete the course. It is in your best interest to do so.

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT POLICIES

Please see the addendum to departmental policies posted on the Blackboard page.

1) Cheating and Plagiarism: Notice of this policy shall be given in all public
administration classes each semester, and written copies shall be available in the
public administration departmental office.
   a. Definitions: The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines
   cheating and plagiarism "as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or
   otherwise securing help in a test; copying other’s tests, assignments, reports,
   or term papers; representing the work of another as one’s own;
   collaborating without authority with another student during an examination
   or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic
   dishonesty."
   b. Penalties: Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a
   grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the
   minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of
   cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by
   the departmental faculty in the case of departmental exams.
   c. Procedures: Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental
   exams, papers, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the
departmental Curriculum and Degree Programs Committee. Cases of
   cheating of plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the
   instructor, be referred to the Curriculum and Degree Program[s] Committee
   in the case of either graduate or undergraduate students. This committee,
   acting as an agent of the Department, shall impose further penalties, or
   recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that
   the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in
   writing of the case.
   d. Appeals: Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following
   the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and
   Discipline.

2) Policy On Disability Accommodation: The Department of Public
Administration, in cooperation with the Office of Disability Accommodation,
complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable
accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written
accommodation request during regular office hours before the 12th class day of
regular semesters (4th class day of summer sessions).

3) **Holy Day Observance:** A student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence with no penalty. Advanced notice of such an absence is an important professional courtesy.

4) **Please see Blackboard for additional course policies regarding technology and other issues.**

5) Please complete the course evaluation online during the last week of the course.

### COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>Syllabus, Introduction &amp; Organization</td>
<td>Syllabus; Mintrom 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>CAPs and Government Solutions</td>
<td>Bickers &amp; Williams 4; Mintrom 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>US Governmental Systems</td>
<td>Bickers &amp; Williams 2, 5, US Constitution/BOR</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Governmental Failures: Political</td>
<td>Bickers &amp; Williams 3; Federalist Papers: 9, 10, 37, 39, 47-51</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Government Failures: Administrative</td>
<td>Mintrom 11, 13, 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>CAPs and Market Solutions</td>
<td>Bickers &amp; Williams 6; Mintrom 9; Review market analysis videos on BB if necessary.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Market Failures</td>
<td>Bickers &amp; Williams 7; Mintrom 10</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
<td>Classic Public Administration: The Politics Administration Dichotomy</td>
<td>Wilson 1887; McCandless and Guy 2013</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Classic Public Administration: Bureaucratic Organization and Management</td>
<td>Fry 1,2,7; Hall 1,3</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>New Public Management: Public &amp; Public Interest</td>
<td>Osborne &amp; Gaebler Intro, 1-3, 10; Van Ryzin et al. 2004;</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>New Public Management: Tools and Accountability</td>
<td>Osborne &amp; Gaebler 4-9, Appendix A &amp; B; Brown and Potoski 2003 &amp; 2006; GAO on Contracting</td>
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<td>11/28</td>
<td>New Public Service: Public &amp; Public Interest</td>
<td>Denhardt &amp; Denhardt 1-4</td>
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<td>12/5</td>
<td>New Public Service Tools and Accountability</td>
<td>Denhardt &amp; Denhardt 5-12</td>
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<td><strong>Group Paper</strong></td>
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<td>12/12</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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