PUAD 700 – Ethics in Public Administration
Spring 2017 – Arlington
George Mason University

Instructor: James N. Burroughs – JD, MPA, CAGS
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Arlington Office Hours: 230-415pm.
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Class: Monday, 430-710pm
Room: Founders Hall 466

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.

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Texts:


The books are listed as Cooper and Martinez respectively in the syllabus.

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Grades:

Class Participation 10%
Case Study/Journal Presentations 10%
Reflective Writing Papers 40%
Research Project 40%

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Jan 23 – First Day of Class

Jan 30 – Ethics Overview: Public, Private and Professional

Assignment: Personal Ethics statement.

What is or 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? Write this statement before starting to read the class texts or journal articles.

Text: Martinez: Chapters: Introduction and Chapter 1


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.)

Feb 6 – Ethics Overview: Public, Private and Professional continued

Cooper: Chapters 1-2
Martinez: Chapter 2


Feb 13 – Ethics: Law and American History


Read articles by: Spicer and Terry (2), Rohr, Stivers, Wise and Lowi.
Feb 20 – Individual Ethics

Cooper: Chaps 3 & 4

Online Search: www.kapa21.or.kr/data/data_download.php?did=756

PP Style of the same report: https://connects.ethics.org/viewdocument/generational-differences-in-workpla

Feb 27 – Individual Ethics – Conflicts

Cooper: Chapter 5


Reflective Writing Paper #1 Due

March 6 – Organizational Ethics

Cooper: Chaps 6, 7 & 8
Martinez: Chapter 3


March 13 – Spring Break – No Class

March 20 – Organizational Ethics and Culture

Martinez: Chapter 4


**March 27 – Ethical Problem Solving**
- Cooper: Chaps 9 & 10
- Martinez: Chap 5


Internet: Ethics and Compliance Initiative – https://www.ethics.org/resources/free-toolkit
Read Ethics Toolkit with focus on Practical Guides.

**April 3 – Politics and Corruption**


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


CQ Researcher (GMU database). “Political Scandals”. May 27, 1994
CQ Researcher (GMU database). “Sex Scandals”. Jan 22, 2010

**Reflective Writing Paper # 2 Due**
April 10 – Codes of Ethics

Internet: ASPA Code of Ethics: Implementing the ASPA Code of Ethics Workbook

ICMA Code of Ethics and Guidelines


Internet or Personal: Find the code of ethics for your work and for the government jurisdiction where you live or where you are from. If it isn’t available look at the other statements of values and expectations from your work. If you aren’t working then find a code of ethics for an organization you are affiliated with or that you have an interest in. Bring a copy to class (digital or hard copy) if possible.

April 17 – Global Ethics


**April 24 - Research Projects Due.** Presentations Begin

**May 1 – Last Day of Class.** Presentations continued.

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