UN Department of Public Administration  
PADM 6710. Seminar in Civic Engagement in Public Administration  
Spring 2018

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**Office location:** Chilton Hall 204C  
**Office Hours:** M, R from 1:30 to 3:30 and by appointment  
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**Course URL:** Login at learn.unt.edu

## Course Description and Objectives

Civic engagement is an enormous topic that encompasses many knowledge bases, many skills, and many abilities so we must simplify to gain traction. Clear distinctions between the world of politics and administration can be drawn, but as we know (?) those distinctions are largely theoretical. Nevertheless, this course attempts to view civic engagement through the lens of public administration broadly understood. In other words, this course operates from the value position that professional public servants should be neutrally competent managers and analysts who serve the public in governmental and nonprofit organizations. Therefore, students of public administration must be able to navigate multiple perspectives regarding 1) the nature, identity, and behavior of citizens; 2) expectations regarding citizen contributions to public management and governance broadly understood; and 3) the tools and techniques that leverage citizen engagement in pursuit of the public good, broadly understood.

Students should recognize that expectations for self-guided learning are greater in this course relative to other courses. In particular, students are asked to do the following:

1. Students must be prepared to discuss reading assignments. Students will be asked to lead discussions and conduct informal presentations.
2. Read and understand assignments that may not be discussed in whole or in part during class times.
3. Students must be willing to conduct extensive primary and secondary research.
4. Students must work closely with colleagues through formal and informal collaboration.

In summary, students should expect to read significant materials, to synthesize those materials, and to conduct independent projects with extensive research. **The burden and joy of learning sits squarely on the student.** My role as the instructor becomes more of a guide and evaluator. This approach works well with highly qualified and motivated students. I expect and know that you are such students. But, if this is not a good semester for you to engage in this type of learning environment, then please be aware of expectations now. High expectations are a foundation for excellence.

This syllabus is for the doctoral students.
Course Materials

The following books are required and available at local bookstores or online.


Recommended:


All other assigned readings are in Course Readings folder on Blackboard.

Course Evaluation and Grades

Below you will find a brief description of each component and their weight in the evaluation process. There are 1,000 possible points in the course.

1. Paper (50%). Write a publication quality literature review about a specific topic regarding civic engagement. This should add value to the literature, which usually entails the creation of a typology or a substantive critique of the literature. Alternatively, you can conduct a meta-analysis as a form of literature review. All topics must be approved by the instructor no later than October 15th.

2. Final Exam (25%). You will have one comprehensive exam at the end of the course over the assigned literature in both 5700 and 6710 syllabi. This substitutes for the MPA final exam.

3. MPA Course Assignments (25%). Complete the assignments and participation in the regular class. So you must do the MPA case study, staging exercises, and observational exercise. You will receive grades, but they will be re-weighted proportionally.

Other Course Policies

Please see the Blackboard page for other policies set by the department.

Students with Disabilities

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification of student disability to
the instructor and reasonable accommodations will be made. However, no requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

Withdrawals
Students may withdraw from the course, but you must follow university procedures. The instructor is not responsible for failure to meet withdrawal deadlines.

Classroom Civility
Students must help maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. Please refrain from engaging in activities that are disruptive to the learning process such as tardiness, use of phones or other electronic devices, or engaging in other activities. Moreover, students should engage in civil discourse with their colleagues and instructor. Argumentation and debate do not necessitate the use of language that denigrates others. Students are encouraged to express their positions and opinions, even controversial ones, but they must do so in a civil manner. Failure to maintain a civil environment will be incorporated into your participation assessment.

Academic Ethics
The issue of academic ethics can be a problem and thus any instance of cheating, plagiarism, falsification, or failure to do original work for this course can result in one or more of the following consequences.
- Failing grade for assignment
- Failing course grade
- Recommendation for additional disciplinary action
- Requirement to do substitute assignments
- Removal from the PhD program or University

See Blackboard for an additional list of course policies that are an extension of this syllabus document.
Course Syllabus

The following schedule indicates our plan for the semester. The instructor will change the plan to facilitate course objectives. Students are responsible for any changes made to the syllabus that are announced in class or through announcements on Blackboard. Such announcements will be timely, but the nature of this course is flexibility for both students and the instructor. To facilitate such flexibility think about the course as three modules that may be relocated within the course calendar, but will be covered in the calendar. Please also recognize the heavy reading load early in the semester and be prepared to read the material before coming to class so you can discuss the material.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Introduction to the Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Organization of Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>In Class Workshop – see 5700 syllabus</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
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<td>March 1</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Session 5</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>Session 6</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
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<td>April 12</td>
<td>Session 8</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Session 9</td>
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<td>April 26</td>
<td>Session 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Literature Review is Due</td>
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May 10  Final Exam is due at 5:00PM
The following is some literature about civic engagement. It is organized around the principle that understanding civic engagement requires us to understand different conceptions of the public and citizens before engagement is conceptualized. I follow others in offering the following conceptions:

1) The public comprises citizen-customers in a public economy. Therefore, engagement involves market interactions.

2) The public comprises citizen-partners in the production of goods and services. Therefore, engagement involves the mobilization of public resources in the transformation of land, labor, and capital into final goods and services.

3) The public comprises citizens of a democratic polity. Therefore, engagement involves institutionalized involvement in public problem-solving beyond political action in electoral or lobbying contexts prevalent in republics.

Engagement with Citizen-Customers


Engagement with Citizen-Partners


Engagement with Democratic Citizens


