The purposes of this class are to familiarize MPA students with the ethical issues in public administration and to integrate learning from across the MPA curriculum. The course begins with a survey of ethical readings on American public administration. At the same time students are challenged to discuss and reflect upon their own value systems. Ethics courses require personal reflection along with the ability to perform more detached analysis of ethical problems set in complex situations. The course then moves towards a more systematic study of public administration ethics based on law, organization theory and political values in American and global settings. Throughout the class students will be reading and analyzing actual ethical case studies.

This class will be handled in a seminar fashion with students being expected to lead discussions about the readings and topics in addition to making formal presentation. As the Capstone course in the MPA program the final research project will involve the writing and presentation of a paper integrating learning from across the curriculum focusing on ethical issues, cases or concepts.

As a Capstone Class, PUAD 700 is open only to advanced MPA students or PhD students with a minimum of 18 semester hours completed. This requirement has been in place for over 20 years.

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Texts:


The books are listed as Cooper, Cox, and Svara respectively in the syllabus

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Grades:

Class Participation 10%
Case Study/Journal Presentations 10%
Reflective Writing Papers (2) 40%
Research Project/Presentation 40%

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January 16th - First Day of Class - Orientation

Assignment: Personal Ethics statement – DO THIS FIRST!

What is AND should be your code of ethics for work in government or nonprofit organizations? What are the standards of right and wrong that should guide your work, the “do’s and don’ts of public service? What values do you believe and act upon?

Write this statement before starting to read the class texts or journal articles. Bring this to class on Friday, January 16th. About two pages.

If you are unable to make the first day of class, then email this assignment to me at: jburroug@gmu.edu.

January 23 & 24 - Weekend #1 - Ethics Overview: Public, Private and Professional

Texts: Cooper: Chapters 1-2
Cox: Intro, Chapters 1-2
Svara: Chapters 1-3

Journals:


Susan Wakefield. “Ethics and the Public Service: A Case for Individual Responsibility”. Public Administration Review. Nov-Dec 1976. (This is a follow-up to the Bailey article in the Classics)

Ethics: Law and American History

Journals:


February 6-7 - Weekend # 2 – Individual and Organizational Ethics

Cooper: Chapters 3 – 8
Cox: Chapter 3-7
Svara: Chapters 4, 6-9


Reflective Writing Paper #1 Due

Selection of Research Paper Topics – Sign Up

February 20-21 -Weekend # 3 –Ethical Problem Solving, Corruption and Politics: Global Ethics

Cooper: Chapters 9-10
Cox: Chapters 8-14
Svara: Chapter 10


Carolyn Ball. “What is Transparency?”. *Public Integrity*. (Fall 2009)


Global Ethics


**Reflective Writing Paper # 2 Due**

**March 6-7 -Weekend # 4 – Codes of Ethics and Presentations**

Friday – Codes of Ethics

Svara: Chapter 5 and Appendix 1-6


On-the-Job Ethics Search: Try to find online or in hard copy your own organization’s code of ethics, ethical statements, or ethical training program. What does it say? What topics are covered? Do ethics appear to be taken seriously in your organization? How easy or hard was it to find this information? (This is for class discussion purposes). If you are not currently working, then a previous job or an organization with which you have spent a significant amount of time, i.e. a nonprofit org, college or student organization.


**Saturday – Research Presentations All Day**

**Saturday, March 14th - Final Draft Research Paper Due (Email or hard copy)**

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