PLSC 510- Modern Public Administration  
Fall 2016  
Monday 6-8:40 pm  
Livonia Campus  
Dr. Barbara Patrick

Office: Department of Political Science, Pray Harrold Hall  
Office Hours: T 12:30-4 pm, MW 12:30-2 pm or by appointment  
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REQUIRED TEXT:

SUGGESTED 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 or contemporary public administration. Its goal is to provide students with information on current issues being examined by scholars in the discipline, expose students to important questions in the subfields of public administration, and to educate students on classical, neoclassical and more recent market approaches to the theory and practice of public administration. Emphasis throughout the semester will be on critical analysis 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. 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.

**University Policies:**

*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.

*Notice to all foreign students* (F and J visa): To comply with all federal regulations, please contact the EMU office of International Students (OIS), 244 EMU Student Center, 734.487.3116

**Academic Honesty:**

Each student in class is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism violate the rules of the University and the ethical standards of professional public administration. Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the full extent allowed by University rules and regulations. Plagiarism is generally defined in your student handbook as presenting as your own work that done by someone else, even if only an idea and/or not quoted directly. Cite, quote, and when in doubt, ask the instructor. Those caught cheating will be given a zero for the work in which the cheating occurred. Possible plagiarism will be dealt with on a case by case basis. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The [Student Conduct Code](http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/) contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, and it can be accessed online at http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/

**Observance of Religious Holidays**

**University Policy:** Eastern Michigan University recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student.

**University Practice:** Students will provide advance notice to their instructors in order to make up work, including examinations that they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the appropriate instructor(s), students may appeal to the head(s) of the department(s) in which the course(s) is/are offered.

There are many resources on line regarding the observance of religious holidays; here is one site with an extensive listing of holiday dates: http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2013.htm

**Grading**

Midterm: 20%
Final Exam: 20%
Assigned Readings: 20%
Class Participation: 10%
Semester Paper and Presentation: 30%
**Examination:**
Student must take examinations when they are given in class; make ups will only be scheduled for extraordinary circumstances. You must notify me in advance. If you miss an exam I will assume that you have chosen to receive a “0” for your grade on that exam.

**Assigned Readings:**
Each student will be required to select two articles from the reading list for review. The student will read the article and serve as the class discussant for the article. As the discussant the student will present the reading during the designated class period. They must also submit a two page critic of the reading. Assignments for presentation will be made during the first class session.

**Class Participation:**
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 in and out of class to assess a current issue in the field of public administration. The assessment will require students to identify central questions or administrative issue, why it’s important to the field of public administration (which theories or readings apply), key stakeholders impacted by the issue, and viable alternatives on how the issue may be adequately addressed by administrators and policymakers.

The issue/topic to be discussed will be given during the latter part of class. The students will work as a unit to address the issue. The following week the class will discuss the topic and the students will highlight their findings and proposals as it relates to the material covered in the course.

Also, it is expected that you will attend and participate in all class sessions.

**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 Mitchell Library. The final product should be double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman format using APA style format.

Your topic must be submitted to the professor for approval by October 10, 2016. You will present your paper to the class.

**Course Readings:**
Several of the readings for the semester are not located in the textbook but can be accessed through the Eastern Michigan University Library (the majority on-line). It is your responsibility to download/access the readings.
COURSE OUTLINE:

September 12, 2016
Week One Introduction to Public Administration

Introduction to the Course

September 19, 2016
Week Two Understanding Public Organizations: From Classical Theories to Modern Day Market Reforms

Ott and Russell Chapter 1


September 26, 2016
Week Three Leadership and Decision-making in Public Administration

Ott and Russell Chapter 10 Leadership and Accountability


**October 3, 2016**

*Week Four The Significance of Organization Culture in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors*


**October 10, 2016**

*Week Five Human Resources/Personnel Issues in Public and Nonprofit Organizations*


Wadsworth, Lori and Rex Facer, and Chyleen Arbon. 2010. “Alternative Work Schedules in


October 17, 2016
Week Six Human Resources/Personnel Issues in Public and Nonprofit Organizations continued…


October 24, 2016
Week Seven
Midterm Exam

October 31, 2016
Week Eight
Research Day
November 7, 2016
Week Nine Intergovernmental Relations and Budgeting in the Public and Nonprofit Sectors
Ott and Russell Chapter 5 Intergovernmental Relations


Research Paper Discussion

November 14, 2016
Week Ten Ethics in Government and Nonprofit Organizations

Ott and Russell Chapter 15 Ethics


November 21, 2016
Week Eleven Race, Gender, and Equity in Public Administration


November 28, 2016
Week Twelve Administrative Response to Modern Day Natural Disaster

In Class Video “If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don’t Rise”

December 5, 2016
Week Thirteen


December 12, 2016
Week Fourteen
Research Presentation Day

December 19, 2014
Week Fifteen
Final Exam