

Introduction to Public Administration

CRJU/POSC 320 – Winter Intersession 2023-24

Asynchronous Online Course
DECEMBER 16, 2023 – JANUARY 19, 2024

Professor: David P. Adams, Ph.D.

Contact Information:

- Office: 516 Gordon Hall
- Phone/Text: (657) 278-4770
- website: <https://dadams.io>
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- Office Hours:
 - Schedule meetings throughout the week: <https://t.ly/dpa-appt>
 - [Discord Office Hours](#): Tuesdays 10:00am–12:00pm

Technical Problems

University IT Help Desk

Contact the instructor immediately to document the problem if you encounter any technical difficulties. Then contact the [Student IT Help Desk](#) for assistance. You can also call the Student IT Help Desk at (657) 278-8888, email, visit them at the Pollak Library North [Student Genius Center](#), or log on to the my.fullerton.edu portal and click “Online IT Help” followed by “Live Chat”.

Canvas Support

If you encounter any technical difficulties with Canvas, call the Canvas Support Hotline at 855-302-7528, visit the [Canvas Community](#), or click the “Help” button in the lower left corner of Canvas and select “Report a Problem”. The [Student Support Live Chat](#) is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Response Time

I will strive to respond to all student emails, Discord posts, and *Canvas* messages within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays. If you are still awaiting a response within 24 hours, please send a follow-up message. If you are still waiting to receive a response within 48 hours, please send another follow-up message and contact me via phone or text at [\(657\) 278-4770](tel:6572784770).

Catalog Description

Introduces public administration through current trends and problems of public sector agencies in such areas as organization behavior, public budgeting, personnel, planning and policy making. Examples and cases from the Criminal Justice field. (POSC 320 and CRJU 320 are the same course.)

Course Description

Public administration plays an important role in our everyday lives. What do public administrators do? What makes this important field of government work? How are decisions made and how does the political environment impact those decisions? Our public administrators have to respond to various demands from United States residents and deal with situations and demands from abroad. The values we share interact and compete for the way our administrators create and implement policy. The core values of public administration include accountability, efficiency, and equity. We'll explore these topics and more as we engage in our class together.

This course is an introduction to the study and practice—the science and art—of public administration. Students will be acquainted with the theoretical and practical aspects of public administration in the American political setting. Topics include organizational theory and practice, decision making, systems analysis, performance evaluation, and administrative and managerial improvement, among others. The emphasis is placed on understanding the roles and responsibilities of public administrators in a democratic political system.

Student Learning Objectives

- Display a broad understanding of public administration and its role in a democratic society.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the concepts and theories in public administration.
- Identify complex problems that face public organizations.

- Exhibit critical thinking by interpreting information, comparing ideas, and developing opinions.
- Contrast public and private administration with their corresponding benefits and short-falls.
- Demonstrate effective written communication skills.

Required Text

- Kettl, D.F. *Politics of the Administrative Process* (8th ed.) Washington, D.C.: CQ Press
- Additional readings posted to Canvas

Prerequisites

POSC 100 and completion of G.E. Category D.1. If you have not already taken and passed this course or its equivalent, you should not be enrolled in POSC/CRJU 320.

General Education Information

Requirements Satisfied

This course satisfies General Education Explorations in Social Sciences subarea D.4 for those using Catalog Years 2018 and later. The writing assignments in this course, including the policy memo papers and current event summaries described below, meet the requirement of UPS 411.201:

Writing assignments in General Education courses shall involve the organization and expression of complex data or ideas and careful and timely evaluations of writing so that deficiencies are identified, and suggestions for improvement and/or for means of remediation are offered. Evaluations of the student's writing competence shall determine the final course grade....

General Education Student Learning Goals

Students completing courses in this subarea shall encounter the following learning goals:

1. Examine problems, issues, and themes in the social sciences in greater depth; in a variety of cultural, historical, and geographical contexts; and from different disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

2. Analyze and critically evaluate the application of social science concepts and theories to particular historical, contemporary, and future problems or themes, such as economic and environmental sustainability, globalization, poverty, and social justice.
3. Analyze and critically evaluate constructs of cultural differentiation, including ethnicity, gender, race, class, and sexual orientation, and their effects on the individual and society.
4. Apply theories and concepts from the social sciences to address historical, contemporary, and future problems confronting communities at different geographical scales, from local to global.

University Student Policies

In accordance with UPS 300.00, students must be familiar with certain policies applicable to all courses. Please review these policies as needed and visit this Cal State Fullerton website <https://t.ly/csuf-syllabus> for links to the following information:

- University learning goals and program learning outcomes.
- Learning objectives for each General Education (GE) category.
- Guidelines for appropriate online behavior (netiquette).
- Students' rights to accommodations for documented special needs.
- Campus student support measures, including Counseling & Psychological Services, Title IV and Gender Equity, Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers, and Basic Needs Services.
- Academic integrity (refer to UPS 300.021).
- Actions to take during an emergency.
- Library services information.
- Student Information Technology Services, including details on technical competencies and resources required for all students.
- Software privacy and accessibility statements.

Course Student Policies

Course Communication

All course announcements and communications will be sent via *Canvas* and university email. Students are responsible for regularly checking their *Canvas* notifications and email.

Students are also responsible for ensuring that their *Canvas* notifications are set to receive messages from the course. Students are expected to check *Canvas* and their email at least once daily.

Due Dates

If you have concerns about meeting assignment deadlines, please get in touch with the professor in advance to discuss potential accommodation. This is a fast-paced course, and late assignments will deducted a half letter grade for each day (24 hours) they are late.

Alternative Procedures for Submitting Work

Students are expected to submit all assignments via *Canvas*. If you cannot submit an assignment via *Canvas*, please get in touch with the professor to discuss alternative submission procedures.

Extra Credit

There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to the sanctions described in the [Academic Dishonesty Policy](#) (UPS 300.021). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and submitting previously graded work without prior authorization. Students are expected to be familiar with the university's policy on academic dishonesty and to adhere to this policy in all aspects of this course. Any student who has questions about the policy should ask the professor for clarification.

Course Delivery and Technology

This course is divided into 10 modules. Each module is one week long and begins on a Monday and ends on a Friday. Each module contains a variety of learning activities, including readings, videos, discussions, and assignments. The course schedule is available on *Canvas* and is subject to change with advance notice.

Canvas

This course will be delivered via *Canvas*. Students are expected to log on to *Canvas* at least once daily to check for announcements and updates. Students are also expected to check their university email at least once daily. Students are responsible for ensuring that their *Canvas* notifications are set to receive messages from the course.

Course Structure Overview

- **Video Modules:** Each module contains two videos. Students are expected to watch the videos and complete the corresponding quiz before moving on to the next module.
- **Readings:** Each module roughly corresponds to a textbook chapter and contains a variety of readings and other media. Students are expected to complete the readings before moving on to the next module.
- **Discussions:** Each module contains a discussion prompt. Students are expected to post a response to the discussion prompt by 11:59pm on the Friday of each module.
- **Writing Assignments:** Each module contains a writing assignment. Students are expected to complete the writing assignment by 11:59pm on the Friday of each module.

Course Assignments

The course will be divided into 10 modules. Each module will contain a variety of learning activities, including readings, videos, discussions, and assignments. The course schedule is available on *Canvas* and is subject to change with advance notice. In general, the course follows a Saturday through Friday schedule, with assignments due by 11:59pm on Fridays.

Discussion Posts

Each week, students will be required to post a response to a discussion prompt. Discussion posts are due by 11:59pm on the Friday of each module. There are five discussion posts worth 10 points each.

Term Paper

For the Term Paper assignment in our Public Administration course, students are required to craft an 8-10 page organizational profile of a public sector entity, such as a city department, state agency, or federal bureau. This paper will incorporate an in-depth examination of the chosen organization's structure, mission, and functions, as well as an analysis of its budgeting process, human capital management, regulatory role, administrative reforms,

and the challenges it faces within its operational context. Through this profile, students will apply the core concepts learned throughout the course, including decision-making, budgeting, implementation, and performance measurement. The paper should adhere to APA formatting guidelines and is due by the end of Week 5. The assignment is designed to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical understanding of Public Administration's role in governance and public service. The Term Paper is worth 100 points.

Quizzes

Each module contains two videos. Students will be required to complete a quiz on each module before moving on to the next module. Quizzes are due by 11:59pm on the Friday of each module. There are 10 quizzes worth 10 points each.

Grading

- **Discussion Posts:** 50 points
- **Term Paper:** 100 points
- **Quizzes:** 100 points
- **Total:** 250 points

Grading Scale

- A: 225-250
- A-: 220-224
- B+: 215-219
- B: 200-214
- B-: 195-199
- C+: 190-194
- C: 175-189
- C-: 170-174
- D+: 165-169
- D: 150-164
- D-: 145-149
- F: 0-144

Calendar and Schedule

Week 1: Introduction and Foundations (12/16 - 12/22)

- **Module 1:** Course Introduction and Overview
 - Module 0: Introduction video
 - Module 1: Overview of Public Administration
- **Module 2:** The Foundations of Public Administration
 - Module 2-1: Basic Concepts
 - Module 2-2: Eras of Public Administration
- **Discussion:** Importance of Public Administration

Week 2: Government Functions and Organizations (12/23 - 12/29)

- **Module 3:** Government Functions
 - Module 3-1: What Government Does
 - Module 3-2: How Government Functions
- **Module 4:** Organizational Theory
 - Module 4-1: Basics of Organizational Theory
 - Module 4-2: Organizational Problems
- **Discussion:** Real-world examples of government functions

Week 3: Government Structure and Human Capital (12/30 - 1/05)

- **Module 5:** The Executive Branch and Reform
 - Module 5-1: Structure of the Executive Branch
 - Module 5-2: Administrative Reform
- **Module 6:** Human Capital in Government
 - Module 6-1: The Civil Service
 - Module 6-2: Human Capital Management
- **Discussion:** Challenges in managing human capital in the public sector

Week 4: Decision Making, Budgeting, and Performance (1/06 - 1/12)

- **Module 7:** Decision Making and Budgeting
 - Module 7-1: Decision Making in Public Administration
 - Module 7-2: Budgeting Process
- **Module 8:** Implementation and Performance
 - Module 8-1: Strategies for Effective Implementation
 - Module 8-2: Measuring Performance in the Public Sector
- **Discussion:** Budgeting challenges in the public sector

Week 5: Regulation, Accountability, and Course Wrap-Up (1/13 - 1/19)

- **Module 9:** Regulation and the Courts
 - Module 9-1: Role of Regulation
 - Module 9-2: Public Administration and the Judiciary
- **Module 10:** Accountability and Oversight
 - Module 10-1: Concepts of Accountability
 - Module 10-2: Mechanisms for Oversight
 - Module 10-3: Course Wrap-Up
- **Discussion:** Balancing regulation and innovation
- **Final Assignment:** Organizational Profile Term Paper