Rutgers University, Campus at Newark
School of Public Affairs and Administration

Ethical Public Service
Joshua L. Osowski
40:827:301
Fall 2013, Thursday, 6:00pm-9:00pm
josowski@gmail.com
Location TBD
office hours by appointment
973-222-7527

Course Description

This course examines selected ethical problems and dilemmas facing public servants, including conflict of interest, confidentiality, deception, the appearance of impropriety, official disobedience, whistle-blowing, human rights, and the moral responsibilities of leaders and citizens.

School of Public Affairs and Administration’s Student Learning Outcomes

- To be able to lead and manage in public governance
- To participate in and contribute to the public policy process
- To analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems, and make decisions
- To articulate and apply a public service perspective
- To communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenship

Required Course Materials


Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics in the News</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
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Grading

- A = 90% or above
- B = 80% or above
- C = 70% or above
- D = 60% or above
- F = Below 60%
**All assignments to be further explained in class.**

**Rutgers Blackboard System**
All materials, assignments and grades for this course can be accessed the Rutgers’ Blackboard site: [http://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://blackboard.newark.rutgers.edu/). If you utilize an email address that is different from the one that Rutgers assigns you, please change your email address on blackboard in order to receive class emails.

**Course Topics**

*Students are expected to complete all assigned readings before each class meeting.*

Week 1  
**Introduction**
  - Svara – Chapter 1
  - Lewis & Gilman - Introduction

Week 2  
**Ethics**
  - Svara – Chapter 2
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 1

Week 3  
**Serving the Public Interest**
  - Svara – Chapter 3
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 2

Week 4  
**Individual Responsibility**
  - Svara – Chapter 3
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapters 3 & 4

Week 5  
**Ethical Behavior and Standards**
  - Svara – Chapter 4
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 5

Week 6  
**Challenges to Ethical Behavior**
  - Svara – Chapter 6
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 7

Week 7  
**Codes of Ethics**
  - Svara – Chapter 5
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 8

Week 8  
**Resolving Ethical Dilemmas**
  - Svara – Chapter 7
  - Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 6
Week 9    Resolving Ethical Dilemmas (cont.)
          Svara – Chapter 7
          Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 6

Week 10   Elevating Ethical Behavior
          Svara – Chapter 9
          Lewis & Gilman – Chapter 9

Week 11   Building an Ethical Agency
          Svara – Chapter 10
          Lewis & Gilman – Chapters 8 & 10

Week 12   Whistle blowing and Official Disobedience
          Svara – Chapter 8

Week 13   Presentations

Week 14   Presentations and Exam Review

Week 15   Final Exam

Personal Responsibility
- All students are expected to participate in discussion and be respectful of divergent opinions and viewpoints.
- Class attendance is mandatory.
- Use of cell phones, texting and surfing the Internet is not allowed.
- All work submitted for grade must be original or paraphrased. Any work that is determined to be plagiarized will receive a grade of zero and be reported as per university rules.

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change