

Enquire Teaching Timetable

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Course Outcome

GPAD 1030 - Fundamentals of Public Administration

Learning Outcome

After taking this course, it is expected that students will have developed the following capabilities and skills:

- By the end of this introductory course students should be able to develop broad sweep knowledge of a range of approaches to the study of public administration and, to a certain degree, an in-depth knowledge of selected concepts and theories. These theories were selected because of their direct relevance for developing an understanding of modern government behaviour.
- Public administration is often considered in a managerial manner, as little more than control and straightforward analysis of efficiency and economy. This is not necessarily the case. People from different walks of life tend to have different expectations of government. This course is intended to foster a change in attitudes among students. After the course, students are expected to have the ability and tendency to think critically from multidisciplinary perspectives and to provide a critical appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of any theoretical approach.
- Most important of all, by taking this course, students should have developed an understanding of the basic concepts and theories in public administration and should have gained the ability to apply them to the context of Hong Kong. Public administration, as an area of study, is very much a study based in American context. Therefore, it is important for students to reflect on the concepts and approaches covered in the course, and to consider how they can contribute to a better understanding of public administration in Hong Kong.
- The course is intended to reinforce communication skills on the part of students. Through the training in debates and discussions, students should have developed the ability to convey abstract ideas and complicated issues in a concrete and organized manner.

Course Syllabus

Teaching Plan and Readings (* required readings)

Part I. Theoretical Foundation of Public Administration

Week 1 (Sep 6) Introduction

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter One, pp. 1-14

Woodrow Wilson, 'The Study of Public Administration' in Shafritz

Week 2 (Sep 13) The Development and Competing Perspectives of Public Administration

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter One, pp. 14-41

Hal Rainey, Chapter Two

Herbert Simon, 'The Proverbs of Public Administration' in Shafritz

Part II. Understanding and Managing Public Organizations

Week 3 (Sep 20) Public Organization Structure I: Bureaucracy

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter Four

Robert Merton, 'Bureaucratic Structure and Personality' in Shafritz

Anthony Downs, 'The Life Cycle of Bureaus' in Shafritz

Week 4 (Sep 27) Public Organization Structure II: Contingency and Alternatives

David Rosenbloom, Chapter Ten

* Warren Bennis, 'Organizations of the Future' in Shafritz

Hal Rainey, Chapters Four and Eight

Week 5 (Oct 4) Human Resource Management I: The 'Institutional Conscience'

FIRST QUIZ!!

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter Five

Dorman Eaton, 'Civil Service Reform in Great Britain' in Shafritz

Patricia Ingraham and David Rosenbloom, 'The State of Merit in the Federal Government' in Lane

Week 6 (Oct 11) Human Resource Management II: Civil Service Reform

Douglas McGregor, 'The Human Side of the Enterprise' in Shafritz

* *Civil Service Reform: Consultation Document*, Civil Service Bureau of HKSAR (August 1999)

A.H. Maslow, 'A Theory of Human Motivation' in Shafritz

Week 7 (Oct 18) Accountability in Modern Government

David Rosenbloom, Chapter 12

* Barbara Romzek & Melvin Dubnick, 'Accountability in the Public Sector: Lessons from the Challenger Tragedy' in Lane

John Burns (2004) *Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service*. Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, Chapter Five

Part III. Policy Making and Policy Implementation

Week 8 (Oct 25) Policy Making: How to identify the 'problem' and make the 'best' choice?

SECOND QUIZ!!

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter Seven

Charles Lindblom, 'The Science of Muddling Through' in Shafritz

John Kingdon, 'How Does an Idea's Time Come? Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies' in Shafritz

Week 9 (Nov 1) Policy Implementation: How and Why Do Things Go Wrong?

David Rosenbloom, Chapter Eight

* Michael Lipsky, 'Street-Level Bureaucracy' in Shafritz

Ian Scott, Chapter Eight

Week 10 (Nov 8) New Public Management and Public Sector Reform

The National Performance Review, 'From Red Tape to Results' in Shafritz

Christopher Hood, 'A Public Management for All Seasons' in Shafritz

* Colin Sankey, 'An Overview of Public Sector Reform Initiatives in the Hong Kong Government Since 1989', in Anthony Cheung and Jane Lee (eds.) *Public Sector Reform in Hong Kong: Into the 21st Century*. Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press

Week 11 (Nov 15) Public Budgeting and Finance

THIRD QUIZ!!

* David Rosenbloom, Chapter Six

V.O. Key, Jr., 'The Lack of a Budgetary Theory', in Shafritz

Michael Lipsky and Steven Smith, 'Nonprofit Organizations, Government, and the Welfare State', in Lane

Week 12 (Nov. 22) Public administration vs. Private Management

*Hal Rainey, Chapter Three

Graham Allison, 'Public and Private Management: Are They Fundamentally Alike in All Unimportant Aspects' in Shafritz

David Rosenbloom, Chapter Eleven

Week 13 (Nov. 29) Life and Death Issue

Take-home examination

Assessment Type

	Assessment Type	Current Percent
1	Discussion	0
2	Essays	0
3	Essay test or exam	0

Feedback for Evaluation

1. Course and Teaching Evaluation Survey
2. Internal Course Review

Required Readings

Rosenbloom, D. & Kravchuk, R. (2005) *Public Administration: Understanding Management, Politics and Law in the Public Sector*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Shafritz, n J, Hyde, A. & Parkes, S. (eds.) (1992) *Classics of Public Administration*, 3rd ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson.

See topic-by-topic required readings in course syllabus.

Recommended Readings

Rainey, H. (1997) *Understanding and Managing Public Organizations*. 2nd ed. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

Lane, F. (ed) (1994) *Current Issues in Public Administration*. 5th ed. New York: St. Martins Press.

Guy, P. & Pierre, J. (2003) *Handbook of Public Administration*, London: Sage Publications.

Scott, I. (2005) *Public Administration in Hong Kong: Regime Change and Its Impact on the Public Sector*, Singapore: Marshall Cavendish.

Burns, J. (2004) *Government Capacity and the Hong Kong Civil Service*, Hong Kong: Oxford University Press.

See topic-by-topic optional readings in course syllabus.