

Course Number: PAD 5350 Semester: Fall 2021

CRN: 19589

Course Title: Organizational Theory & Behavior: Topics in Public Management

Instructor: Eric Boyer
315 Benedict Hall
ejboyer@utep.edu
915-747-6145

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 5-7PM (virtual), or please email me for a time to meet.

Student Learning Objectives:

This course focuses on developing managers and leaders of public and nonprofit organizations and the methods they use to mobilize public resources to achieve important public purposes. The aim is to develop strategic thinking, to anticipate and take initiative in organizations, as opposed to reacting to outside events. The challenge of management of public and nonprofit organizations in the 21st century is increasingly complex, as leaders face demands from a wide range of stakeholders, rely on increasing numbers of partners across government and across the nonprofit and private sectors, and respond to the demands of citizens and the 24/7 news cycle.

Leaders make decisions with consultation from others, and often on their own. The aim of this course is to improve your competency for identifying resources to aid in your own decision-making, and to develop a “toolbox” of methods, analytic frameworks and examples to guide your work with others. Your job, and my goal for this course, is to think about management and leadership issues from a more critical perspective, and to examine your own values and approaches to leading change, innovation, and ongoing learning in the organizations, programs, or divisions that you will manage.

Your role as the manager is the central theme of this class. You will examine theories, analytical concepts, and frameworks for framing an understanding of management problems and opportunities. The scholarly approaches to administration provide different lenses for interpreting, identifying, and leading in complex management situations. The tools developed in this class will help you in developing your own ability to critique the management situations that you work within and advise the work of others.

The outcomes of this course will not be immediate, but self-sustaining. The primary goal of our investigations is to lay the foundations of questions and curiosity that inspire your own learning throughout your career.

The objective of this course is to empower members of the class with the abilities to:

- Identify the institutional and operational realities of managing and leading in the public sector;
- Analyze the respective roles of the public, nonprofit and for-profit sectors and how they collaborate and interact to provide public goods and services;
- Demonstrate an understanding of emerging issues and challenge in public management;
- Display an understanding of core concepts in organization theory and organizational behavior;
- Adapt core concepts from organization theory and organizational behavior to real-world problems in public and nonprofit management;
- Describe and analyze forms of collaboration and interaction among the public, nonprofit, and for-profit sectors, including advantages and hazards of various organizational schema;
- Identify and analyze the problems, issues and challenges of working and leading in a multi-sector environment;
- Draft professional memos with succinct, actionable recommendations for supervisors, clients, or other professional audiences;
- Develop and present analyses of organizational problems and solutions in professional presentations and analytic writing.

Diversity Statement

A central aim of this class is that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, and that the diversity that the students bring to this class inform our collective learning. This course also aims to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, culture and political ideology. Class discussion will be facilitated with the aim of recognizing and learning from different points of view.

Course Format

Recognizing that students have different learning and working styles, this course will utilize a variety of learning and teaching formats. The class will be instructed through an online format, utilizing video-recorded presentations, weekly assignments, virtual office hours, and selected written assignments. The professor will utilize the UTEP *Blackboard* system to distribute class materials.

Students are expected to deliver their work on time. If, due to illness or personal emergency, you believe your work will be late, you are advised to discuss the matter in advance with the instructor. Late work will normally be penalized at least one-third grade (e.g., from an A- to a B+). If you submit a paper assignment with text copied from another source without appropriate attribution, you will be penalized up to 50% of the final grade on the assignment and you may be required to re-do the assignment. Late work may be penalized at a higher rate if handed in after graded assignments have been handed back to the class.

Exceptions for late work penalties should be made BEFORE the assignment is due, by emailing the instructor. I will do my best to work with you if you have a personal or professional work emergency that you notify me of before an assignment deadline.

Technology Requirements

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (weekly assignments, papers, etc.) in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the

lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind.

- Always consider your audience. This is a graduate-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

COVID-19 Precautions

Please contact me if you have a personal emergency related to COVID-19, so that we can work together on a solution, while allowing you time to deal with the emergency. The following paragraphs are from UTEP administration.

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at screening.utep.edu. If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to COVIDaction@utep.edu.

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website (screening.utep.edu) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Course Requirements (Also please see grading criteria attached to this syllabus):

1. Weekly Assignments (50%): Each person will complete weekly written assignments, through the assignments tab in Blackboard. To foster greater student-to-student interaction, there is the option to complete this assignment with a partner. If you work with a partner on the assignment, be sure to include both your name and your partner's name on the copy that you hand-in.

To complete this assignment each week, you should 1) click on the assignments tab and select the weekly assignment that you will complete, 2) download the Word document with the weekly assignment questions, 3) complete your answers in the downloaded Word document and resubmit the document through Blackboard Assignments for the week in question. Each weekly assignment is due end of day (11:59pm).

Some weekly assignments will be assigned as video presentations.

2. Partner Case Study Project (Memo, Presentation, and Paper) (50%): For this assignment, you will work with a partner from class. The aim is to demonstrate your mastery of course themes in respect to a real-world problem. The structure of the paper should include both a *thorough review of course material related to your case*, and an *application of that material to your case*. Some of research on the case itself is expected, but the primary contribution of this paper is the application of one or more course themes to a real-world problem. This assignment will involve a) summarizing the paper idea to the instructor in 1-2 single-spaced page memo (10%), b) presenting the paper's findings to the class in a 10-15-minute presentation (10%), and developing a written 6-8-page paper (double-spaced) to hand-in at the end of the semester (30%). The case study should involve research into a real-world issue or management problem from the public or nonprofit sector, as well as background research on course topics to guide the analysis and recommendations. This paper needs to be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard site for the course.

Required Reading

Rainey, Hal. 2014. *Understanding and Managing Public Sector Organizations*. 5th ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Journal articles, book chapters, case studies and other required and recommended material not in the assigned books will be available on *Blackboard* or handed out in class.