

2/24/17 Draft. Final Syllabus will be posted to Canvas.

The Evergreen State College
Master of Public Administration Program
Ethics & Leadership in Public Service
Spring 2017 4 Credits

Meeting Dates: Wednesdays
Place: Sem II, TBD
Time: 6:00-10:00pm
Faculty Member: Doreen Swetkis, Ph.D.
Office: Lab I, Room 3011
Office Hours: Varies M-F (I'm in my office quite a bit during the day),
& by appointment
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We cannot live in a world that is interpreted for us by others. ~Hildegard Von Bingen

Course Description: In this course you will be given the opportunity to work through issues relevant to management of people in public and nonprofit organizations and the role professional ethics plays in those issues. We will examine different frameworks relevant to professional settings in the hope that this approach will provide a context to help you more clearly understand the interactions you observe in your workplace, and help you consider possible appropriate actions in ambiguous and complex situations. This course will examine some real world dilemmas you could encounter as a leader, dilemmas not necessarily covered in a text book. You will not walk away with a set of answers to these situations; however, one goal of the course is to have you recognize how your moral compass influences the professional ethical choices you may have to make. Another goal is to explore other influences at your disposal when making (and justifying) ethical decisions.

NB One of the sources to be used in the classroom for discussion and assignments will be the third season of *The Wire* (HBO series—rated Mature for language, some nudity, adult subject matter). It is recommended (but not required) that you watch the first two seasons of *The Wire* by the start of Spring Quarter. The DVDs are available at the Daniel J. Evans Library (Evergreen). Resource: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wire

Learning Objectives:

1. Situate the practices of ethical behavior and leadership within contemporary organizational, political, and economic contexts;
2. Appreciate alternative opinions, values, beliefs and reasoning processes when resolving ethical dilemmas, demonstrating effective leadership and practicing social responsibility;
3. Integrate a practice of ethical reasoning, effective leadership and social responsibility;
4. Investigate and seek to understand yourself in the context of ethics and leadership;
5. Improve analytical and writing skills related to practices of ethical behavior and leadership.

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Methods: We will read and discuss texts, plus some additional readings such as articles, reports, cases, and/or research studies. Lectures, films, guest presentations and/or workshops will be featured during our class sessions. Canvas will be our web-based platform for course agenda and updates, posting and submission of assignments, and virtual communication.

Expectations, Credit & Evaluation: Students will come prepared and attend every class on time, actively participate in class, and submit assignments on time. Only one (1) non-emergency absence will be accepted without consequences. *Additional absences will result in partial or no credit.* There are no substitutions for participating in the learning community; this is something that goes along with how we teach at Evergreen. In essence, you can not “make up” a missed class with an additional writing assignment.

All students are expected to support and contribute to a well functioning MPA classroom learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the MPA program.

Your written work must be of the highest quality—clear with accurate grammar, spelling and citations. Honor space limitations by distilling your thoughts and editing your writing rather than reducing the font size and margins. Give yourself time to write drafts. You may benefit from consulting The Writing Center, the Graduate Writing Assistant, or partnering with a colleague to proofread your work.

Students will receive four (4) credits at the completion of the course if all expectations and course requirements have been successfully completed. Plagiarism (i.e., using other people’s work as your own without acknowledging the source), missing more than one (1) class, failing to complete one or more assignments, completing one or more assignments late (without having made arrangements before the due date) may be grounds for denial of credit.

Students are required to submit a self-evaluation and a faculty evaluation. You can submit these evaluations via the College’s online evaluation system. Students are not required to submit self-evaluations to their transcripts. An evaluation conference is optional.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus.

Readings

1. Appiah, Kwame Anthony. (2006). *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0-393-32933-9
2. Broome, John. (2012). *Climate Matters: Ethics in a Warming World*. ISBN: 978-0-393-06336-3. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. Hardback.
3. Schein, Edgar H. (2013). *Humble Inquiry: The Gentle Art of Asking Instead of Telling*. ISBN: 978-1-60994-981-5. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc. Paperback.
4. Stivers, Camilla. (2008). *Governance in Dark Times: Practical Philosophy for Public Service*. ISBN: 1-58901-197-X. Georgetown University Press. Paperback.
5. Strom-Gottfried, Kim. (2015). *Straight Talk about Professional Ethics, 2nd Edition*. ISBN: 978-1-935871-46-0. Lyceum Books, Inc. Paperback.

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6. Other readings posted to Canvas.

Assignments: See Course Schedule/Canvas site for more information

Reflective Papers: due each class meeting

For a variety of reasons, it is helpful to be required to do some reflective writing on reading assignments. This is not an exercise to “check” to see if you have read the text (that is clear in seminar); this is about providing an opportunity for you to deeply reflect upon the topic for the day and the reading materials, to tease out the important themes and arguments, to check that with your personal experiences (this is an intellectual activity, not a personal journal) and to reflect upon the meaning of the readings to you, to your work, and to our community. **Balance your reflections so that they include reference to all the readings for that week.**

Each class session, submit a short 2-3 (double-spaced) page reflection paper answering the prompt posted to Canvas of the day and the readings, using the guidelines listed in the above paragraph. Week 1’s paper topic is included in the Course Schedule (below). At different points in the quarter, we may exchange reflective papers as a prompt for discussion. Therefore, these papers must be **completed and brought to class in hard copy the night they are due**. No late reflection papers will be accepted.

Essay: Topic presented to faculty for approval, 4/19; Essay due last night of class

Choose a topic in the area of Ethics and Leadership (note the “and” is not an “or”), in the public or nonprofit sectors. Research your topic thoroughly (non-scholarly Internet citations as your only references will not be accepted). Write a scholarly essay on this topic that includes a thesis, arguments to support your thesis, references to the literature in your topic area and references to current “real-world” events. This is not an opportunity to soap-box or to bully-pulpit around your favorite issue; of interest is an intellectual perspective on important topics related to ethics and leadership, not personal opinions.

In short, this is an opportunity to practice the kind of work that will often go into a “policy briefing” paper. It is a myth that these papers are objective; all policy crafting has a perspective. The fine art of producing writing that is effective in moving agendas/perspectives forward comes from building good, solid arguments (supported by evidence) for the perspective being argued. Your final paper should be 12-15 double-spaced pages. You must use APA in-text and reference list citation style.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics & Activities	Readings/Assignments
Week 1 Apr. 5	<p>Topic: Know Thyself</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course introduction & context • Introduction to Fair Housing • Viewing & Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ “Time After Time” ◦ “All Due Respect” • Seminar 	<p>Readings: Strom-Gottfried: Ch 2; <i>See No Evil; Reflective Practice; Strangers to Ourselves (all on Canvas)</i></p> <p>Assignments: Complete Personal Values Checklist & Reflective Paper analyzing how your personal values currently play out in your professional life</p>
Week 2 Apr. 12	<p>Topic: Western Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Viewing & Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ “Dead Soldiers” & “Hamsterdam” • Seminar 	<p>Readings: Stivers: Intro & Part I; Strom-Gottfried: Chapter 1</p> <p>Assignment: Reflective Paper (See Canvas for prompt)</p>
Week 3 Apr. 19	<p>Topic: Framing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Viewing & Workshop: “Straight & True” • Seminar 	<p>Readings: Schein pp. 1-52; Bayles (on Canvas); Strom-Gottfried Ch 6</p> <p>Assignments: Reflective Paper (See Canvas for prompt); Essay topic due</p>
Week 4 Apr. 26	<p>Topic: Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing & Workshop: “Homecoming” • Guest: <i>Stacey Brown, Police Chief, The Evergreen State College</i> • Seminar 	<p>Readings: Schein pp. 53-end; Hollander-Blumoff & Tyler (on Canvas)</p> <p>Assignment: Reflective Paper (See Canvas for prompt)</p>
Week 5 May 3	<p>Topic: Organizational Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing & Workshop: “Back burners” • Guest: <i>Amanda Walker, VP of Advancement, The Evergreen State College</i> • Seminar 	
Week 6 May 10	TBD	
Week 7 May 17	TBD	
Week 8 May 24	TBD	
Week 9 May 31	TBD	

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Week 10 June 7	Topic: Takeaways <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Viewing & Workshop: "Mission Accomplished"• Discussion	Assignment: Final Essay
Jun 12-16	Optional Evaluation Week Conferences	