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PSCI 463.01: Development Administration

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Course Description & Learning Outcomes

The course explores key issues of sustainable development and development management as well as the roles and lives of local, national, and transnational public administrators, NGO personnel, consultants, and donor professionals. Development Administration focuses on the fundamental challenge of how to enhance living conditions and human capabilities in contexts characterized by scarce material resources. Students should develop awareness of the role of public administrators and NGO staff in sustainable-development processes, how culture affects development management, issues of decentralization, participation, community empowerment, and capacity building, and effective approaches to management training and project evaluation as well as awareness of contemporary issues involving foreign assistance, agriculture, natural resources and the environment, health, education, housing/transportation, and the special training needs of displaced persons. In addition to building a conceptual and knowledge base regarding the challenges of social, economic, and political change at national and community levels, PSCI 463 also involves simulated experience and practical exercises aimed at preparing students with valuable skills for field assignments in nonWestern contexts – including needs and capabilities assessment, data collection, gender-framework analysis, project selection, development planning and budgeting, program implementation, action training, project evaluation, and transnational competence.

Required: All required readings are posted on moodle

Course Requirements

Class participation (includes discussion facilitations, group sector report) 25%
Group development-planning project 20%
Group final project 25%
Individual final project 30%

Course Outline and Assignments

Sept 2-9 I. Concepts: Human Development, Underdevelopment, Sustainable Development, Low-carbon Development, Global Public Goods, Development Administration, Development Management, MDGs, SDGs
   2. Sen, Development as Freedom (2001), pp. 3-7

II. The Development Context

Sept. 16  A. Public Administration in Low-Income Countries

Sept. 16  B. The Community Development Officer
First facilitated discussion

Sept. 16  C. Health & Development
3. “A 30% Budget Cut in Sefta’s Ministry of Health” role play
Second facilitated discussion

Sept. 23  D1. Ousman Sembene, Mandabi, VT 09883, 90 minutes (1999)

Sept. 23  D2. Corruption
2. Reid & Gannon, “Corruption Tough to Combat” (2009)
3. “Even as it Hurts Mexican Economy, Bribery Is Taken in Stride” (2012)
Third facilitated discussion

Sept. 30  E. Impact of Culture on Development Management
3. Tadella Taferra, “Assefa and Sileshi” (case analysis)
Fourth facilitated discussion

Sept. 30  F. Civil Society, NGOs, Participation, Governance, & Empowerment

Fifth facilitated discussion

Oct. 7

G. Living and Working in “Aidland”
5. de Jong, “False Binaries” (2011)

Sixth facilitated discussion

Oct. 14

H. Infrastructure
1. Dugger, “Roads Lead to New Way of Life in Rural Ethiopia” (’04)

Oct. 14

III. Development Planning and Budgeting
1. Koehn, Public Policy and Administration in Africa, Chapter 6

Oct. 14

Wajjo case – group preparation

IV. Capacity Building for Sustainable Development

Oct. 21

A. Transnational Competence, Trust Building, Institutional & Managerial Capacity
5. Siebert & Koehn, “Executive Summary: USAID University Development Linkage Project; Montana and Belize Partnership for Resource Conservation & Development”

Oct. 21  
It’s a Jungle Out There [Transnational management in Botswana]  
**DVD 06234 (30 minutes)**  
*Seventh facilitated discussion*

Oct. 21  
**Graduate Reports**

Oct. 28 
**Wajo case: group presentations**

Oct. 28  
**B. Information Technology**

3. Polgreen, “Scanning 2.4 Billion Eyes, India Tries to Connect Poor to Growth” (2011)

Oct. 28  
**C. Management Training and Human-resource Development**

   “RATT” role play

Nov. 4  
**V. Critical Development Sectors and Issues**

**A. Rural Health**
**B. Natural Resources, Water, & the Environment**
**C. Agriculture**
**D. Refugee and Returnee Assistance and Development**
**E. Urban housing & Transportation**
**F. Education**

Nov. 4  
Women’s Bank of Bangladesh (47 minutes) VT10557


Nov. 11  
**Individual Project Meetings**

*Small-group feedback*
VI. Development Processes (how should practitioners identify, formulate, select, organize, implement, & evaluate activities at the cutting edge of development?)

Nov 18

A. Data Collection & Community-Asset Mapping

Nov. 18

B. Needs Assessment and Appraisal Methods

Nov. 18

C. Project Initiation, Preparation/Design, and Selection

Nov. 18

D. Project Implementation
1. John Ickis, “Profile of a Permanent Secretary” case
2. Bourns, “A Day in the Life of a Program Manager”

Nov. 18

E. Monitoring and Evaluation
1. Oakley, pp. 253-254 (Box 34) and 263-266

Eighth facilitated discussion

Dec 2

VII. Changing International Assistance Architecture

A. (Re-)organizing U.S. Foreign Assistance
B. New & Old Actors and Approaches

Post Washington Consensus
IMF & World Bank
NEPAD
NGOs, Philanthropists, & Foundations
Development Partnerships

Development Banks and Funds


Dec. 2  
*Group Final Project: Review and Prep*
See Jenny Gorsegner, “Welcome to Togo” (2009)

Dec. 2  
*Individual Project Reports*

Dec. 9  
*Written Individual Project due*

Dec. 9  
*Individual Project Reports*

Dec. 14 (Monday)  
*Written Group Final Project Due*

Dec. 15 (1:10-3:10)  
*Group Final-project Reports*

This syllabus is presented as a general guide to the course that is subject to amendment or deviation.

Accessibility
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