

# Political Science (POLS) 342-500: Politics and Bureaucracy

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**Term:** Fall 2016

**Class Meeting Time:** MW 2:25 to 3:40 PM, Allen 1005

**Office Hours:** Mondays 3:45-4:45 PM and Wednesdays 1:15-2:20 PM, and by appointment

## Course Description

Public bureaucracy in the context of a political environment; role of experts, the use of political power and problems of bureaucratic accountability and responsibility.

## Prerequisites

POLS 206 or approval of department head.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions.

- Is bureaucracy “political”?
- Is bureaucracy democratic?
- What explains and motivates bureaucratic behavior?
- What are the challenges in bureaucratic performance?
- What is governance?

## Grading Policy

<i>Assignment weighting:</i>	<i>Grade classification:</i>
Homework 20%	89.5 or higher = A Exceeds my expectations
Quizzes (unannounced) 10%	79.5 to 89.4 = B Meets my expectations
First Exam 20%	69.5 to 79.4 = C Meets my minimum expectations
Second Exam 20%	59.5 to 69.4 = D Fails to meet my expectations
Third Exam 30%	Less than 59.5 = F Fails to meet course requirements

There will be **no extra credit opportunities** in this course. The use of cell phones or other electronic devices that appear to distract you from the class will detract from your quiz grade. Individual papers, quizzes, homework, and all other assignments not specifically indicated by the instructor to be a “group” assignment, must be completed individually.

When in doubt, communicate with me as soon as possible *before* an absence or missed assignment takes place. Missing assignment grades may be replaced only with a university excused absence. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

### **Current Events Points**

You have the opportunity to add points to your quiz grade in this course by sharing a current event relating to bureaucracy or to a central theme of this course. For every news article that you post (from a reputable news outlet, ask if you have questions), you will add **one point** to your overall quiz grade. *You must post your event to the designated discussion board on eCampus and explain in one paragraph why it is relevant to bureaucracy and the content of this course.*

You may upload no more than 2 articles per week for credit, and each article must be less than 7 days old when you post it. You will not receive credit if another student has already posted the same article, but you will receive credit if your article is an update or continuation of the same event. All points will be counted and added to your grade *at the end of the semester.*

### **Online Course Materials and Turnitin**

All assignments, handouts, additional reading materials, and the syllabus for this course will be made available through the course page on the TAMU eCampus website, at [ecampusprod.tamu.edu](http://ecampusprod.tamu.edu). All homework assignments and take-home exam assignments must be submitted using Turnitin through the same eCampus website. *I will not accept hard-copy or emailed homework assignments.*

### **Writing Expectations**

Unless otherwise instructed, all written work in this course must be submitted to the instructor through the eCampus website, and must be double-spaced, in 12 pt font, with 1 in margins. I expect proper English grammar, spelling, and punctuation to be practiced.

Students may use any established format for citing references, either Chicago or AJP styles are suitable choices. It is most important that your chosen citation style be consistent throughout the entire piece of writing. Failure to properly cite your sources and references **will** result in a referral to the Honor Council for academic dishonesty. For additional information on citing sources, see the Texas A&M Library Website at <http://guides.library.tamu.edu>.

*Writing assignments that do not meet my formatting and style expectations will be penalized accordingly.*

### **Required Books**

- Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. New York, NY: Basic Books. ISBN: 9780465007851
- Gormely, William T. Jr. and Steven J. Balla. 2013. *Bureaucracy and Democracy: Accountability and Performance*. Los Angeles, CA: CQ Press. 3rd Ed. ISBN:9781608717170
- **All other readings assignments listed in the syllabus will be provided by the instructor through the course eCampus site.**

## **Deadlines and Important Dates**

October 10: First Exam  
November 7: Second Exam  
December 9: Final Exam - Take-home component due 5 PM  
December 13: Final Exam - In-class component

## **Plagiarism Statement**

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty."

## **Academic Integrity**

*"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do."*

For additional information, please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.

## **Course Materials/Copyright Statement**

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts" I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials review sheets, lecture slides and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

## Schedule, Topics, and Readings

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. I reserve the right to add or remove readings at any time, with reasonable notice to the class.

### Part 1: Bureaucracy in the Past and Present

#### Week 1 Introductions

- Aug 28 & 30:
  - Compton, Mallory E. and Kenneth J. Meier. Forthcoming. "Bureaucracy to Post-Bureaucracy: The Consequence of Political Failures", in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Business and Management*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### Week 2 What is Bureaucracy?

- Sep 5: **HOMEWORK #1 DUE 8AM**
  - Wilson Ch. 1 - "Armies, Prisons, Schools"
  - Wilson Ch. 2 - "Organization Matters"
- Sep 7:
  - Peters, Guy. "Public administration and governing" in *The Politics of Bureaucracy: An Introduction to Comparative Public Administration*. 6th Ed. London: Routledge. pp. 1-30.
  - Fox, J. Charles and Jeff Corbin. 2016 "The leaders we elect this fall will seal the Chesapeake Bays fate for decades to come" *Washington Post*. Washington D.C., August 12, 2016.

#### Week 3 What Does Bureaucracy Do?

- Sep 12 & 14:
  - Wilson, Woodrow. 1887. "The Study of Administration," *Political Science Quarterly* 2(2): 197-222.
  - Friedrich, Carl J. 1940 "Public Policy and the Nature of Administrative Responsibility." in *Public Policy*. Cambridge Mass.: Harvard University Press. pp. 3-24.
  - Finer, Herman. 1941. "Administrative Responsibility in Democratic Government." *Public Administration Review*. 1(4): 335-350.

#### Week 4 Development of American Bureaucracy

- Sep 19 & 21:
  - Federalist Paper No. 51: *The Structure of the Government Must Furnish the Proper Checks and Balances Between the Different Departments*
  - Nelson, Michael. 1982. "A Short, Ironic History of American National Bureaucracy." *Journal of Politics*. 44(3):747-778

#### Week 5 Bureaucracy in (Institutional) Context

- Sep 26 & 28
  - Wilson Ch. 13 - "Congress"
  - Wilson Ch. 14 - "President"
  - Wilson Ch. 15 - "Courts"

- *Recommended Reading*
  - Wilson Ch. 16 - “National Differences”

#### **Week 6** The Study of Bureaucracy

- Oct 3 & 5
  - Gormley & Balla Chapter 1 - “Bureaucracies as Policymaking Organizations”
  - Rainey, Hal G. 2009. “Understanding the Study of Organizations: A Historical Review,” in *Understanding and Managing Public Organizations*. 4th ed. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass. pp. 24-57.

### **Part 2: Bureaucratic Behavior**

#### **Week 7** Introduction to Behavior

- Oct 10: **EXAM ONE**
- Oct 12: Gormley & Balla Chapter 2 - “Bureaucratic Reasoning”
- *Recommended Reading*:
  - Hindmoor, Andrew. 2006. “Rationality.” Chapter 8 in *Rational Choice*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan. pp. 181-199.

#### **Week 8** The Work of Bureaucrats

- Oct 17 & 19: Wilson Part II
  - Ch. 3 “Circumstances”
  - Ch. 4 “Beliefs”
  - Ch. 5 “Interests”
  - Ch. 6 “Culture”

#### **Week 9** Control of Bureaucracy

- Oct 24 & 26: Gormley & Balla - Chapter 3 “The Bureaucracy’s Bosses”
- *Recommended Reading*
  - Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bonchek, 1997. “Bureaucracy and Intergovernmental Relations” Chapter 13 in *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co. pp. 345-379.

#### **Week 10** Clientele

- Oct 31 & Nov 2: Gormley & Balla - Chapter 4 “The Bureaucracy’s Clients”

### **Part 3: Bureaucracy and Governance**

#### **Week 11** Public Managers

- Nov 7: **EXAM TWO**
- Nov 9: Wilson Part III - Managers
  - Ch. 7 “Constraints”

- Ch. 8 "People"
- Ch. 9 "Compliance"
- *Recommended Reading:*
  - Wilson Part IV - Executives
    - \* Ch. 10 "Turf"
    - \* Ch. 11 "Strategies"
    - \* Ch. 12 "Innovation"

#### **Week 12 Problems & Performance**

- Nov 14 & 16: Wilson Part VI - Change
  - Ch. 17 "Problems"
  - Ch. 18 "Rules"
  - Ch. 19 "Markets"
  - Ch. 20 "Bureaucracy and the Public Interest"
- *Recommended Reading*
  - Moynihan, Donald P. 2010. "The Promises and Paradoxes of Performance-Based Bureaucracy." Chapter 12 in *The Oxford Handbook of American Bureaucracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 278-302.

#### **Week 13 Networked Bureaucracy**

- Nov. 21 & 23: Gormley & Balla - Chapter 5 "Bureaucratic Networks"

#### **Week 14 Governance & Performance**

- Nov 28 & 30:
  - Gormley & Balla - Chapter 7 "Why Are Some Bureaucracies Better than Others?"
  - Meier, Kenneth J. 1997. "Bureaucracy and Democracy: The Case for More Bureaucracy and Less Democracy." *Public Administration Review* 57(3): 193-199.
- *Recommended Reading*
  - Wise, Lois Recascino, 2002. "Public Management Reform: Competing Drivers of Change." *Public Administration Review* 62(5):555-567.

#### **Week 15 Wrap-up & Review**

- Dec 7: No reading assignment.
- Dec 9: **FINAL EXAM TAKE-HOME DUE 5 PM**

**December 13 (Tuesday): FINAL EXAM IN-CLASS 3:30 - 5:30 PM**