RPAD 702  Politics and Administration (Fall 2015, TH 02:45_PM-05:35_PM HS0006)

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Office Hours: I will be in Milne 317 on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30, can be contacted on email continuously, and will be pleased to set up appointments to speak with students in person or on the telephone throughout the week.

Readings Assigned


Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View* (second edition), Palgrave, 2005


Grading System

Review Papers (80%)

After we finish each book, you should hand in a five-page, double-spaced paper describing your major reactions to, thoughts on, and analysis of the book based on your reading of the book and our class discussions of it. It is essential that the paper reflect your engagement with the discussions we have had of the books in class. The purpose of the paper is to give you a chance to think actively about what you have learned from reading and discussing the books. If you participate actively in the class discussions it will make it much easier for you to write these papers, because you will be working through themes that you can incorporate into the papers. The papers should not summarize the readings (i.e., it should not report just what the readings say, or rely substantially on quotations from the readings), but rather should represent your independent work with the material.

The papers must be submitted through the Blackboard system by the start of the class session when the papers are due. When submitting your assignments, use the following format in naming the file: **Your Name_Date Submitted (for example, Sept 17)**. Do NOT send in the paper with a title like “Paper 1”—your name and the date must be on the paper, because otherwise I will need to re-title the file. You must complete all of the papers. You should allow for emergencies, necessary travel, etc., by preparing your work ahead of time. Papers will be graded on presentation, as well as content; they should be carefully edited and proofed.

Please review the University definitions and policy regarding plagiarism in the current Graduate Bulletin. Plagiarism, in both its subtle and flagrant forms—including long, uncited summaries of others’ writings—is a serious offense. If a paper shows signs of plagiarism the University policy will be enforced strongly.
Class Participation (20%)

Active class participation means engagement, informed by knowledge of the readings and other materials, in class sessions and other aspects of the course. It also means engaging the comments made by others in the class, and making efforts to ensure that others are also engaged in the dialogue. Overall, it means that you must do more than simply come to class, that you should participate actively, and that you should not try to dominate class discussions.

Meaning of Grades

For participation and the papers, a grade of A reflects strong ability to work with the material and to think creatively about it. A grade of B reflects a good, comprehensive awareness of the assigned material. A grade of C reflects knowledge of much of the material, but weak preparation of a substantial share of it. A grade of less than C reflects major gaps in knowledge or persistent lack of performance in the various aspects of the course. The grade scale used is 3.8-4 (A), 3.6-3.7 (A-), 3.3-3.5 (B+), 3.0-3.2 (B), 2.7-2.9 (B-), 2.3-2.6 (C+), 2.0-2.2 (C); 1.7-1.9 (C-); 1.3-1.6 (D+); 1.0-1.2 (D); .7-.9 (D-). Less than .7 is an E. You need to earn a grade of C or better to receive credit for the course.

Reading Assignments

September 3: Wilson, Bureaucracy, pp. 113-232.
September 17: Pfeffer, Power and Influence in Organizations, pp. vii-125. Paper on Bureaucracy is due.
September 24: Pfeffer, Power and Influence in Organizations, pp. 127-245.
October 1: Pfeffer, Power and Influence in Organizations, pp. 247-345.
October 8: Allison and Zelikow, Essence of Decision, pp. vii-142. Paper on Power and Influence in Organizations is due.
November 19: North, Understanding the Process of Economic Change, pp. 81-170.
November 26: University class suspension.