



MASTER OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

MMPM 528

PUBLIC SECTOR ETHICS

(First Trimester Course – 15 points)

2005 COURSE OUTLINE

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Module Dates, Times and Locations

Module One:	Wednesday 16 February 2005	8:30am - 6:00pm
Module Two:	Wednesday 6 April 2005	8:30am - 6:00pm
Module Three:	Wednesday 1 June 2005	8.30am - 6.00pm
Locations	Pipitea Campus. Rooms will be advised prior to each module.	

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students will have an understanding of ethics in the context of the public sector, and issues of ethics and integrity for public sector managers. The focus will be on the context in which public sector organisations operate, and their purpose, and the programme will draw on practical examples and cases.

The course will be grounded in moral philosophy and theories of human behaviour, and explore a range of approaches to ethics - *consequentialist*, *deontological*, and *virtue ethics* - suitably illustrated. We will also consider current matters such as the *responsibility and accountability* of officials, and *organisational responsibility*; examine the 'Dirty Hands' syndrome; and provide discussion around the topics of the *public interest*, *public good*, and *professional, organisational, policy, political and legislative ethics*.

There will be an emphasis on *issues*, and ways of integrating and managing ethics in an increasingly complex, public environment. Every endeavour will be made to use current examples, and to examine issues relevant to central and local government.

The aim is to involve students in discussion and invited participants to share experiences and expertise. The *Chatham House Rule* will be observed.

Readings

Textbooks are available from Vicbooks, Student Union Building, Gate 3, Kelburn Parade, PO Box 12337, Wellington. You can purchase textbooks in person or by mail order, telephone (04) 463 - 5515, fax (04) 471 - 2124, email: vuwtexts@vicbooks.co.nz or online: www.vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended Reading* and Reference Works

Boston, J. et al (1996) *Public Management: The New Zealand Model*, Auckland, Oxford University Press.

Cooper, T. (1994) *Handbook of Administrative Ethics*, NY, Marcel Dekker.

Craig, Edward (Ed) (1998) *The Routledge Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, London and NY, Routledge.

Lawton, A. (1998) *Ethical Management for the Public Services*, Buckingham, Open University Press.*

Martin, J. (1991) *Public Service and the Public Servant* Wellington, SSC.

Oakley, Justin & Dean Cocking (2001) *Virtue ethics and professional roles*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Preston, N et al (Eds) (1998) *Ethics and Political Practice*, The Federation Press, NSW.

Preston, Noel, and Charles Sampford, with Carmel Connors (2002) *Encouraging Ethics and Challenging Corruption; Reforming Governance in Public Institutions*, The Federation Press

Rachels, James (2000) *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, McGraw Hill College Div.*

Rohr, John A. (1998) *Ethics for Bureaucrats* (2nd Ed), Marcel Dekker, NY.

Sampford, Charles et al (Eds) (1998) *Public Sector Ethics*, The Federation Press, NSW.

Scott, Graham (2001) *Public sector management in NZ: lessons and challenges*, Australian National University, Canberra.

Singer, Peter (Ed) (1991) *A Companion to Ethics*, Blackwell: Oxford.

State Sector Standards Board (January, 2001) *Report to the Minister of State Services on a Draft Statement of Government Expectations of the State Sector*

State Services Commission (1995) *Principles, Conventions and Practice Guidance Series*, Wellington.

NB. A good range and depth of various extracts and papers covering the topics under discussion will be distributed from time to time.

Useful Websites

Cabinet Office www.dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/

Centre for Public Integrity www.publicintegrity.org/

International Institute for Public Ethics www.iipe.org

State Services Commission www.ssc.govt.nz

Transparency International www.transparency.de

OECD PUMA www.oecd.org

US Office of Government Ethics www.usoge.gov/

Course Structure

Module 1

Wednesday 16 February

Morning	Introduction to ethics and ethical theory - approaches and perspectives Parts I (utilitarianism) & II (deontology)
Afternoon	Introduction Part III (virtue ethics) Professional values and public service

Module 2

Wednesday 6 April

Morning	Foundational values and public services Responsibility and accountability - the nature of public service
Afternoon	Organisational responsibility, and the personality of institutions Public interest

Module 3

Wednesday 1 June

Morning	Morality and the public official Ethics and the realm of Parliament
Afternoon	Issues - conflicts; whistleblowing; codes; etc. Review and evaluation

NB. More detailed programmes for Modules 2 & 3 will be available during February 2005.

Assessment

The purpose of assessment is three-fold: 1) to ensure that you have met the standard of work required of the course; 2) to give you feedback on your performance to assist you with your future study; and 3) to provide the teaching staff with feedback on the progress of the class. You will be assessed on the basis of your individual work.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the Associate Dean of your Faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy, which is published on the VUW website: www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

‘Someone else’s work’ means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students and staff, information from the Internet, software programs and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organisation or structuring of any such materials.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- suspension from class or university,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University’s website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, then please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available.

Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building, Telephone: (04) 463 - 6070, Email: disability@vuw.ac.nz.

The name of your School’s Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, the following staff members will either help you directly or quickly put you in contact with someone who can.

	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Location</u>
FHSS	Ann McDonald	Student Support Coordinator, 2 Wai - te - ata Road
Law	Kirstin Harvey	Old Government Building, room 103
Science, and Architecture and Design	Liz Richardson	Cotton Building, room 150
Commerce and Administration	Colin Jeffcoat	Railway West Wing, room 119
Kaiwawao Maori	Liz Rawhiti	Old Kirk Building, room 007
Manaaki Pihipihinga	Melissa Dunlop	14 Kelburn Parade, room 109D
Victoria International	Anne Cronin	10 Kelburn Parade, room 202

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at: www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/ Email student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Co-ordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building, Telephone: (04) 463 - 6983 or (04) 463 - 6984, Email education@vuwsa.org.nz.