

POL 801: Administration, Ethics, and Public Policy

Spring Semester 2006

Combs 114

Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:45pm

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Office Hours: Monday 2-4, and by appointment

Description of Course

- An analysis and overview of the interplay of ethical considerations, administration, and policy process in the public sector.

Required Texts

- Kettl, Donald F., and James W. Fesler. 2005. "The Politics of the Administrative Process." CQ Press: Washington, D.C.
- Theodoulou, Stella Z., and Chris Kofinis. 2004. "The Art of the Game: Understanding American Public Policy Making." Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.
- Lewis, Carol W., and Stuart C. Gilman. 2005. "The Ethics Challenge in Public Service." Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, CA

Optional Text

- Ashworth, Kenneth. 2001. "Caught Between the Dog and the Fireplug, or How to Survive Public Service." Georgetown University Press: Washington, D.C.

Learning Objectives

- Students will understand historical and current issues facing public administrators, theories of public administration, and how those theories are applicable in the practice of public administration.
- Students will understand various ethical constructs used in public agencies.
- Students will understand the policy process and the interplay between policymaking and public administration.
- Students will improve their writing and presentation skills.

Assessment Methods

- Learning objectives related to administration will be assessed on exams and the final project.
- Learning objectives related to ethics will be assessed on exams and the final project.
- Learning objectives related to the policy process will be assessed on exams.
- Learning objectives related to writing and presentation skills will be assessed on homework assignments and the final project.

Course Relationship to MPH Program

This course relates directly to the accomplishment of the educational program objectives of the MPH degree, which are described in the Student Handbook that students receive upon enrollment into the program. Please reference the educational program objectives throughout the semester as they will provide a framework for this course and will contribute to your preparation for successfully completing other degree program requirements (e.g., comprehensive examination, capstone, practicum).

The MPH educational program objectives addressed in the course are:

- Contribute to the public health profession through sound professional public health attitudes, values, concepts and ethical practices.
- Recognize and facilitate diversity of thought, culture, gender and ethnicity through communication and collaboration.
- Integrate and apply the crosscutting knowledge and skills (competencies) within five core public health areas of knowledge (behavioral sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health science, and public health administration).
- Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills necessary for specialized roles within public health specific to community health, environmental health science, or public administration.

This course also relates directly to the accomplishment of overall program competencies and option-specific competencies. Please refer to www.mph.eku.edu and/or the MPH Student Handbook to see which competencies are specifically addressed in this course.

Course content, assignments, and assessment instruments have been designed to facilitate the attainment and demonstration of appropriate knowledge and skills, and facilitate application in the field of public health.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

Class attendance is required. Participation is an important part of this class and will count toward your final grade. I expect you to thoroughly read all material before class each week.

Blackboard

Students should check Blackboard on a regular basis. Please update your ECU email and consult with Academic Computing if you do not know how to use Blackboard.

Exams

There will be a midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. No make-up exams will be given unless you receive permission before exam time or have a documented medical emergency.

Homework

There will be five homework assignments that will focus on improving your writing skills. Assignments turned in past the due date will be marked down one letter grade for each day late.

Final Project

Each student will participate in a group project. Details will be provided in a separate handout.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and destruction of course materials violate the rules of the University and the ethical standards of public administration and political science professions. Violations of the university's rules regarding academic honesty can lead to a failing grade in the course and expulsion from the University. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to appropriate University officials as required by University rules and procedures. If I suspect a student has cheated in any way on homework or exams, or plagiarized materials in the final project, I will pursue it. See me if you're not sure what constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

Disability Accommodation Statement

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please make an appointment with the course instructor to discuss any academic accommodations you need. If you need academic accommodations and are not registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please contact the office on the third floor of the Student Services Building, by email at disabilities@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933 V/TDD. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in alternative forms.

Grading Summary

Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Participation:	10%
Homework:	15%
Final Project:	25%

Final Grade Calculation: 90% and above = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C

Weekly Reading Schedule

KF= Kettl and Fesler
TK = Theodoulou and Kofinis
LG = Lewis and Gilman
Cases = See Case Appendix in KF

Week 1, January 18th

Introduction

Week 2, January 25th

KF Chapter One: Introduction

TK Chapter One: The Language of Public Policy: Critical Concepts

TK Chapter Two: The What: Policy Typologies, Policy Tools, and the Policy-Making Process

Case 1. Speed limits, and what governmental rules and regulations mean in actual practice.

Week 3, February 1st

KF Chapter Two: What Government Does – And How it Does it

TK Chapter Three: Institutional Structure, Legislative Centers, and Policy Arenas

TK Chapter Five: The Policy Process: Diverse Models and Theories

Case 2. The 2004 flu vaccine shortage and the powers and constraints upon government.

Homework 1 due at the beginning of class.

Week 4, February 8th

KF Chapter Three: Foundations of Organization Theory

Case 3. Problems of coordination and organizational culture affecting the national intelligence agencies.

Week 5, February 15th

KF Chapter Four: Strategies and Tactics for Administrative Reform

KF Chapter Six: Organization Problems

TK Chapter Six: Problem Identification: Recognition of Problems and Issues

Case 4. FEMA and hurricane disaster relief: the agency in 1992 vs. 2004.

Case 6. Schwarzenegger's California Performance Review and the reorganization of the Board for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Homework 2 due at the beginning of class.

Week 6, February 22nd

LG Introduction: Ethics in Public Service

LG Chapter One: What is Important in Public Service?

LG Chapter Three: Serving the Public Interest

LG Chapter Four: Taking Individual Responsibility

Week 7, March 1st

LG Chapter Six: Resolving Ethical Dilemmas: Strategies and Tactics for Managers

LG Chapter Eight: Designing and Implementing Codes

LG Chapter Ten: Building an Ethical Agency

Homework 3 due at the beginning of class.

REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8, March 8th

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9, March 15th

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10, March 22nd

KF Chapter Five: The Executive Branch

TK Chapter Four: The Who: The Policy-Making Actors

TK Chapter Seven: Agenda Setting: A Theoretical Understanding

Case 5. The 9/11 Commission's call for a National Intelligence Director.

Week 11, March 29th

KF Chapter Seven: The Civil Service

KF Chapter Eight: Managing Human Capital

TK Chapter Eight: Policy Design and Formulation

Case 7. The privatization of a Virginia city's trash collection service.

Case 8. GAO, OPM, and OMB's combined strategy for maximizing human capital: an executive summary.

Homework 4 due at the beginning of class.

Week 12, April 5th

KF Chapter Nine: Decision Making

KF Chapter Ten: Budgeting

TK Chapter Nine: Policy Adoption: Decisions and Strategies

Case 9. Alan Greenspan and changes in decision-making strategies at the Federal Reserve.

Case 10. Pennsylvania's SEPTA system and the politics of budgeting.

Week 13, April 12th

KF Chapter Eleven: Implementation

TK Chapter Ten: Policy Implementation: Execution of Policy Solutions

Case 11. Taser gun use by Florida police and the subjective discretion of street-level bureaucrats.

Homework 5 due at the beginning of class.

Week 14, April 19th

KF Chapter 12: Regulation and the Courts

KF Chapter 13: Legislative Control of Administration

Case 12. Eliot Spitzer, the Clean Air Act, and the Bush administration.

Case 13. The Vioxx recall and problems of oversight at the FDA.

Ethics Manuals due at the beginning of class.

Week 15, April 26th

PRESENTATIONS

Week 16, May 3rd

PRESENTATIONS

Review for final exam.

COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 10th 6-8pm