State University of New York at Albany
Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
Department of Public Administration

PAD 683
Managing Local Government

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Office Hours:
Weekday Afternoons (by appointment)

Syllabus and Course Requirements

Course Description:

A study of the history, forms and management of local governments, focusing on the research and administrative systems used in recommending and executing public policy at the local government level. Our class will serve as a vehicle for administrative systems analysis and practical application, as well as a laboratory for research and development. We will explore new and innovative methods of providing local government services as well as the latest methods of performance measurement/management.

Required Readings:

Managing Local Government Services. Carl W. Stenberg, Editor; Susan Lipman Austin, Editor.

Course Requirements:

Current Local Government Topics: Participation in class discussions is a major course requirement. Each class member is required to analyze current local government topics appearing in newspapers and journals and make a short presentation at each class. A one or two paragraph outline will be prepared for the topic presentation and handed in following the discussions.
Attendance at a city council, county legislature, town or village board, or a committee meeting of these official bodies: Policy (the adoption of laws and regulations) is regularly promulgated at these meetings. Each class member will report to the class regarding the substance of two or three of the major items discussed and/or adopted at the meetings. A one page outline will be prepared for the report to the class and handed in following the presentation.

Research Paper (minimum 20 pages): Local governments throughout the world are changing, sometimes dramatically. This an exciting time which provides many opportunities for research into the evolving local government sector. Class members should develop a list of prospective paper topics to discuss with me prior to mid term. I will provide suggestions and references.

Grades: The following percentages will apply:

Presentation of current topics, reports on local legislative body meeting attendance, and class participation: 30%

Research Paper: 40%

Final Examination: 30%