

PA 372

Comparative and International Administration

Winter 2018

Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4:15 pm AuSable Hall 2302

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Office Hours: Monday 12-2 pm and Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2 pm, or by appointment

Overview

Comparative public administration emerged as a field of study centered on the development and distribution of foreign aid. Overtime, the field has evolved in many directions ranging from the study of administrative inefficiencies, policy implementation, budgeting, systems analysis and fragmentation, culture and public administration, and distributions of governmental power. In this class, we will explore a variety of subjects about the general administration of countries in a comparative perspective. The topics include (but are not limited to): Political Culture and Administration, Recruitment, Bureaucratic Structures, the Interface of Political Institutions and the Public Bureaucracy, and Public Management.

This course will introduce the administrative, and political systems of both developed and underdeveloped countries with a focus on institutions and their manifestation in different systems of government. The course aims to explore how other developed, democratic countries face up to the job of making--but more particularly--operationalizing policy. Why look at this? Because when we do, we not only broaden our horizons of external knowledge, but we gain new perspectives on what is distinctly American about public service in the United States, and, indeed, what makes the United States what it is. Broadly, this course will address the following questions:

- What are typically "American" perspectives on other countries and their governments?
- Why make comparisons at all? Isn't every government culture-specific?
- What are the parameters of success in government? Are they, to any degree, universal?
- What are the methods available for making comparisons among governments? How reliable are they?
- What emerges as the distinctive characteristics of US public service?
- How does the public service relate to the principles of democracy here and elsewhere?
- How are the major changes in the role, and even the nature of the state, likely to affect the public service in the new millennium?

Materials

The following books can be found at the campus bookstore

- O'Neil, P.H. (2013). *Essentials of Comparative Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Hueglin, T.O. & Fenna, A. (2006). *Comparative Federalism: A Systematic Inquiry*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Peters, B. G. (2001, 2010). *The politics of bureaucracy*. New York: Routledge. (NOTE: The 2001 5th edition version is available as an e-book via the GVSU library)
- Chandler, J.A. (2002, 2014). *Comparative public administration*. New York, New York: Routledge (e-book via GVSU Library). **(CPA in syllabus)**

Milestones

Country Analysis Paper

The significant assignment for this course is a group project analyzing a country and illustrating in a comparative perspective the differences in the civil service structure and hiring practices, civil culture, budgeting, accountability, ethics, sustainability and new public management to the United States.

This project will be a semester-long undertaking and will require students to gather information on their country of choice, divide responsibilities for research, write and disseminate their findings to the class. Further details on this project can be found on Blackboard. (175 points)

Midterm Exam

There will be one, midterm exam given prior to Spring Break. Details on format, terms and knowledge assessed will be given to the class before the exam period. (100 points)

Goals

- Students are expected to gain an understanding of basic comparisons among national public administration systems.
- Students will gain an understanding of the political history, development of government institutions, major conflicts of several political regimes around the world.
- Students will be able to identify the differences among different government systems.
- Students will be able to differentiate between presidential, parliamentary and semi-presidential systems.
- Students will develop an appreciation for the broad and deep dynamics of globalization, and especially those that shape governance systems and the expectations of nations' citizens for their governance systems.
- Students will be able to articulate the basic ideas of sustainable development and good governance.
- Students will identify the challenges of national and international management in a global perspective.
- Finally, students will be able to compare how government systems around the world to the United States.
- **NOTE: This syllabus is not set in stone and may be adjusted throughout the semester to reflect changes and additions that may be needed.**

Classroom Policies

- **Attendance:** Class time will be devoted to both lecture and discussion. Informed discussions are encouraged and expected. Please do not feel shy or intimidated – your opinions are expected and valued. Additionally, students will be responsible for participating in leading discussions and presenting information on a weekly basis so your attendance is vital for a good grade in this course. After **three absences**, students will be encouraged to drop the course as multiple absences will lower their overall course grade by a half letter grade (A to A-, B+ to B, etc.). **Excused absences** will need to be accompanied with a note.
- **Technology Policy:** So as not to disturb the class, *please turn off your cell phone before class begins*. Computer use is fine, however if I see students using their computers for something other than taking notes, you will be marked absent for that days' attendance, **no exceptions**.
- Additionally, **technological excuses** (“my printer died,” etc.) cannot be accepted under any circumstances. Always make back-ups for your work, and plan so that you will have time to use the on-campus computers and printers if necessary. You may submit papers by e-mail. However, you may NOT consider an e-mailed paper to be submitted until you have received a reply from me confirming that I have received it. To this end, all papers should be submitted in **.doc, docx, .pdf, or .txt format only**.
- **Email Communications:** Emails will be returned in a timely manner; however, this may not always mean I will answer emails on the day they are received. Emails must include: a subject, your name and a salutation as well as the issue that needs to be address. This is practice for the future and helps me to keep track of which students have issues throughout the course. NOTE: If your email does not have these components, they will not be answered.
- **Withdrawing from the Course:** The final day to withdraw from the course is **March 6th at 5pm**.
- **Students with Disabilities:** If you need academic accommodations because of learning, physical or other disabilities, please contact Disability Support Services at 616-331-2490 or www.gvsu.edu/dss. Furthermore, if you have a physical disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this

Weekly Discussion Memos

Over the course of the semester you will be asked to analyze a country about several different issues using the Chandler book (see our classes course reserve on the library's website), our textbooks, and/or other sources. You are required at the beginning of the semester to select a country and to produce a **300-400-word** memo that reviews the problems identified on the topic and their relevance to the specific country you've chosen as your case study. Weekly memo prompts are included below. (100 Points)

Weekly Quizzes

Each week, except week 2, 8 and 12, students will have a short 4-5 question quiz on themes and topics of the week. The quizzes will be posted at the end of the class meeting and will be due by **Friday at 5pm**. These will be graded on a 10-point scale. (100 points total)

News Report of the Week

Each week, at the start of class (except week 1, 8 and 12) students will be responsible for reporting on a current news event (government, policy, or societal in nature) that occurred (or is occurring in your country of choice). A 100-150-word essay describing the event will accompany your discussion. (100 points total)

Attendance and Participation

Attendance will be taken during each class period. Class participation in group activities, as well as during outside group meetings will be monitored and incorporated into your participation and attendance grade (50 points, 25 each).

Point Breakdown

Country Analysis Paper: 100
Country Presentation: 50
Group Work Journal: 25
Mid Term Exam: 100
Weekly Discussion Memos: 100
Weekly Quizzes: 100
Weekly News Report: 100
Attendance: 25
Participation: 25

classroom and/or building in an emergency, please make me aware so I can plan accordingly.

Total points: 625

- **Late Work:** Work only will be accepted **within 12 hours from the end of the class period in which it is due.** All late work will be penalized with a full grade deduction (Example: A papers will be graded as A- as the total points possible.). After the time period is up, no late work will be accepted and you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Paper Writing Tips

- **Academic Integrity:** Instances of academic dishonesty will be considered a violation of academic ethics. You should consult me if you are uncertain pertaining to an issue of academic honesty prior to submitting an assignment. Please refer to Section 223.01 of the Grand Valley State University Student code for a description of plagiarism.
- **Wikipedia:** At no time during this course should Wikipedia be used as a legitimate source of information.
- For all papers: journal articles, books, newspapers, in person interviews, public documents and government documents are the only sources that will be accepted. For **all papers APA Style** citations are the **only** accepted style for reference pages. Please see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> for an extensive list of the ways to cite sources. Another good resource is www.citationmachine.net, which will actually format your citations in APA if you provide the source information.

Evaluation

These grades reflect an evaluation of the accuracy, depth, and quality of expression within your work. Although a grade is not a precise measure, each carries a meaning.

- An "A" is reserved for the very best student work; it means that the student has exceeded expectations for the assignments in all aspects-accuracy and depth of response as well as quality of expression.
- An "A-" means the student exceeded expectations in most aspects but not all.
- A "B+" or "B" indicates that, while accurate and adequate in depth and quality of expression, the assignment could still be significantly improved.
- Grades of "B," "C+," or "C" indicate that the student has met expectations for undergraduate work in the course, but that the work is generally undistinguished in its accuracy, depth, and/or quality of expression.
- Grades of "C-," "D," or "F" indicate that the student's work is below expectations for the course and serious deficiencies exist.

Class Schedule

Date	Readings	Assignments
Week 1: Introduction to Class January 8 and 10	Required: O'Neil Ch. 1	Assign Countries and Country Work Groups
Week 2: Defining Comparative Public Administration January 15 and 17: MLK Day No Class Monday	Required: Peters Ch. 1, O'Neil Ch. 2, Chandler-your selected country chapter	Weekly Memo Topic: Explain the constitutional framework and the main political institutions of your chosen country.
Week 3 Creating Institutions January 22 and 24	Required: O'Neil Ch. 5, Peters Ch. 4	Weekly quiz Weekly Memo Topic: Describe the model of democracy in your chosen country, describe the political parties present, the state of the electoral system, describe the variations in internal and external organization of your country.
Week 4 Political Culture and Bureaucracy January 28 and 30	Required: Peters Ch. 2, O'Neil Ch. 3 and 8	Weekly quiz, Work Week 1, Weekly Memo Topic: Explain political culture. How does political affect the governance of your chosen country? How important are the following to the shaping of political attitudes: ethnic identify, national identity, patriotism, religion?
Week 5 Recruitment and Management of Civil Servants February 5 and 7	Required: Peters Ch. 3 and 8	Governance Activity, Weekly quiz Weekly Memo Topic: How are public administrators hired in your country? Explain the civil service system. How do other institutions act as a check on the actions of public administrators?
Week 6 Budgetary Processes and Political Economy February 12 and 14	Required: Peters Ch. 7, O'Neil Ch. 4	Weekly quiz, Work Week 2 Weekly Memo Topic: What system of budgeting does your country employ (centralized, federal)? What are the general problems of budgeting in your country? Explain the powers of taxation and spending as well as describe the fiscal position of your country currently. Finally, explain your countries

		orientation towards social spending.
Week 7 Intergovernmental Relations February 19 and 21	Required: O'Neil Ch. 8, Demmke and Moilanen Ch. 4 (e-book on Course Reserve) Recommended: Hueglin Ch. 2-3	Weekly quiz Weekly Memo Topic: How does your country divide its policy-making powers? How many subnational divisions are there? Explain the type and/or style of federalism employed in your country. How effective, in your opinion, is the vertical and horizontal coordination amongst units?
Week 8 Midterm Exam Review and Exam February 26 and 28		Midterm exam review. No weekly quiz, news report or memo.
SPRING BREAK: MARCH 4th-11th		
Week 9: Constitutions and Judicial Review March 12 and 14	Required: Hueglin, Ch. 9-10	Weekly quiz Weekly Memo Topic: Explain the constitutional development in your country, how has it evolved overtime? What are the procedures for amending the constitution? What is the role of the courts in judicial review?
Week 10: Administrative Accountability, Ethics and Reform March 19 and 21	Required: Peters Ch. 8-9	Weekly quiz, Work Week 3 Weekly Memo Topic: Define accountability and the dimensions of accountability as it relates to governance in general. In your country, explain the accountability measures in place. Discuss the limits of administrative accountability in terms of ethical behavior of bureaucrats, politics, and political parties.
Week 11: Nondemocratic Regimes, Post-Communist States and the Role of Violence March 26 and 28	Required: O'Neil Ch. 6,7, 9	Weekly quiz Weekly Memo Topic: Discuss the role of political upheaval and violence in your country. Explain the forms political violence has taken over time (historical examples can be used). Did political upheaval led to sustain political change? Why or why not.
Week 12: Role of Violence, cont. April 2 and 4	MOVIE: Putin's Way	
Week 13: Globalization, Newly Industrializing and Developing	Required: Peters Ch. 10, O'Neil Ch. 10-11	Weekly quiz

Countries April 9 and 11		Weekly Memo Topic: How is globalization affecting your country? How should government adjust to these changes?
Week 14: Group Work Week April 16 and 18		Groups are required to set a meeting with the professor to review final projects.
Finals Week 23rd-28th Country Presentations and Papers Due		