

York University
School of Public Policy and Administration
AP/PPAS-POLS 3190 6.0 A Fall/Winter 2021-2022
Public Administration

Course Director: **Dr. Sirvan Karimi**

Class Hours: **Friday(s): 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM**

Class Location: **DB 0005**

Office Hours and location: **Wednesday(s): 2-3PM, 133 McLaughlin College. Alternatively, Office Hours can be held via Zoom if necessary**

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Course Description:

The state has become a major force in the life of Canadians and their institutions. The roles and responsibilities of state officials are evolving rapidly as governments adjust to the changing social, economic, and political environment. This course is designed to address the contour of public administration in Canada. During the first semester, the course commences with an exploration of some definitions of public administration and compares the public and private sectors. During the fall semester, the focus will be on two central themes of the course; how organizational theories have affected and continue to affect the practice of public administration. The second theme involves the tension between democratic representation and bureaucracy. To explore this theme, the course provides an overview of democratic theory, a detailed examination of the real world of organizations and the machinery of government.

During the second semester, the focus will be on issues of management in the public sector beginning with the theories and practices of public policy decision-making and the policy cycle. Issues related to the management of human resources, fiscal and economic planning, program evaluation, ethics and accountability will be examined. The course concludes with an exploration of the major challenges facing public administration and public policy decision makers at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

After the completion of the course students will be able to:

- a. Acquire a foundational understanding of the theoretical tools of public administration as a field of study.
- b. Evaluate alternative theoretical approaches to the examination of public administration and of their respective strengths and limits

- c. Analyze and critique the complexity of public administration in terms of mixes of values, interests, competing orientations, and other factors, and of the ubiquity and effect of the evaluation of policies
- d. Gain a comprehensive understanding of different types and functions of public organizations in Canada
- e. Gain an appreciation for complexity of issues and challenges facing public sector organizations and public sector professionals
- f. Analyse public administration issues and to present the results of those explorations clearly, concisely, and in compelling form in written and oral communication.
- g. Develop analytical and research skills that are essential for pursuing advanced studies in the field of public administration.

Format:

The course will consist of lectures, interactive discussion of the readings, and occasional audio-visual presentations. **Lecture notes and course announcements will be posted on the e Class. In the event of an emergency situation where in-person contact might not be possible, recorded lectures can be posted on eClass.** Course lecture takes place during the first part of class. During the second part of class there will be class discussion. In order to facilitate class discussion and policymaking simulation, students are expected to read the assigned readings.

Required Books:

Parker, Paul, and Tim A. Mau. 2016. Public administration in Canada. Second Edition, Toronto: Nelson Publishing

Howlett, M., M. Ramesh, and Anthony Perl (2020). Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems. Fourth Edition. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Suggested Books:

Barbara Carroll, David Siegel, and Mark Sproule-Jones (2005). Classic Readings in Canadian Public Administration. Toronto: Oxford University Press

Johnson, David. (2011). Thinking Government: Public Administration and Politics in Canada. 3rd Edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press

Inwood, Gregory J. (2012). Understanding Canadian Public Administration: An Introduction to Theory and Practice. Fourth Edition. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

*****In the Course of study, additional readings may be assigned or recommended.**

Course Requirements:

Participation ----- 10%

Mid-term exam-----30% (December)

Research paper -----30% (March 18)

Final Exam -----30% (April) ----- Is not cumulative

Schedule of readings and activities

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

Fall Term

Week 1: Introduction

An Overview of the Course, No Readings Assigned

Section I: Theories of Bureaucracy and Organization

Week 2: The Nature of Public Administration

Parker, ch 1

Week 3: Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration; Classical Foundation

Parker, ch 3

Suggested Readings

Inwood, pp.61-74

Johnson, pp.225-231

Week 4: Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration: Structural Foundations

Parker, ch3

Suggested Readings

Johnson, pp.231-237

Week 5: Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration: Humanist Foundations

Parker, ch 4

Suggested Readings

Johnson, pp. 238-243

Week 6; Organizational Theory and Canadian Public Administration: Contemporary Theories and Models

Parker, ch 5

Suggested Readings

Johnson, 245-249

Section II: Bureaucracy, Democracy, and the Political System

Week 7: The Executive: Public Sector Organizations: Central Agencies and Departments

Parker, ch 6

Suggested Readings

Johnson ch 3

Week 8: The Executive: Agencies, Crown Corporations, and other Non-Departmental Public Organizations

Parker, ch 7

Suggested Readings

Johnson ch3, ch4

Week 9: The Legislature and the Bureaucracy

Parker, ch 11

K. Kernaghan. "Is the Doctrine of Ministerial Responsibility Workable?" and H. Segal, "Ministerial Responsibility: Confronting the Myth?" in M Charlton and P Parker, ed., *Crosscurrents: Contemporary Political Debates*, 3rd edition, 1998 (**on Reserve**).

Week 10: Public Administration, Administrative Law, and the Judiciary

Parker, ch 12

Conni L. Mah. *Administrative Law: The Basics*.

http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/ajo/down/administrative_law.pdf:

Administrative Tribunals and the Courts: An Evolutionary Relationship. Remarks of the Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin, P.C. Former Chief Justice of Canada
<https://www.scc-csc.ca/judges-juges/spe-dis/bm-2013-05-27-eng.aspx>

Week 11: Intergovernmental Relations

Parker, ch 13

Suggested Readings:

Intergovernmental relations in the Canadian context

<https://www.canada.ca/en/intergovernmental-affairs/services/reasons-canadian-context.html>

Jennifer Wallner. 2017. "Ideas and Intergovernmental relations in Canada". Cambridge University Press: 12 June 2017, pp. 717-722

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ps-political-science-and-politics/article/ideas-and-intergovernmental-relations-in-canada/C61174DC345BAC3CDE2B8A28607229CB/core-reader>

Week 12: Review

Winter Term

Section I: Public Administration and Public Policy

Week 1; Public Policy Making: Theories and Models

Howlett et al. ch1, ch2, ch6

Suggested readings

Johnson, pp. 250-263

Week 2: Studying public policy

Richard Simeon, "Studying Public Policy." Canadian Journal of Political Science. 9:3 (Dec 1976), 548-580. **(Electronically available)**. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3231089?>

Suggested Readings.

Inwood ch 7, pp. 211-222,

Week 3: Policy Formulation and Policy Instruments

Howlett et al. ch5

Suggested Readings:

Week 4: Policy Implementation

Howlett et al. ch 7

Suggested Readings

Inwood ch 7, pp.230-231, 235-239

Week 5: Policy Evaluation and Policy Change

Howlett et al.ch 8, ch 9

Suggested Readings

Inwood ch 7, pp.240-250

Section II: The Management of Public Sector Organizations

Week 6: Management of Human Resources in the Public Service

Parker, ch 15, ch 16

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 7

Week 7: Budgets and Financial Management in the Public Service

Parker, ch 17

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 6

Week 8: Public Service accountability

Parker, ch2

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 9

Inwood, ch 11

Week 9: Public Service Values and Ethics

Parker, ch 2

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 9

Inwood, ch 10

Section III: The Future of Public Administration

Week 10: The Future of Public Administration: E-government and The Challenges of Public Service Leadership

David, Brown "Electronic Government and Public Administration." *International Review of Administrative Sciences* 71:2 (June 2005), pp. 241-254(**Electronically available**)

M Charih and J R Obert "Government On-Line in the Federal Government of Canada: The Organizational Issues." *International Review of Administrative Sciences* .70:2 (June 2004), pp.373-384. (**Electronically available**)

Flumian, M., Coe, A., and Kernaghan, K. (2007). Transforming Service to Canadians: The Service Canada model. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 73(4), pp. 557-568.

(**Electronically available**)

Johnson ch10

Week 11: Government and Governance: Is there a Transition? How COVID -19 Pandemic can shape Public Administration.

Johnson ch 8

Fredrika Weesel and Seven Modell (2014). . From New Public Management to the New Public Governance. *Financial Accountability & Management*, 30(2), May 2014, 0267-4424.

(**electronically available**)

Jocelyne Bourgon. (2007). " Responsive, responsible and respected government: towards a New Public Administration Theory." *International Review of Administrative Science*, 73:1, pp.7-24 (Electronically Available)

Peters, Guy. Still the Century of **Bureaucracy? The Role of Public Servants**. Public Policy and Administration 2009, Nr. 30, p. 7–21(Electronically Available).

Christopher Ansell, Eva Sørensen & Jacob Torfing (2021) The COVID-19 pandemic as a game changer for public administration and leadership? The need for robust governance responses to turbulent problems, Public Management Review, 23:7, 949-960, DOI: [10.1080/14719037.2020.1820272](https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2020.1820272)

Ting-An-Xu Liu, G. Breck Wightman, Euipyo Lee & Jordan Hunter (2021) Revisiting “big questions” of public administration after COVID-19: a systematic review, Asia Pacific Journal of Public Administration, DOI: [10.1080/23276665.2021.1947862](https://doi.org/10.1080/23276665.2021.1947862)

Week 12: Final Exam Review

Written Assignment: Winter Term

Students are required to write a research paper of **8-10 pages** in length. The research paper is worth **30%** of the final mark. Specific research topics will be handed out later and students will be expected to pick one topic on which to write their research paper. However, students can select their own research topic if their topic is related to Canadian public administration, and they receive a prior approval of their course director. The paper should be double-spaced, with standard margins and standard font size. You should have 7-8 sources (books, journals, government reports/documents). Late paper will lose 2% of its grade for each day that it is late. Extension will only be granted for exceptional circumstances. Written assignments should be submitted via Moodle. Papers submitted via e-mail or fax will not be accepted

Accommodation for Disability:

Students with disabilities who require adaptations or services must discuss their needs with the instructor. Accommodation for disability must be arranged in conjunction with the Office for Persons with Disability.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is generally considered to be the most serious academic misconduct that a student can commit. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, instances of plagiarism will have serious academic consequences. In order to avoid slipping into the realm of plagiarism, students are advised to familiarize themselves with York University’s definition of academic dishonesty.

Reappraisals:

For petition and reappraisal procedures and information, visit the Senate’s website at <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2012-2013/policies/petitions/>

