

York University
School of Public Policy and Administration
AP/PPAS-POLS 3190 6.0 M Winter 2025
Public Administration

Course Director: **Dr. Sirvan Karimi**
Class Hours: **Monday and Friday; 2:30-5:30 PM**
Class Location: **DB 1016**

Office Hours and Location: **Friday (s): 12-1 PM, 133 McLaughlin College.**
Tel (416)736-2100 EXT 22782
Email: dalaho@yorku.ca

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

York University recognizes that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject to the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region ([LA&PS Land Acknowledgement](#)).

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. The course is divided into two parts. During the first part, 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, and a detailed examination of the real world of organizations and the machinery of government.

During the second part, 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 Objectives:

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

- a. Acquire a foundational understanding of the theoretical perspectives on public administration as a field of study.
- b. Evaluate alternative theoretical approaches to the examination of public administration and 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 the different types and functions of public organizations in Canada.
- e. Gain an appreciation for the complexity of issues and challenges facing public sector organizations and public sector professionals.
- f. Analyze public administration issues and to present the results of those explorations, concisely, and in a 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 discussions of the readings, and occasional audiovisual presentations. **Lecture notes and course announcements will be posted in the eClass. In the event of an emergency where in-person contact might not be possible, recorded lectures can be posted on eClass.** Course lecture takes place during the first part of the class. During the second part of the class, there will be a class discussion. 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.

Course Communication:

Students are encouraged to bring their questions and concerns to the attention of the course director during scheduled office hours which will be held on Friday (s) between 1-2 PM in 133 McLaughlin College. Students can also communicate with the course director via email. For students to communicate with one another, Students are encouraged to post questions in discussion forums on eClass)

COURSE EVALUATION

Assessment	Due Date	Weight %	Course Learning Outcome
Mid-Term	Feb 17	30	A foundational understanding of course materials
Research Paper	March 21	30	Adhering to guidelines governing a conventional research paper
Final Exam	In April	30 is not cumulative	A Foundational comprehension of the course materials

Participation		10	Both attendance and participation in the discussion
		100%	

GRADE	GRADE POINT	PERCENT RANGE	DESCRIPTION
A+	9	90-100	Exceptional
A	8	80-89	Excellent
B+	7	75-79	Very Good
B	6	70-74	Good
C+	5	65-69	Competent
C	4	60-64	Fairly Competent
D+	3	55-59	Passing
D	2	50-54	Marginally Passing
E	1	40-49	Marginally Failing
F	0	0-39	Failing

Schedule of readings and activities

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

First Part:

Week 1: Introduction

An Overview of the Course, No Readings Assigned

Section I: Theories of Bureaucracy and Organization

The Nature of Public Administration

Parker, ch 1

Week 2: Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration; Classical Foundation

Parker, ch 3

Suggested Readings

Inwood, pp.61-74

Johnson, pp.225-231

Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration: Structural Foundations

Parker, ch3

Suggested Readings

Johnson, pp.231-237

Week 3: Theoretical Foundations of Public Administration: Humanist Foundations

Parker, ch 4

Suggested Readings

Johnson, pp. 238-243

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 4: The Executive: Public Sector Organizations: Central Agencies and Departments

Parker, ch 6

Suggested Readings

Johnson ch 3

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

Parker, ch 7

Suggested Readings

Johnson ch3, ch4

Week 5: 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**).

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 6: 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>

Second Part : Public Administration and Public Policy

Week 7; Public Policy Making: Theories and Models

Howlett et al. ch1, ch2, ch6

Suggested readings

Johnson, pp. 250-263

Studying public policy

Howlett, ch 2

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 8: Policy Formulation and Policy Instruments

Howlett et al. ch5

Suggested Readings:

Policy Implementation

Howlett et al. ch 7

Suggested Readings

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

Week 9: 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

Management of Human Resources in the Public Service

Parker, ch 15, ch 16

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 7

Week 10: Budgets and Financial Management in the Public Service

Parker, ch 17

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 6

Public Service Accountability

Parker, ch2

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 9

Inwood, ch 11

Week 11: Public Service Values and Ethics

Parker, ch 2

Suggested Readings

Johnson, ch 9

Inwood, ch 10

Section III: The Future of Public Administration

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 12: 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)

Final Exam Review

Accommodation for Disability:

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

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 be serious.

academic consequences. To avoid slipping into the realm of plagiarism, students are advised to familiarize themselves with York University's definition of academic dishonesty.

<https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/>

Reappraisals:

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