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PSC 595.01: Ethics in Public Administration

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Political Science 595
Ethics in Public Administration

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the issue of ethics in public administration. The course focuses on understanding and applying the theories of ethics to the role of a public administrator.

Course Objectives

1. To acquire substantive knowledge and understanding of the theories of ethics, compromise, and integrity and their importance to the field of public administration.
2. To develop the ability to recognize and apply this understanding to relevant issues and situations facing public administrators in their daily operations.

Required Texts

"Right or Wrong: A Brief Guide To Understanding Ethics," Thomas I. White, Prentice Hall

"Splitting the Difference: Compromise and Integrity in Ethics and Politics," Martin Benjamin, University Press of Kansas

"An Ethic Of Citizenship for Public Administration," Terry L. Cooper, Prentice Hall

Course Requirements

Lessons must be completed by each Wednesday by roughly midnight. Students are required to read all assigned readings, participate on the discussion board, and complete two writing assignments. Lessons provide summary points based on what the author is trying to emphasize in their writings, the key elements. These are not to be considered all-inclusive and the student is responsible to use these summary points in developing their understanding.

Course Grading

Grading will be based on your Discussion Board responses and the two writing assignments. Each writing assignment is worth 100 points and Discussion Board responses are worth 100 points for the semester, for a total of 300 points. You will receive your Discussion Board points at the end of the semester. If you are curious as to how you are doing on your Discussion Board questions during the semester, call me and I will let you know.

A = 279-300
A - = 270-278
B+ = 261-269
B = 249-260
B- = 240-248

C+ = 231-239

C = 219-230

Weekly Assignments

Lesson 1 (Due 1 February) Introduction to Ethics

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned readings (Thomas White, Chapters 1 and 2), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 2 (Due 8 February) Approaches in Studying Ethics

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned readings (Thomas White, Chapters 3 and 4), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 3 (Due 15 February) Acting and Thinking Ethically

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned readings (Thomas White, Chapters 5 and 6), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 4 (Due 22 February) **Writing Assignment #1**

Writing Assignment Due by E-mail Attachment – No Mini-Lecture for this week.

Lesson 5 (Due 1 March) Introduction and Meanings of Compromise

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned reading (Martin Benjamin, Chapter 1), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 6 (Due 8 March) Understanding Moral Compromise

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned reading (Martin Benjamin, Chapter 2), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 7 (Due 15 March) Introduction to Integrity

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned reading (Martin Benjamin, Chapter 3), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 8 (Due 22 March) Compromise and Ethical Theory

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete the assigned readings (Martin Benjamin, Chapters 4 and 5), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

March 29 – Spring Break – No Lesson

Lesson 9 (Due 5 April) **Writing Assignment #2**

Writing Assignment Due by E-mail Attachment – No Mini-Lecture for this week.

Lesson 10 (Due 12 April) Citizenship and Legal Definitions

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned readings (Terry Cooper, Chapters 1 and 2), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 11 (Due 19 April) Ethical Citizenship

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned reading (Terry Cooper, Chapter 3), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 12 (Due 26 April) Public Administration and Citizenship

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned reading (Terry Cooper, Chapter 4), and respond to Discussion Board questions.

Lesson 13 (Due 3 May) Citizen Administrator

Read the mini-lecture on-line, complete assigned readings (Terry Cooper, Chapter 5, 6 and 7), and respond to the Discussion Board questions.