

School of Government

MMPM 528
PUBLIC SECTOR ETHICS
(15 Points)

Trimester 1 / 2009

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course Coordinator: **Dr Russell Harding**
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Administrator: **Darren Morgan**
Room RH 821, Level 8, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus
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School of Government Office Hours: 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

Trimester Dates

Monday 2 March to Wednesday 1 July 2009

Class Times and Room Numbers

Module One:	Thursday 26 February 2009	8.30am – 6.00pm
Module Two:	Thursday 23 April 2009	8.30am – 6.00pm
Module Three:	Thursday 11 June 2009	8.30am – 6.00pm

Locations: Classes will be held on the Pipitea Campus of Victoria University in Wellington and you will be advised of your classroom one week prior to each module by email.

Withdrawal Dates

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Monday 9 March 2009** will NOT receive a refund of fees.

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Monday 1 June 2009** are regarded as having failed the course, unless the Associate Dean subsequently gives approval to withdraw.

Notice of withdrawal must be in writing / emailed to the Masters Administrator. Ceasing to attend or verbally advising a member of staff will NOT be accepted as a notice of withdrawal.

Course Content

The course is grounded in moral philosophy, theories of human behaviour and organisational theory. A range of ethical theories will be explored, including intuitionist, consequentialist, deontological, and virtue ethics – suitably illustrated. The course will also consider current topics such as the responsibility and accountability of officials, organisational responsibility, and the ‘Dirty Hands’ syndrome. Class discussions will focus on topics such as the public interest, public good, and professional and organisational ethics.

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

Students are expected to participate fully in class discussions and, along with invited speakers, will be asked to share experiences and expertise. The *Chatham House Rule* will be observed.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between ethics and morals;
2. Understand the context of ethics within the New Zealand public sector;
3. Differentiate ethical from unethical behaviour in the public sector;
4. Understand the role of organisations in maintaining and in inhibiting ethical action;
5. Articulate the philosophical bases for ethics generally, and public sector ethics specifically.

Expected Workload

The learning objectives set for each course are demanding and, to achieve them, candidates must make a significant commitment in time and effort to reading, studying, thinking, and completion of assessment items outside of contact time. Courses vary in design but all require preparation and learning before the first module. Regular learning is necessary between modules (students who leave everything to the last moment rarely achieve at a high

level). Expressed in input terms, the time commitment required usually translates to 65-95 hours (excluding class contact time) per course.

Readings

A course reader is available for the course. There are no other set texts. However, the following texts and reference works are recommended:

Public Management

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

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

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

Moral Philosophy

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

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

Public Sector Ethics

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

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

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

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.

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

Uhr, John (2005). *Terms of Trust: Arguments over ethics in Australian government*, University of New South Wales Press.

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.org/

OECD PUMA

www.oecd.org/topic/

US Office of Government Ethics

www.usoge.gov/

Assessment Requirements

Students will be assessed on class participation and involvement, and by three completed assignments.

The purpose of assessment is three-fold: 1) to ensure students have met the standard of work required of the course; 2) to give feedback on a student's performance to assist with future study; and 3) to provide the teaching staff with feedback on the progress of the class. Students will be assessed on the basis of their individual work.

Summary of Assessment Requirements				
Assignment	Type	Indicative length	Due Date	Percentage of Overall Mark
Essay One	Written	2,000 words	Friday 20 March 2009	15 percent
Essay Two	Written	2,000 words	Friday 22 May 2009	30 percent
Essay Three	Written	2,500 words	Friday 3 July 2009	40 percent
Class Participation	Oral		Throughout Course	15 percent

Essay Topics

1. Analyse Sissela Bok's discussion on *Lies for the Public Good* in light of the theoretical frameworks discussed in Module One. Using actual or hypothetical examples, describe the circumstances under which lying to the public could be excusable under each of these frameworks.
2. Analyse the State Services Commission's Standards of Integrity and Conduct in light of Carl Friedrich's and Herman Finer's views. What recommended changes to the Code would be required to align it more closely with Finer's view and with Friedrich's view?
3. Discuss the role of ethics in the public sector in light of John Ladd's discussion of morality and rationality?

Please submit ALL assignments IN HARD COPY to:

Post Experience Programmes,
School of Government,
Victoria University of Wellington,
Level 8 Reception,
Rutherford House,
23 Lambton Quay,
P.O. Box 600,
Wellington.

Assignments that are submitted in person should be placed in the secure box at School of Government reception (Level 8, Rutherford House) during office hours of 8.30am to 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. The assignment box is cleared daily, and assignments will be date stamped.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

Penalties

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks may be deducted where assignments are submitted after the due date. For out of town students, two calendar days' grace is given to allow for time in the post.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal emergencies prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. Note that this applies only to extreme unforeseen circumstances and is not necessarily awarded. You should let your Course Coordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline if you are seeking an extension.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you are required to:

1. Submit all assignments by the due dates;
2. Attend all modules/contact sessions of the course.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information may be provided in class, by post, by email or via Blackboard.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) – FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) – FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA 005). This counter is the first point of contact for:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine www.turnitin.com. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting mis-referencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. *At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin.* You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied. See the Victoria University Calendar or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca, under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

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. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria University and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

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

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

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria University. Another feature of the programme is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or telephone (04) 463 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or telephone (04) 463 5842.