Public Administration and Film
Summer 2020

Faculty
Meghan Doughty
Email: doughtym@Evergreen.edu
Office: Lab 1, 3010
Office Hours: By Appointment
*Appointments can be over the phone
or online via Zoom, Skype or Facetime

Time
Class: Friday 7-9pm, (7/10 and 8/14), Film Screening: 5-7
Class: Saturday 9am-12pm, (7/11 and 8/15), Optional Film Screening: 1:00
Sunday 9am-12pm, (7/12 and 8/16), Optional Film Screening: 1:00

Location
Zoom and Asynchronous (Video lectures, discussion posts on Canvas, watching films)

Course Description: Cinema is one of the most powerful forms of media. It provides a common cultural touchstone for disparate groups of people to frame their experiences of the world. It can reflect a certain perception of reality, put forth an agenda and critique specific aspects of a society, or society at large. Combining public administration theory and the films themselves, this course will explore the cultural framing of various aspects of public administration and how this influences the reality of working in the public sector. *Warning: Rated R films will be shown in this class*

Learning Objectives
1. Foster student awareness of films relation to public perception of public administration
2. Enhance understanding of public administration theory
3. Introduce aspects of film theory

Skills
1. Improve critical thinking and writing skills
2. Encourage creative thinking skills
3. Develop ability to translate theoretical concepts for a nontechnical audience

Required Readings
All films will be screened via Zoom or students can choose to watch on their own, all films are available for rent or purchase on Amazon Prime
First Weekend


*Parks and Recreation: Leslie Knope, A Woman's Woman in Government:* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DshRfenHVRg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DshRfenHVRg)

Session 2: Administrative Evil: BlacKkKlansman (2018)


Asynchronous Session 4: Contracting: War Dogs (2016)


**Asynchronous Session 5: Organizational Politics: In the Loop (2009)**


**Second Weekend**

**Session 6: Red Tape/Administrative Burden: Hidden Figures (2016)**


Deep Focus: Hidden Figures: https://www.filmcomment.com/blog/deep-focus-hidden-figures/

**Session 7: Representative Bureaucracy: Zootopia (2016)**


**Session 8: Collaborative Governance: Contagion (2011)**


**Asynchronous Session 9: International PA: No Mans Land (2001)**


*NATO's role in relation to the conflict in Kosovo: [https://www.nato.int/kosovo/history.htm](https://www.nato.int/kosovo/history.htm)*
Assignments

Discussion Board Post
Prompts: Prompts for the discussion board will be posted by 5 pm on Monday of Weeks 4, 5 and 9
Posts: You are required to post at least THREE times per week. The first post, due Wednesdays at noon, is a response to the Monday prompt. By Friday at noon you must reply to at least two classmate’s response (second post). To recap, your first post (reply to the prompt) is due by Wednesday at noon, your second and third posts (reply to classmate) are due Friday at noon.
Instructions: Each post must be at least 250 words. The purpose of these posts is to demonstrate that you have done the reading, that you are critically thinking about the content and that you are attempting to engage in a constructive discussion with your classmates. Your post must advance the discussion or pose new issues for the group to consider. You are, of course, permitted (and encouraged) to submit additional posts (which may be shorter) in addition to the two required each week.

Pick a Film
Due Date: July 19th, posted to Canvas by 6:00pm

Synopsis of the Film
Due Date: July 25th, posted to Canvas by 6:00pm
Length: No more than 1 page, double-spaced
Instructions: Write a plot summary of the film you chose. This should highlight the main characters and what happens to them during the film. It should be no more than 500 words.

Concept Paper
Due Date: August 9th, posted to Canvas by 6:00pm
Length: 2-3 pages, double-spaced
Instructions: Explain how the film you picked relates to public administration. What theory of public administration does the film demonstrate or explore? You don’t need to know everything about the particular public administration theory the film deals with, but you do need to explain your rationale for picking the film and how it relates to some broader aspect of public administration.

Rough Draft
Due Date: August 23rd, posted to Canvas by 6:00pm
Length: at least 9 pages
Instructions: This should be as close to a final draft as possible.

Final Paper
Due Date: August 30th, posted to Canvas by 6:00pm
Length: 10-15 pages, double-spaced
**Instructions:** This should be a fuller explanation of your concept paper. It should address the question: what does this film tell an audience about some aspect of public administration? It should also answer why what this film tells the audience is important. Is it a reflection of society? A demonstration of theory in action? Does it question or complicate currently accepted theories or knowledge?

Use your knowledge of public administration theory to answer these questions.

**Course Policies**

**COVID-19 Considerations:** With the continuation of online instruction and quarantine orders, faculty will respond on an individual basis to concerns resulting from our new environment. Please reach out with any concerns and accommodations, if possible, will be made.

To participate in class students will need a semi-stable internet connection. All films will be screened via Zoom and/or be available for purchase through Amazon Prime video. All readings will be posted on Canvas. Lectures will be delivered synchronously, “live”, through Zoom, and three recorded lectures will be posted with discussion prompts during Weeks 4, 5 and 9.

**Format:** Unless otherwise stated, all papers should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, and follow APA format and citation style. [APA Style](http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx) Purdue Writing & Grammar Guide [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/) All written work will be of high quality, grammatically correct, clear and without spelling errors.

Students may request resource writing assistance from faculty and/or the Graduate Writing Assistant. You can contact our graduate programs writing support at: EvergreenWritingAssistant@gmail.com. Additional writing resources can be accessed through the campus Writing Center: [https://www.evergreen.edu/writingcenter/resources](https://www.evergreen.edu/writingcenter/resources)

**Participation & Attendance:** Students are required to attend each Zoom class meeting in its entirety. Participation includes focusing on class content, speaking in class and seminar, listening to others, taking notes, completing class interactive exercises, avoiding distractions, and listening to and dialoging with the guest speakers. If an absence is unavoidable, seminar faculty should be notified prior to a class and/or seminar absence.

After a Zoom absence, make-up work may be assigned. Makeup work must be completed by the end of the quarter in question for course credit. After reoccurring absences (being late to class; regularly missing more than one class), you may be denied
credit. Finally, if you do miss a class, you are expected to do the reading for that class meeting and turn in any assignments that were due that class date.

**Late Assignments:** If there is an unavoidable need to turn in an assignment late, the student should contact me via email no later than the original assignment due date to discuss options. Late assignments must be completed by the revised due date to ensure full receipt of course credit.

**Credit:** Students will receive 4 graduate credits at the end of the course if all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. Students will be evaluated based upon their progress towards the learning objectives, assessed from classroom, seminar, and assignment performance.

Plagiarism (i.e., using other peoples’ work as your own) may result in total loss of credit for the class and may result in dismissal from the MPA program. See the [MPA Handbook](#) and [College statement on academic honesty](#) for more information.

Failing to meet course requirements (ex. not completing one or more assignments, completing one or more assignments late, or multiple absences) may constitute denial of credit at the discretion of the faculty. Students at risk of losing credit will receive written notification prior to the end of the quarter.

**Evaluation:** A written self-evaluation and faculty evaluation are required. All final evaluations are to be submitted via our online evaluation system no later than one week after the last class.

**Holidays for Reasons of Faith or Conscience:** Please inform us in writing within the first two weeks of class if you will miss specific class sessions because of holidays of faith or conscience, or for an organized activity conducted as part of a religious denomination, church, or organization. If you let us know within that time frame, we will offer you reasonable accommodations, and the absence(s) will be excused. For more information, please refer to the Evergreen policy at: [https://www.evergreen.edu/policy/religious-observance](https://www.evergreen.edu/policy/religious-observance).

**Technology Use & Learning Styles:** We all have different ways of learning. Faculty will actively work towards providing information in multiple formats: tactile, auditory, visual, experiential, etc. However, we are limited to means appropriate for the classroom environment. Surfing the internet, checking social media, reading e-mail, playing with cell phones are not appropriate behaviors in a learning community. I reserve the right to
ask for no technology in the classroom if it becomes a distraction. Also, please shut your laptops when we have guest speakers.

**Reasonable Accommodations** will be provided for any student who qualifies for them through a working relationship with Access Services. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the office of Access Services for Students with Disabilities (867-6348 or 6364). If the student is already working with the office of Access Services the faculty should have received a letter clearly indicating the student has a disability that requires academic accommodations. If any student has a health condition or disability that may require accommodations in order to effectively participate in this class, please do the following: Contact faculty before class and Contact Access Services to receive a letter of accommodation. Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential. Please refer to TESC’s **Students with Disabilities Policy**.

**Permission to Record Lecture, Workshop and Other Similar Discussion:**

If a participant in class would like to obtain an audio or video recording of another participant in class speaking, discussion, lecture or other related communications in class, and this falls beyond the scope of **Reasonable Accommodations**, then this participant would need written permission, via email or other acceptable forms of documentation, and would need to give a reasonable time period in advance of the recording; usually a week (5 business days) and written consent would need to occur before the recordings begin.

**Conduct & Conflict Resolution:** Discuss any problems involving others in the learning community directly with the individuals involved (so long as the concerned party feels safe doing so). Possessing respect for others is fundamental to an open, free, and educational dialogue. All students are expected to support and contribute to a well-functioning MPA classroom and learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the MPA program. All students will be held accountable for maintaining the highest of academic standards.

The procedure to resolve conflict is outlined in the MPA Student Handbook: [https://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/studenthandbook/conflictresolution](https://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/studenthandbook/conflictresolution)

Included on this page is the Evergreen State College Conflict Resolution Process Matrix.

**We will abide by the social contract:** WAC 174-121-010 College philosophy.
We will abide by the student conduct code (including academic integrity and plagiarism): Chapter 174-123 WAC, Student Conduct Code & Grievance/Appeals Process

We will abide by the non-discrimination policies and procedures at TESC

Guest Policy: Guests are welcome to visit our learning community during class time and seminar meetings with discretionary approval from course faculty in advance of the requested visit. It is the host student’s responsibility to contact the faculty with details about the requested guest visit and await approval. Guests must abide by all social contract conduct code, and nondiscrimination policy guidelines as aforementioned in this syllabus.

Inclement Weather: In the event of bad weather or emergencies students should check with for announcements of campus closures. Students can call the main campus line 867-6000 to get the latest news regarding a campus closure or delay. Faculty may decide to cancel a class meeting even if campus is open and we will send an all-class email prior to 3:00 pm the day of class. Students are responsible for checking email and ensuring viable transportation options are available to them https://evergreen.edu/emergencyresponse

Communicating: Email, Canvas and Zoom are our primary means of communication. Students are responsible for checking their Evergreen email and Canvas regularly.