

Understanding Public Administration and the Public Sector

(40:834:201) [3 credits]

Course Description

This course introduces students to the field and profession of public administration. By covering the economic, political, and social dynamics within which governments and public organizations operate, the course allows students to develop a broad understanding of the public sector. Moreover, the course addresses several administrative, managerial, and political challenges facing public organizations and related to human resources, finances, program development and evaluation, strategic planning, among others. By completing this course, students gain an initial understanding of the functioning of government that is necessary to make adequate decisions and effect change as public administrators.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the key milestones in the development of the Public Sector
- Define public administration and the uniqueness of this sector from the profit and nonprofit sector
- Articulate the unique management strategies of Public Administration
- Demonstrate advanced understanding of the public sector in terms of economic political, and social movements

Requirements

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Class sessions and discussions: Students will actively engage in class discussions.

Schedule / Outline of Topics

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: Public Administration: An Indispensable Part of Society/What Public Administration Entails
- Week 3: Politics and Public Administration
- Week 4: Intergovernmental Relations
- Week 5: Public Performance
- Week 6: Performance Evaluation
- Week 7: Public Budgeting
- Week 8: Public Sector Leadership
- Week 9: Ethics and Public Administration
- Week 11: Public Service and Popular Culture
- Week 12: The Future of Public Administration
- Week 13: Making Sense of Agency Profile/Leadership Interviews
- Week 14: Final

Texts / Materials / Resources

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

Holzer, M. & Schwester, R. (2016). Public Administration: An Introduction. SECOND EDITION. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. ISBN: 978-0-7656-3911-0