

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 7380:
ADMINISTRATIVE ETHICS

Fall Semester 2018
University of Georgia Gwinnett Campus
Monday Evenings, 6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines ethical issues that arise in administrative practice and considers the sources to which the public administrator can look for guidance in addressing these issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to introduce students to the ethical nature and dilemmas of American public administration. The most common approach to ethics in government focuses on avoiding impropriety and combating corruption. This common approach delves into issues such as conflicts of interest, misuse of public resources for private ends, whistle-blowing, and resignation in protest. Although these issues are important, they arise infrequently and do not provide assistance in resolving dilemmas involved in day-to-day decision-making.

Rather than concentrating on wrongdoing, this course focuses on ethical dilemmas arising from the daily exercise of legitimate discretionary power. We will confront questions such as: “How do I make ‘right’ or ‘wise’ decisions?” “To what and to whom do my obligations extend?” “What values do I serve, and what are their priorities?” “Must I always obey my superiors?” “Can I legitimately deceive others in the public interest?” “What role should character and status play in public life?” “Can one meaningfully distinguish between public and private ethics?” Most of these questions cannot be answered definitively, but public administrators must still address them if they are to perform their duties effectively and appropriately.

More specifically, this course will address: (1) the nature and types of ethical obligations involved in American public administration; (2) the integration and application of various types of ethical judgments in administrative contexts; (3) the relation of American constitutional and political theory to the ethical obligations and loyalties of public administrators; and (4) typical moral dilemmas in public-sector decision-making.

Students will read articles and watch films to learn about types of ethical reasoning. The objectives of this course are to help students become familiar with the literature on ethics in the field of public administration, refine their reflective capacity concerning decisions in the public sector, and appreciate the myriad concepts and approaches in the field.

INSTRUCTOR

Mr. James Michael “Mike” Martinez

Part-time instructor

Website: <http://www.jmichaelmartinez.com/>

Telephone: (770) 207-8890

Fax: (770) 207-8897

Cell: (770) 630-8096

E-Mail: Mike_Martinez-CorporateCounsel@dart.biz

jmikemar@uga.edu

jmikemar@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Upon request and by prior appointment.

Because I am seldom on campus during the day, the telephone and fax numbers listed are for my home-office. Feel free to call between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (or send me an e-mail message at any time). If I am unavailable when you call, leave a voice message (including a telephone number with an area code) and I will return your call as soon as I can.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Two texts are required. I will post additional readings on eLearning Commons.

Richter, William L. and Frances Burke, Editors. ***Combating Corruption, Encouraging Ethics: A Practical Guide to Management Ethics***. Second Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. ISBN: 978-0-7425-4451-2. [Hereinafter referred to as “Richter & Burke.”]

Martinez, J. Michael. ***Public Administration Ethics for the 21st Century***. Santa Barbara, California: Praeger, an Imprint of ABC-CLIO, 2009. ISBN: 0-31335-882-6, ISBN-13: 978-0-31335-882-1. [Hereinafter referred to as “Martinez.”]

GRADING POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Class grades are calculated on the basis of a student’s performance on a series of short papers as well as class attendance and participation, along with a formal in-class presentation and a larger research paper. Each short paper must be 3-5 pages, double-spaced, using 12-point font, Times New Roman, with one-inch margins. Students will write a research paper on one specific area of ethics. The term paper should be 10-15 pages in length for master’s/MPA students, and 15-20 pages in length for doctoral students. The paper should be typed, double-spaced, using normal fonts (Times Roman, 10 or 12 point). Please leave one-inch margins on each side. I want **your** thoughts on the subject, so you should limit the use of direct quotations unless they cogently make a point related to your thesis.

The grading rubric is as follows:

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
Attendance and Participation	10%
Four short papers: 10% each	40%
In-Class Presentation	10%
Final Paper:	40%

Points will be assigned according to a 100-point scale, and letter grades will be calculated based on the following conversion formula.

Points	Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A -
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
Below 70	D/F

CLASS ATTENDANCE & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are encouraged to attend classes in accordance with policies and procedures of the university. A strong correlation exists between class attendance and high achievement. In addition, attendance and participation count for 10% of the final grade.

Wilson Mizner once observed that “to copy from one is plagiarism, but to copy from two is research.” The University of Georgia does not share Mizner’s permissive attitude on plagiarism. Accordingly, every student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the student code of conduct, which addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the university judicial program, which include either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE & SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Please be considerate of your classmates and refrain from talking during class except in instances where participation is appropriate. Similarly, please mute all electronic devices that might disrupt the class. Although a certain amount of noise and rudeness is an unfortunate part of daily life, egregious classroom behavior (as defined by the instructor) will not be tolerated.

Students occasionally present special circumstances that require special consideration. Examples of “special circumstances” include students who have difficulty seeing or hearing information presented in class owing to physical disabilities or students for whom English is a second language. Anyone who presents these or other special circumstances should see the instructor to make arrangements to accommodate his or her needs, to the extent possible.

E-LEARNING COMMONS

The Department of Public Administration & Policy uses eLearning Commons to provide supporting materials for PADP courses. Accordingly, eLearning Commons will display the syllabus, supplemental readings and materials, copies of PowerPoint slides, and important announcements, including procedures to be followed in the event of inclement weather, university closings, and/or the instructor’s illness. All students should check eLearning Commons frequently to ensure that they are informed of course requirements and milestones.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, August 13, 2018	First class session; <i>The Trial of Socrates</i> (in-class film).
Monday, August 27, 2018	Assignment 1 due at the start of class; <i>The Milgram Experiments</i> (in-class film).
Monday, September 3, 2018	Labor Day Holiday; no class session.
Monday, September 24, 2018	<i>Lifeboat</i> (in-class film).
Monday, October 1, 2018	Assignment 2 due at the start of class.
Monday, October 8, 2018	<i>King Rat</i> (in-class film).
Monday, October 15, 2018	<i>The Stanford Prison Experiments</i> (in-class film).
Wednesday, October 17, 2018	Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
Monday, October 22, 2018	Assignment 3 due at the start of class.
Monday, October 29, 2018	<i>A Simple Plan</i> (in-class film).
Monday, November 5, 2018	<i>The Road</i> (in-class film).
Monday, November 12, 2018	Assignment 4 due at the start of class.
Monday, November 19, 2018	Thanksgiving holiday; no class session.
Monday, December 3, 2018	Last class; Student presentations; Final paper due at the start of class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students should read all applicable assignments before attending class.

Part I: Philosophical Foundations	Readings & Assignments
1. <u>Monday, August 13:</u> “Introduction to the Course.”	No required reading. Syllabus review. Introductory lecture (Part I). <i>The Trial of Socrates</i> (in-class film).

2. <u>Monday, August 20:</u> “The Ancient Framework.”	Introductory lecture (Part II). Richter & Burke, Part I Introductory Essay and Chapter 1. Martinez, “Introduction.” *Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , Book VII. *Aristotle, Excerpts from <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Books I, II & VI. *Bentham, <i>Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> , Chapter 1.
3. <u>Monday, August 27:</u> “The Modern Framework.”	Martinez, Chapter 2. *Kant, Excerpt from <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i> . *Federalist No. 51. *Rawls, Excerpt from <i>A Theory of Justice</i> . *King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” <i>The Milgram Experiments</i> (in-class film). Assignment 1 due at the start of class.
4. <u>Monday, September 3:</u> <u>Labor Day Holiday.</u>	No class session.
Part II: The Public Administration Context	Readings & Assignments
1. <u>Monday, September 10:</u> “Administrative Ethics” (Part I).	Richter & Burke, Chapter 2. Martinez, Chapter 1. *Cohen and Eimicke, “Trends in 20 th Century United States Government Service Ethics.” *Cooper, “Big Questions in Administrative Ethics.”
2. <u>Monday, September 17:</u> “Administrative Ethics” (Part II).	*Cooper, “Hierarchy, Virtue, and the Practice of Public Administration.” *Martinez, “Law Versus Ethics.” *Menzel, “Public Administration as a Profession.” *Richardson and Nigro, “Administrative Ethics and Founding Thought.”
3. <u>Monday, September 24:</u> Catch-up day.	<i>Lifeboat</i> (in-class film). Catch up on readings/discussions.
4. <u>Monday, October 1:</u> “Administrative Ethics” (Part III).	*Foster, “Law, Morality, and the Public Servant.” *Lilla, “Ethos, ‘Ethics,’ and Public Service.” *Tuckness, “Everybody Does It.” *Wilson, “The Rediscovery of Character.” Assignment 2 due at the start of class.
5. <u>Monday, October 8:</u> “Public Organizations.” (Part I).	Richter & Burke, Part II Introductory Essay and Chapters, 3, 4, 7 & 8. Martinez, Chapter 3. * Richardson and Atkins, “King Rat” article. <i>King Rat</i> (in-class film).

6. <u>Monday, October 15:</u> “Public Organizations.” (Part II).	*Kolthoff, <i>et al.</i> , “The Ethics of New Public Management: Is Integrity at Stake?” *Maesschalck, “The Impact of New Public Management Reforms on Public Servants’ Ethics.” *Shalala, “The Buck Stops Here.” *Simha and Cullen, “Ethical Climates and Their Effects on Organizational Outcomes.” <i>The Stanford Prison Experiments</i> (in-class film).
7. <u>Monday, October 22:</u> “External Controls” (Part I).	Richter & Burke, Part III Introductory Essay and Chapters 9, 10 & 11. *ABA Model Code of Professional Responsibility. Assignment 3 due at the start of class.
8. <u>Monday, October 29:</u> “External Controls” (Part II).	*Chandler, “The Problem of Moral Reasoning in American Public Administration: The Case for a Code of Ethics.” *Meine and Dunn, “Ethics Codes and Their Administration: A Particularly Illustrative Case Study and a Call for Collaboration.” *Mulgan, “‘Accountability’: An Ever-Expanding Concept?” *Van Wart, “Codes of Ethics as Living Documents.” <i>A Simple Plan</i> (in-class film).
9. <u>Monday, November 5:</u> “Internal Controls” (Part I).	Richter & Burke, Chapters 5, 6 & 12. Martinez, Chapters 4 and 5. <i>The Road</i> (in-class film).
10. <u>Monday, November 12:</u> “Internal Controls” (Part II).	*Dubnick, “Accountability and Ethics.” *Lewis, “In Pursuit of the Public Interest.” *Thompson, “Moral Responsibility of Public Officials.” *Ventriss, “Democratic Citizenship and Public Ethics.” Assignment 4 due at the start of class.
11. <u>Monday, November 19:</u> Thanksgiving Holiday.	No class session.
12. <u>Monday, November 26:</u> “Internal Controls” (Part III).	*Adams, “The Problem of Administrative Evil in a Culture of Technical Rationality.” *O’Kelly and Dubnick, “Taking Tough Choices Seriously: Public Administration and Individual Moral Agency.” *Pfiffner, “Elliot Richardson: Exemplar of Integrity and Public Service.” *Thompson, “The Possibility of Administrative Ethics.”

13. <u>Monday, December 3:</u> Last class: Wrap-up.	Student presentations. Final paper due at the start of class.
--	---

* = Posted on e-Learning Commons.