

Fall 2007

PUBA 640 - International Perspectives on Public Administration

Wednesdays 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Saunders Hall 637

Instructor: Muthusami Kumaran Ph.D.,
Public Administration Program & Public Policy Center
kumaran@hawaii.edu 956-7551

Syllabus

Purpose of the Course

This course will provide students with an understanding on the key dimensions of Public Administration systems on a global scale. It will expose students to the evolution of public institutions on selected intercontinental cases through a set of factors such as local history, culture, politics and economy. The course focuses on the contemporary forces acting on national systems of public administration; the dimensions that are most important in defining a system; individual case studies; and the possibilities and constraints on assessment; and transfer of knowledge and experience. The course is designed to develop the students' capacity to assess public administration systems in comparison with each other within particular limits/parameters.

Course Description

There is wide variation in the systems of public administration found throughout the world. Their differences and similarities are of great interest and social significance. These similarities and differences are of even greater importance in the Post Cold War era as systems adapt to the spread of a global market economy and/or democratic political processes.

This course examines systems of public administration from international and comparative perspectives, giving particular attention the following seven cases from six continents: USA, India, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Ireland and Australia. It has the following goals:

- 1) Identifying the key dimensions of these systems. These include history, interactions of the administrative system with the political process, the economy, the civil society (non governmental organizations); relative centralization; citizen views of public institutions and the role of public participation; the bureaucracy and the presence or absence of a professional civil service class; methods of accountability and transparency; public service ethics; e-government and the history of reform.
- 2) Understanding the possibilities and limits of comparing systems with one another and of judging their weaknesses, success and potential.
- 3) Becoming knowledgeable about the selected set of seven administrative systems, including their historical evolution and contemporary issues.
- 4) Applying conceptual and theoretical tools to selected case studies.

Course Requirements

A. Participation.

Participation includes being prepared for class, expressing opinions, listening carefully to what others are saying, asking thoughtful questions, and other activities that signify engagement and contribute to the over-all value of the class.

B. Individual Report (no more than 10 pages)

(1) An examination of two or more specific dimensions of a public administration system outside of your home country. In addition to describing how these aspects of the system work, the report should include information on when they were adopted and how they evolved; the forces that maintain them or cause them to change; and the degree to which they are regarded by the people. A 10 - 15 minutes summary presentations (sessions 9, 10 & 11) of the report will be made in the class

Report (electronic copy) Due: October 31.

C. Group Project Report – Two member groups. The focus of the project is the comparison of two public administration systems, using what seem to be their most important dimensions as terms of reference. The goal of this project is for the group to be able to answer these questions about the two systems it has chosen: How are these systems the same and different on key dimensions? What explains those differences? What are their consequences? To what extent is it possible to judge one as better than the other?

The project findings will be presented to the class (30 minutes power-point presentation followed by 5 minutes Q&A) during the 13th, 14th & 15th sessions of the course. The presentation must be accompanied by a summary outline provided to class members. Whatever comparisons are chosen should make use of what has been done during the semester. Your group should turn in the final report of the project (no more than 20 pages) on December 10th.

Both the assignments will be discussed at length in class.

The course grade will be based on the following criteria:

Participation	25%
Individual report & summary presentation	35%
Group project class presentation & report	40%

Readings

Required Text:

Heady, Ferrel. 2001. *Public Administration: A Comparative Perspective*. New York: Marcel Dekker, Inc. ISBN:0824704800

(Book available at the PUBA office, Saunders 631 - \$70.15 write check to “Modern Times”)

In addition, on a timely manner, the instructor will distribute hand-outs and send additional materials including profiles of all the seven public administration systems as email attachments.

Schedule:

Session 1	August 22
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***Introduction, Overview
& Key elements of Public Administration systems***

Session 2	August 29
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Public Administration System in the United States of America - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 4

Session 3	September 5
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Public Administration System in the United States of America - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 5 & United States of America – Public Administration Profile

Session 4	September 12
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Public Administration System in India - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 7

Session 5	September 19
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Public Administration System in India - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 7 & India – Public Administration Profile

Session 6	September 26
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Public Administration System in Japan - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 6

Session 7	October 3
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Public Administration System in Japan - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 6 & Japan – Public Administration Profile

Session 8	October 10
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Public Administration System in Brazil - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 3

Session 9	October 17
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Public Administration System in Brazil - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 1 & Brazil – Public Administration Profile

Session 10	October 24
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Public Administration System in South Africa - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 7

Session 11	October 31
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Public Administration System in South Africa - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 8 & South Africa – Public Administration Profile

Session 12	November 7
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Public Administration System in Ireland – 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 9

Session 13	November 14
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Public Administration System in Ireland - 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 2 & Ireland – Public Administration Profile

Class presentation: Groups 1 & 2

Session 14	November 21
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Public Administration System in Australia - 1

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 3

Class presentation: Group 3

Session 15	November 28
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Public Administration System in Australia – 2

Readings:

Heady: Chapter 6 & Australia – Public Administration Profile

Class presentation: Group 4

Session 16	December 5
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Capacity Assessment of Public Administration Systems

Reading:

Heady: Chapter 10

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, December 10th.