

Texas Southern University
BJ-ML School of Public Affairs
Seminar in Public Affairs
Class 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm Tuesday
Room: PAB 106
PA 410

Instructor:

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Office Hours: 3-5 Tuesday or by appointment.

Course Description:

The idea of what services government should provide has changed/narrowed in recent years. A major shift regarding the role and scope of government has been the phenomenon of privatization. Privatization has been characterized as the purchasing or privately contracting for services formerly thought to be the exclusive or main province of government. The current fiscal condition of state governments has seen an expansion of privatization at all levels of governmental in the United States. The move to privatize is driven by efficiency, budget constraints, and speed -of-delivery arguments; and in the case of sale or lease of previously state-owned assets, revenue enhancement or debt minimization are additional rationales. Several questions underpin the debate on public-private partnerships such as, control considerations, accountability, privacy, whether certain government responsibilities are inherently public, and appropriateness. Accordingly the privatization debate is hotly debated and one of the more controversial debates in public policy and administration.

Course Goals: Students will examine, evaluate, and learn when and how to use the different forms of privatization: outsourcing, competitive sourcing, franchises, vouchers, divestment, P3, withdrawal, displacement, deregulation, and voluntarism. They will identify sources of opposition to privatization and how to counter them. They will differentiate between traditional, hierarchical management and the horizontal management inherent in privatization.

Course Outcomes: Students will accomplish the following:

- Differentiate among the different forms of privatization and identify their characteristics.
- Identify the philosophical or policy opposition to privatization.
- Describe the steps needed to outsource government services.
- Identify the special challenges of contracting for social services and the role of the nonprofit sector.
- Identify both the principal impediments to privatization and strategies to overcome them.
- Describe how to deal fairly and effectively with employee concerns about privatization.
- Identify the characteristics and describe the complexities of public-private partnerships for infrastructure.

Required Texts and Textbooks

Price, Byron Eugene. Merchandizing Prisoners: Who Really Pays for Prison Privatization? ABC-CLIO 2006.

Note: Readings for the course can be found on Blackboard under the course tab.

Evaluation Criteria, Weight in Final Grade and Due Date for Work

<i>Elements of Grades:</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Class Participation	33%
Group Presentations	33%
Wikipedia Project	34%

Course Schedule

January 18, 2011 Course Introduction and Description of Projects/Assignments

January 25, 2011 **Readings** (Download from Blackboard)

Modernity, Public Administration, and the Disappearance of the American States by Kimberley S. Johnson

Modernity and the Rise of the Public Sphere by Charles Taylor

Readings Assignments for students

- Read the page "Wikipedia: Five pillars" on Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Five_pillars

February 1, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

The Political Economy of Public Administration by Fred Thompson

In class

Campus Ambassadors introduce Wikipedia

- Basics of editing
- Anatomy of Wikipedia articles, what makes a good article, how to distinguish between good & bad articles
- Tips & recommendations for best articles to work on for the class assignments
- HANDOUT: "Creating an account" handout, "Evaluating Wikipedia Article Quality" brochure
- Assignments for students (February 1, 2011)
 - Create a Wikipedia user account, create a user page, and add your name to the course page's list of students (on the WikiProject)
 - Contact an Online Ambassador (via his/her Wikipedia user talk page) as a mentor. Mentors will be available to offer advice and assistance as you start editing.
 - To practice the editing features of Wikipedia, leave a

message for a few classmates on their user talk pages.

Note: All students have Wikipedia user account accounts and are listed on the course page.

February 8, 2011

- In class
 - Campus Ambassadors introduce students to IRC (online chat system where students can get live support) and show students how to contact Online Ambassador mentors
- Assignments for students (February 8, 2011)
 - Critically evaluate an existing Wikipedia article related to the class, and leave suggestions for improving it on the article's discussion page.
 - Research and list 3-5 articles on your Wikipedia user page that you will consider working on as your main project. Ask Online Ambassador mentor for comments.

February 15, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Public Choice and the Entrepreneur View of Public Goods by Patrick Gunning

Public Choice, Public Goods, and Constitutions by Patrick Gunning

[Professor evaluates students' article selections, by week 5]

February 22, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Public Pedagogy and the Politics of Neo-liberalism: Making the Political More Pedagogical by Henry Giroux

New Public Management: The Neoliberal Way of Governance by Vabo

- In class
 - HANDOUT: Referencing on Wikipedia handout
- Assignments for students (February 22, 2011)
 - Decide which article you will work on and list it on the course page. Compile a bibliography of relevant sources, and begin researching the topic.

[Professor evaluates the compiled bibliography, by week 7]

March 1, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Rent-Seeking, Public Choice, and The Prisoner's Dilemma

- In class
 - Campus Ambassadors talk about Wikipedia sandboxes and Wikipedia culture/etiquette
 - Campus Ambassadors hold question-and-answer session with students
- Assignments for students (March 8, 2011)
 - Write 3-4 paragraph summary version of your article (with citations) in your Wikipedia sandbox
 - Begin working with Online Ambassador mentor to polish your short starter article and fix any major transgressions of Wikipedia norms.
 - Continue research in preparation for expanding your article.

Note: All students have started editing public policy articles or drafts on Wikipedia.

March 8, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)
The Tragedy of the Commons by Hardin

Resolving the Tragedy of the Commons By Creating Private Property Rights in Wildlife by Smith

Group Presentations

- In class
 - HANDOUT: Moving article from sandbox into main space handout, “Did You Know Nominations” handout
- Assignments for students (March 15, 2011)
 - Move your sandbox article into Wikipedia’s main space (live articles)
 - Nominate your article for “Did You Know” status, and monitor the nomination for any issues identified by other editors.
 - Begin expanding your article into comprehensive treatment of the topic.

March 15, 2011

SPRING BREAK

March 22, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)
Public Management, New by Halpern

New Public Management and Substantive Democracy by Box

- In class or outside of class
 - Campus Ambassadors lead Wikipedia lab/workshop, ideally in a computer-lab setting
 - Article ratings on Wikipedia & how to get there
 - Uploading images onto Wikipedia articles
- Assignments for students (March 22, 2011)

- Expand your article into an initial draft of a comprehensive treatment of the topic.

March 29, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Putting the Public Back in Public Schooling: Public Schools Beyond the Corporate Model by Saltman

Public Education under New Management: A Typology of Educational Privatization Applied to New York City's Restructuring by Scott

Promoting Engaged Citizenship and Informing Public Debate: A Two-Fold Argument for Contemporary Issues in Education as a Social Elective by Hinchey

Privatization in Higher Education by Levine

- In class
- Assignments for students (due April 5, 2011)
 - Peer-review two classmates' articles:
 - Leave suggestions and comments on those classmates' article discussion pages.
 - Copy-edit peers' articles.

Note: All students peer-reviewed their classmates' articles.

April 5, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

The Political, Legal, and Military Implications of Outsourcing to Private Military Companies by Wouters

Just War Theory and the Privatization of Military Force by Pattison

- In class
 - Recommend activity: open discussion around the concepts of neutrality, media literacy, and the impact and limits of Wikipedia (guest speakers? Panels? Classroom discussions?)
- Assignments for students (due April 12, 2011)
 - Revise your article based on peers' feedback.
 - Nominate your article for "Good Article" status.
 - Prepare for in-class presentation about your Wikipedia-editing experiences.

April 12, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Merchandizing Prisoners by Byron Eugene Price

Chapters 1-2

April 19, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)
Merchandizing Prisoners by Byron Eugene Price
Chapters 3-4

- In class
 - Students give in-class presentations about their experiences editing Wikipedia.
- Assignments for students (due April 26, 2011)
 - Add final touches to your Wikipedia Article.
 - Write a reflective essay on your Wikipedia contributions and editing experiences.

April 26, 2011

Readings (Download from Blackboard)

Merchandizing Prisoners by Byron Eugene Price
Chapters 5-6

May 3, 2011

Group Presentations

May 10, 2011

FINAL VERSION OF WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE DUE.

Note: All students have handed in a reflective essay on their Wikipedia contributions and experiences.