PADM 5301.001: Theory and Practice of Public Administration

Spring 2018 Course Syllabus

Course Description: An introduction to the concepts, theories, literature, legal aspects, and practices of public administration and management. Topics include administrative behavior; program planning, management and evaluation; decision-making; structure and processes of organizations; and ethics.

(3 credit hour graduate level course)

Class meets: Tuesday 7:00-9:30pm in Bay Hall 128 (This class is designated as 25-49% online. Therefore, online assignments will be accessible via Blackboard.)

Instructor Information: Dr. Beth M. Rauhaus, Assistant Professor of Public Administration and MPA Program Coordinator
Office: BH 339
Office Phone: 361-825-3286
Email Address: beth.rauhaus@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: Monday 9-11am, Tuesday 6-7pm, Wednesday 9-11am, or by appointment

*It is best to contact me via email, not through Blackboard for a timely response.

Course Materials: The following two textbooks are required and may be purchased through the university bookstore. Any additional readings and resources will be accessible electronically in Blackboard or through the university library.


Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:
- Describe the role of public administration in American government
- Identify and analyze public problems and make decisions based on the foundation and intellectual roots of public administration
- Conduct public administration research using appropriate terms and references
- Understand and evaluate the various functions of public administration
- Communicate, interact, and lead in a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry by utilizing classroom and case study discussions

Course Requirements: Students may earn a total of 600 possible points throughout this course by completing the following assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Possible Point Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Boards</td>
<td>On-going</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Affairs Analysis</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are calculated on a ten point scale. At the end of the semester, students will have a possible score of 600 points.

Discussion Boards: In this class, it is important to engage in class discussions and in activities, while also maintaining respect of others’ opinions. Students need to read materials ahead of time and be prepared to discuss overarching concepts in discussion boards. We will have a total of 5 discussion boards to be held during online meetings. Each discussion board will be worth 20 points. Details for discussion board expectations and policy will be forthcoming.

Public Affairs Analysis: This brief (one to two page) report, students will examine a current issue in public affairs at the local, state or federal level and explain how the functions of public administration are illustrated. You should describe the event and apply it directly to concepts discussed in class and in the literature. Students will share their work in a class forum.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will cover information from the beginning of the semester. There will be a series of short answers and discussion questions, which will require students to exhibit basic foundations and theoretical concepts of public administration.

Article Review: An important element of graduate level work is to obtain research skills appropriate to the field of study. In this two to three page written assignment, students will select an academic journal from the field, analyze it, and explain the relevance to public administration theories and practices. Students will also present their work in class.

Research Proposal: For this ten page written assignment, students will identify an area of interest in public administration to explore. You will:
- identify and explain the importance of this area of the field
- use academic literature and additional references (at least two academic journal articles) to demonstrate how researchers study this area of public administration
- offer an explanation of why this topic is important to public administration and the future of governing

**Final Exam:** Students will be assessed on their knowledge of major concepts and theories of public administration at the end of the semester. Details will be forthcoming on the format of the exam.

**A few important notes regarding written assignments:**

For written assignments, please use standard font, such as Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1-inch margins, and double-spacing. Citations and note style should be consistent throughout, using APA Style citations. Papers should be of professional quality, thoroughly proofread, and clear of spelling and grammatical errors. Deductions will be made for such infractions.

References or sources of information for papers must consist of scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles or journals, government reports, or the readings for the class. The use of Wikipedia or other Internet encyclopedia for any paper is not acceptable for graduate level work and will not be accepted.

For more information on APA style citations, access this useful guide: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/)

Submissions must be handed in on time! Late submissions will be subject to a **ten percentage deduction per day late**. Do NOT email assignments to me, unless you have prior approval to do so.

**Course Policies:**

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is compulsory. Excused absences will be granted with documentation only (university-related functions, medical, etc.) You are responsible for any class work missed. Professional etiquette is expected at all times in the classroom. Respect one another by listening when others are speaking, avoiding the use of cell-phones or any other disruptive behavior.

**Drop Date:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. *Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the
class. (April 6) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Academic Misconduct:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic misconduct of any kind is unacceptable. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. Consequences for academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an automatic F (0 points) for that assignment/test. If academic misconduct is suspected on any assessment, the instructor reserves the right to impose restrictions on future assessments for an individual or the entire class as needed. Please note that the university requires faculty members to formally report all instances of academic misconduct via an Academic Misconduct Incident Form. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, collusion, and fabrication. Cheating is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

Cheating also includes: 1) the dependence of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments or 2) the possessing, using, buying, stealing, transporting, selling or soliciting in whole or in part items including, but not limited to, the contents of an un-administered test, test key, homework solutions or possession at any time of current or previous test materials without the instructor’s permission. Plagiarism is intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own without proper acknowledgement of the source, with the exception of information that is generally accepted as common knowledge. Plagiarism also includes: 1) the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment or 2) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling or distribution of term papers or other academic materials. Multiple submissions is the submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from instructors of the class for which the student submits the work. Collusion is intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another individual in progressing forward on academic assignments. Fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation is the intentional altering or inventing of any information or citation that is used in assessing academic work.

If you have questions about the university's policy on academic misconduct, please see the Student Code of Conduct and Procedure for Academic Misconduct Cases.
**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Grade Appeals Process:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Course Schedule:**

*This course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class or in Blackboard.*

**Week 1: Tuesday, January 16th**

*Introduction to the Course*

**Week 2: Tuesday, January 23rd**
Foundations of Public Administration
- Introductions, Syllabus Review, and purchase texts
- Read Shafritz text, Ch. 1 & 2

Week 3: Tuesday, January 30th
Understanding Public Administration Theory and Research
- Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 1
- Online Meeting: Discussion Board #1

Week 4: Tuesday, February 6th
The Ever Evolving Field of Public Administration & Building Research Skills
- Read Shafritz text, Ch. 3 & 4
- Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 2
- Library Session “Learning how to find and access PA scholarly literature and sources”- Class Meets in Library Computer Lab (room 109)

Week 5: Tuesday, February 13th
Understanding Public Organizations
- Read Shafritz text, Ch. 6 & 7
- Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 3
- Online Meeting: Public Affairs Analysis Assignment due
- Discussion Board #2

Week 6: Tuesday, February 20th
Theory Application
- Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 4 & 6
- In Class Activity
- Review for Midterm

Week 7: Tuesday, February 27th
Midterm Exam

Week 8: Tuesday, March 6th
Managing and Leading Personnel
- Read Shafritz text, Ch. 10, 11, & 12
- Read Theory Primer, Ch. 5
- Discussion Board #3

Week 9: Tuesday, March 13th
Spring Break!
Week 10: Tuesday, March 20th
Article Review Forum
  - Online Meeting: Discussion Board #4
  - Submit Article Review

Week 11: Tuesday, March 27th
Theories of Policy Making and Governance
Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 7, & 9

Week 12: Tuesday, April 3rd
An Introduction to Public Budgeting and Finance
  - Read Shafritz text, Ch. 13 & 14

Week 13: Thursday, April 10th
Research Proposal
  - Online Meeting: Research Papers are to be submitted electronically

Week 14: Tuesday, April 17
Strategic Management and the Future of Public Administration
  - Read Shafritz text, Ch. 9
  - Read Theory Primer text, Ch. 10

Week 15: Tuesday, April 24
Perceptions of Public Service
  - Read articles in Blackboard
  - Online Meeting: Video streamed online and Discussion Board #5

Week 16: Tuesday, May 1
Course Review

Final Exam will be ......