

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

Ethics of Public Service

Information :

Course Code : PAD 403

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Public Administration

Area Of Study :

This course explores public service ethics as an applied discipline. It introduces students to historical traditions, relativism, teleology, deontology, intuitionism, and virtue theory. The course equips students with a set of rules, values and skills public servants and policy makers should have to take the right action in a particular situation. Students explore competing obligations that guide political actions inside and outside the government particularly when notions of what is good, just, and legitimate public policy are contested. Students have the opportunity to explore key aspects of professional ethics- conflict of interest, loyalty, duty, subordination. Students get to examine the underlying assumptions behind ethical responsibilities of public officials and government figures in democratic societies. The course further gives attention to the way in which institutional arrangements and reforms promote or inhibit moral choices and anticorruption strategies. It sets out a framework for analyzing ethical issues and making ethical decisions by exposing students to a wide range of case studies to examine different ethical issues from the point of view of various stakeholders.

Course Goals:

- Ç Explain the scope of ethics in the public service.
- Ç Layout the limits for confidentiality, loyalty and the public goods.
- Ç Demonstrate historically important ethical theories.
- Ç Apply a unified ethical theory to practical cases in public administration.
- Ç Develop a theme of ethical integration.
- Ç Present recent attempts to ethical reform.

Description :

This course explores public service ethics as an applied discipline. It introduces students to historical traditions, relativism, teleology, deontology, intuitionism, and virtue theory. The course equips students with a set of rules, values and skills public servants and policy makers should have to take the right action in a particular situation. Students explore competing obligations that guide political actions inside and outside the government particularly when notions of what is good, just, and legitimate public policy are contested. Students have the opportunity to explore key aspects of professional ethics- conflict of interest, loyalty, duty, subordination. Students get to examine the underlying assumptions behind ethical responsibilities of public officials and government figures in democratic societies. The course further gives attention to the way in which institutional arrangements and reforms promote or inhibit moral choices and anticorruption strategies. It sets out a framework for analyzing ethical issues and making ethical decisions by exposing students to a wide range of case studies to examine different ethical issues from the point of view of various stakeholders.

Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

1 -	Discuss the nature of conflicts in public administration
2 -	Sympathize the need for ethical codes
3 -	Recognize historical traditions of public ethics

b. Intellectual Skills: :

1 -	Analyze critically practical cases in public administration.
2 -	Assess the frame-work of ethical reforms.
3 -	Develop a theme of ethical integration.

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

1 -	Analyze ethical dilemmas in providing public service.
2 -	Investigate issues on confidentiality; historical ethical theories; ethical integration; and ethical reform.

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

1 -	Communicate recent information of current themes of public ethics codes. and reforms
2 -	Use on-line and electronic resources to locate supporting governmental and public administration reports.
3 -	Conduct article and book reviews.

Course Topic And Contents :

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introductory Lecture and Course Outline The Real World: Challenges and Ethics in Public Administration	3	1	
Why the Ethics in the Public Administration is Different from Ethics in the Private Sector?	3	1	
What is Ethics: Historical Traditions: Relativism, Teleology; Deontology; Intuitionism; Virtue Theory; Combining the Great Historical Traditions into Unified Process	6	2	
The Real World Revisited: The Unified Ethic; Codes of Ethics and Ethics Training; Ethical Energy and Reform	3	1	
Making Choices: Ethical Dilemmas, Ethical Decision; Approaches to Decision Making; Perspectives on Ethical Decision Making	3	1	
Mid Term Exam		1	
Problems that May Arise and How to Analyze Them	6	2	
Addressing Public Ethical Conflict by Means of Unified Ethic	6	2	
Leadership Development and Moral Agency in Contemporary Governance	6	2	
Perspectives on Contemporary Reform: Reinventing Government and the New Public Management	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Debates
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper)	30.00		To assess understanding and theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam	30.00	7	To assess professional skills.

Recommended books :

Cox III, W. Raymond (ed), Ethics and Integrity in Public Administration: Concepts and Cases, M. E. Sharpe Inc., 2009.

T. W. Bluhm and A. R. Heineman, Ethics and Public Policy: Methods and Cases. Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2007.

L. Pasquerella, G. A. Killilea, and M. Vocino (eds), Ethical Dilemmas in Public Administration, Praeger, 1996.

Kathryn G. Denhardt, The Ethics of Public Service: Resolving Moral Dilemmas in Public Organizations, Greenwood Press, 1988.

Periodicals :

Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research

<http://academicjournals.org/journal/JPAPR/article-abstract/0EAB99617395>