

Course Number: PADM 5388 **Sections:** 01 & 02 **Course Title:** Ethics in Government

Semester, Year: Spring 2018 **Credit Hours:** 3 **CRN:** 20946 & 20952

Class Meeting Times: **Online** - modules will be posted each week **Thursdays by 09:00 p.m.**

Location of Class Meetings: Blackboard on the SHSU website: <http://www.shsu.edu>.

Professor: R. M. Bittick, M.P.A., Ph.D.

Office: SHSU CHSS Room 483

Contact Information: **E-mail:** rmb004@shsu.edu

Phone: 936-294-4105

Office Hours: My office hours at the SHSU main campus for the Spring Semester are: Tuesdays-
-Thursdays: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm (walk-in or phone-in; no appointment necessary).

My policy is to respond to email messages weekdays within 48 hours of receipt, or by Monday for messages sent on Friday or over a weekend. Be sure to put **"PADM 5388"** in the subject heading of your email message.

Course Description: the following is from the SHSU University Catalog:

PADM 5388. Ethics In Government. 3 Hours.

This course provides a review of classical and contemporary literature on the role and practice of ethics in public administration. Contemporary empirical research, case studies, and ethical problem solving are also addressed. A primary theme of the course will be fostering and applying ?right action? and ?good conduct? in public organizations and public policy making. Students not enrolled in the Master of Public Administration program must obtain the Department of Political Science Graduate Director's permission to enroll in this course.

Introduction: Welcome to PADM 5388! This course is designed to study ethics as part of a political and managerial **decision-making** process. As such, this course considers ethics as **criteria** for decision makers. In doing this, we examine who should make decisions, study decision-making as a process based on human bounded rationality, and proceed to evaluate select foundational schools of thought that have contributed to ethics in government. The goal of the course is to equip you with the knowledge, skills, and ability to make intelligent, ethical decisions on the job.

I want everyone to be successful and pass this course. Therefore, you must be a PROACTIVE student by taking responsibility for researching the subject matter and taking the actions necessary to *master* the material (this is why you are in a "Masters" degree program). This may involve you doing more research beyond the assigned reading material.

Don't panic if you have not previously read some of the works of the authors we study in class. This is not a philosophy class. Rather, it is a course in political science and public administration approaching ethics from the viewpoint of government, public policy, and public administration.

Learning Outcomes – Goals & Objectives:

With the above in mind, there are four goals for students in this class:

1. **Decision-Makers:** evaluate the appropriate decision-makers for an ethical issue based on appropriate criteria.

2. **Criteria:** understand and explain both ethical criteria and the foundations of these criteria used to evaluate issues in public policy and administration.
3. **Evaluation:** evaluate a public or administrative decision using a model of ethical decision-making based on foundational schools of thought, and apply ethical criteria by making an intelligent decision for an appropriate course of action.
4. **Ethics Management:** define what it means to be an organization of integrity, and identify tools to help build such organizations.

Course Objectives. At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Knowledge**
 - Appraise the ethical pros and cons of an elite model versus a democratic model of decision-making.
 - Understand the foundational ideas of each ethical author/school of thought concerning human nature, the relationships between humans, including social/political associations, human organization etc., and each author's/school of thought's concept of the relationship of humans to the physical-biological realm.
 - Awareness of tools available to administrators for building organizations of integrity.
 - **Competencies & Related Skills.**
 - Identify and explain ethical criteria.
 - Recognize and explain an ethical issue under discussion.
 - Identify and weigh the pros and cons of the ideas of each author/school of thought in regards to resolving an ethical issue, including recognizing logical fallacies, distinguishing between facts and inferences, infer the unstated assumption.
 - Integrate and synthesize viewpoints of different authors/schools of thought in evaluating an ethical issue.
 - Analyze an ethical issue using the schools of thought covered in class, and make a recommendation to resolve the issue.
 - Identify and synthesize the leadership principles required to build public organizations of integrity.
 - Recommend management tools to create organizations of integrity.
 - **Values** - at the completion of this course, students will be able to:
 - Commitment to a rational approach to ethical decision-making.
 - Appreciate different ethical schools of thought.
 - Understand the benefit of examining multiple authors and ethical schools of thought in order to understand different aspects of an ethical issue.
 - Be committed to a spirit of tolerance concerning differing viewpoints.
 - Appreciate the challenge of integrating democratic values and norms with organizational demands.
- ⇒ **Assessment:** Online Discussions and Writing Assignments.

Required Textbooks: the following textbooks are required for this class and may be purchased through the [SHSU campus bookstore](#) (I have also provided the Amazon.com links, below):

- ☐ Aristotle. ***Nicomachean Ethics***, ISBN: 872204642, Publisher: Hackett, 2001, 2nd ed (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Nicomachean-Ethics-Aristotle/dp/0872204642/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358016933&sr=1-1.
- ☐ Bentham, Jeremy & John Stuart . ***The Classical Utilitarians***, John Troyer (ed.). Hackett Publishing Company. ISBN: 9780872206496 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Classical-Utilitarians-Hackett-Classics/dp/0872206491/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1421094018&sr=1-1
- ☐ Geuras, Dean and Charles Garofalo. 2010. ***Practical Ethics in Public Administration***, Management Concepts, 3rd edition. ISBN: 978-1567262957 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Practical-Ethics-Public-Administration-Third/dp/1567262953/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358017015&sr=1-1.
- ☐ Kant, Immanuel. 2009. ***Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals***. Translated by H. J. Paton. Harper Torchbooks. ISBN: 9780061766312 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Groundwork-Metaphysic-Morals-Immanuel-Kant/dp/0061766313/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358017529&sr=1-1.
- ☐ Lewis, C S. ***The Abolition of Man***. HarperCollins. ISBN: 978-0060652944 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Abolition-Man-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652942/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358018031&sr=1-1.
- ☐ Locke, John. 2003. ***Two Treatises of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration***, ed. Ian Shapiro. Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0300100181 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Treatises-Government-Letter-Concerning-Toleration/dp/0300100183/ref=sr_1_cc_1?s=aps&ie=UTF8&qid=1358017314&sr=1-1-catcorr&keywords=Shapiro.
- ☐ Machiavelli, Niccolo. ***The Prince and The Discourses***. Modern Library College editions, McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9780075535775 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/Prince-Discourses-Niccolo-Machiavelli/dp/0075535777/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1358017130&sr=1-1.
- ☐ Menzel, Donald C. (2017). ***Ethics Management for Public and Nonprofit Managers***, Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, Third Edition. ISBN: 978-1138190160 (paperback): https://www.amazon.com/Ethics-Management-Public-Nonprofit-Managers/dp/1138190160/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480969829&sr=1-2-fkmr0&keywords=Ethics+Management+Don+Menzel
- ☐ Plato. 2007. ***The Republic***, trans. Desmond Lee. Second Edition. Penguin Books. ISBN: 9780140455113 (paperback): http://www.amazon.com/The-Republic-Penguin-Classics-Plato/dp/0140455116/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1389909855&sr=8-1&keywords=Plato+Republic+Desmond+Lee.

Other required readings will be available to download from the class website on Blackboard, and include:

- ☐ Aristotle. *The Politics* – selections only.

- Bittick, R. M. (2014). "Ethical Clouds: Emergent qualities of ethical Ideas in Public Agencies." Presentation at the 2014 American Society for Public Administration, National Conference. March.
- Bittick, R. M. (2004) ""Social Equity and Property Rights: Bringing Locke Back Into The Debate." *International Business Trends: Contemporary Readings, Academy of Business Administration*, 2004 edition, edited by Dr Sam Fullerton and Dr. David Moore. Fall, p. 347-353.
- Heichelbech, J. (2002). "Equality and Hierarchy: Struggling with Plato's Legacy," *PATimes*, March, page 3.
- Katz, Robert L. (1974). "Skills of an Effective Administrator." *Harvard Business Review*, September-October, p. 90-102.
- Nietzsche, Friedrich. "Prologue." *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, trans. Thomas Common – selections only.
- Plato. *The Laws* – selections only.
- United Nations. (1950). "Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nurnberg Tribunal..."

NOTE: There may be other material assigned for reading throughout the semester that will be linked to the class website.

Activities of Participants:

- **Attendance Policy.** **Students must access class modules weekly in Blackboard and complete all readings and assignments by the next module or indicated due dates.** In addition, I reserve the right to adjust the class schedule and reading assignments as necessary. Consequently, you must consistently attend class to ensure you have the most recent information concerning the class schedule and reading assignments.
 - **If you are not able to access course modules and complete assignments on a regular basis, you must drop the course and take it in a future semester.**
- **Assigned Readings.** These are listed on the schedule, below. Because this course covers a lot of material, you must plan ahead to schedule your reading time appropriately.
- **Assignments:**
 - **One (1) Memo.** The first assignment identifies an issue you will evaluate in your papers. See the Class Schedule for the dates of this memo.
 - **Two Papers (2).** Two papers are required. These papers pertain to the issue you identified in the above memo. Instructions will be provided. See the Class Schedule for the dates of these papers.
 - **Ten (10) Discussions.** Thirteen discussions are scheduled. See the Class Schedule for the due dates of these discussions.

- **One (1) Final Writing Assignment.** This is a “Take-Home” exam (this exam is like a short paper). The subject of the exam pertains to the final topic in the course. Instructions will be provided. See the Class Schedule for the dates of this exam.

Make-Up Policy & Late Assignments: the due dates for assignments are set at the times specified in order for the student to gain maximum learning benefit. **If you are unable to complete an assignment on time, you must contact me in advance and explain your reason.** With my approval, an assignment’s due date may be rescheduled, but not more than one week. I will not accept material multiple assignments at the end of the semester. The Final Writing Assignment must be turned in on time – no extension is allowed – due to the end of the semester deadline.

This course does not require proctored examinations.

Grading Policy:

Required Assignments	Points Possible for Final Grade	Percent of Final Grade
Memo:	20	5.9%
Ten (10) Discussions at 02 points each:	20	5.9%
Paper #1 Decision Makers Dialogue:	100	29.4%
Paper #2 Ethical Evaluation:	100	29.4%
Final Writing Assignment:	100	29.4%
Total Possible Points:	340	100%

Points based on the grade earned for each completed assignment are based on my evaluation of your work. The percentage scale for the final grade follows:

Percentage of Total Points Earned	Final Grade	Percentage of Total Points Earned	Final Grade
90% - 100%	A	60% – 69%	D
80% - 89%	B	59% & Below	F
70% - 79%	C	Below 0%	Take a math course

All university rules and procedures apply to this class.

Students must download and read the document, *Student Guidelines*, found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/policies/documents/Student+Guidelines+2013-2016.pdf>. The *Academic Policy Manual – Students* website can be accessed at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: [Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty #810213](#)

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: [Dean of Student's Office](#).

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY: [Student Absences on Religious Holy Days #861001](#)

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/187f9029-a4c6-4fb4-aea9-2d501f2a60f3.pdf>.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY: [Disabled Student Policy #811006](#)

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS:

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Schedule: The professor reserves the right to change the schedule. Revisions to this schedule will be linked to the class website in Blackboard.

Weeks	Dates	Topics – Readings - Assignments
1	Thursday January 18 th	<p>Topic: Course Introduction & Overview; & Introduction to Public Sector Ethics.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; • Syllabus & Schedule. • Katz, “Skills of an effective administrator,” <i>Harvard Business Review</i>, Sept-Oct 1974, p. 90-102 (download from Blackboard); and, • Menzel, ch. 1; and, • Geuras & Garofalo, chs. 1-2. <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patton, C.V. & Sawicki, D.S. (1996). <i>Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning</i>. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc. – selections only. <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion #01, due January 25th by 9:00 pm. • Memo Instructions - due January 25th by 9:00 pm; • Paper #1 Instructions - due February 22nd; and, • Paper #2 Instructions - due April 19th.
2	Thursday January 25 th	<p>Topic: Decision-Makers – Who Should Decide: Elites.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; • Heichelbech, “Equality and Hierarchy: Struggling with Plato’s Legacy” (download in Blackboard); and, • Plato, <i>The Republic</i>, Part One thru Part Four [327a-427c]. <p>Assignment: Memo & Discussion #01 due by 9:00 pm.</p>
3	Thursday February 01 st	<p>Topic: Decision-Makers – Who Should Decide: Elites.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; • Plato, <i>The Republic</i>, Part Five thru Part Nine & Part Eleven [sections 427d - 592b & 608c - 621d]; and, • Plato, <i>The Laws</i> (selections – download in Blackboard – we will go over this in class); <p>Assignment: Discussion #2, due Thursday, February 08th by 9:00 pm.</p>
4	Thursday February 08 th	<p>Topic: Decision-Makers – Who Should Decide: Civil Societies.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> (chs. 1-7, 9-12, 14, & 19).
5	Thursday February 15 th	<p>Topic: Decision-Makers – Who Should Decide: Civil Societies.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Locke, <i>A Letter Concerning Toleration</i>. <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bittick, “Social Equity and Property Rights: Bringing Locke Back Into the Debate” (download in Blackboard). <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion #3, due Thursday, February 22nd by 9:00 pm; and, • Work on Paper #1, due February 22nd by 9:00 pm.
6	Thursday February 22 nd	<p>Topic: Decision-Making Criteria – Unified Theory.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Geuras & Garofalo, chs. 3-4. <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper #1 due by 9:00 pm; and, • Paper #2 Instructions (Revisited) - due April 19th.
7	Thursday March 01 st	<p>Topic: Decision-Making - Character/Virtue Based Criteria.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Aristotle, <i>The Nichomachean Ethics</i> (read Books I – III, V & X ch. 9). • Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> (selections – download in Blackboard – we will go over this in class) <p>Assignment: Discussion #4, due Thursday, March 08th by 9:00 pm.</p>
8	Thursday March	<p>Topic: Decision-Makers - Character Based Criteria - Leadership.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p>

	08 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; • Geuras & Garofalo ch. 11; and, • Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i>. <p>Assignment: Discussion #5, due Thursday, March 22nd by 9:00 pm.</p>
9	Thursday March 15 th	Spring Break – Holiday!
10	Thursday March 22 nd	<p>Topic: Decision-Making – Principle Based Criteria.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Kant, <i>The Groundwork for the Metaphysic of Morals</i>. <p>Assignment: Discussion #6, due Thursday, March 30th by 9:00 pm.</p>
11	Thursday March 29 th	<p>Topic: Decision-Making – Consequence Based Criteria.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; and, • Bentham & Mill, "Principles of Morals and Legislation" (selections) & "The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number"; and, Mill, Utilitarianism. The Classical Utilitarians. <p>Assignment: Discussion #7, due Thursday, April 05th by 9:00 pm.</p>
12	Thursday April 05 th	<p>Topic: Decision Making – Intuitionism, & Unified Theory Revisited.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Lecture and slides; • United Nations. "Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nurnberg Tribunal and in the Judgment of the Tribunal, with commentaries, 1950" (linked in Blackboard); and, • Geuras & Garofalo, ch. 7-9. <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geuras & Garofalo, chs. 15-16 <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion #8, due Thursday, April 12th.
13	Thursday April 12 th	<p>Topic: Ethics Management</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video lecture and slides; and, • Menzel, chs. 2-3. <p>Assignment: Work on Paper #2, due April 19th by 9:00 pm.</p>
14	Thursday April 19 th	<p>Topic: Ethics Management</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video lecture and slides; • Menzel, chs. 4-5; and, • Geuras & Garofalo, ch. 5. <p>Assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion #9, due Thursday, April 27th. • Paper #2 due by 9:00 pm.
15	Thursday April 26 th	<p>Topic: Ethics Management</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video lecture and slides; and, • Menzel, chs. 6-7. <p>Assignment: Discussion #10, due Thursday, May 03rd.</p>
16	Thursday May 03 rd	<p>Topic: A Challenge in the Future.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video lecture and slides; • Menzel, ch. 8; • Nietzsche, "Thus Spoke Zarathustra – Prologue," (download in Blackboard – we will go over this together); and, • Lewis, <i>The Abolition of Man</i>. <p>Recommended Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bittick, "Ethical Clouds: Emergent Qualities of Ethical Ideas in Public Agencies" (download in Blackboard). <p>Assignment: Final Writing Assignment Instructions - due Wednesday, May 09th by midnight.</p>
17 Finals Week	Wednesday May 09 th	<p>Topic: Course Wrap-up.</p> <p>Required Readings/Viewing: None.</p> <p>Assignment: Final Writing Assignment due Wednesday, May 09th by midnight.</p>