

PADM 7900/7210 IA
Spring 2009
January 5-May 8, 2009
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**CAPSTONE SEMINAR IN
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/INTERNSHIP IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
CO-REQUISITE COURSES**

Valdosta State University complies fully with the requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you believe that you are covered under this act, and if you have need for special arrangements to allow you to meet the requirements of this course, please contact the personnel at the VSU Access Office for Students with Disabilities. You may contact that office by telephone at 229-245-2498, FAX 229-245-3873. You may also reach them via email at <http://www.valdosta.edu/ssp/>. Also, please discuss this via email with your instructor(s) at the start of each class.

Required Texts

Morse, Ricardo S., Terry F. Buss and C. Morgan Kinghorn. (2007). *Transforming Public Leadership for the 21st Century*. New York: M. E. Sharpe.
Yin, R.K. (2009). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. Fourth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Outcomes

This course serves as the exit requirement for the MPA program, and it is a co-requisite of PADM 7210. The course allows both student and faculty member to assess the learning experience provided by the program of study leading to the MPA degree. The course is based upon case analyses, a pedagogic technique that requires the active interaction of student and teacher to be effective. Upon completion of this course, each student should be able to:

1. Discuss the evolution and application of the case method to the study of public administration,
2. Analyze cases drawn from administrative settings,
3. Develop and present a case based upon her/his own work experience,
4. Demonstrate an ability to apply material from his/her program of study to typical management problems,
5. Put modern leadership concepts into action as public managers.

Course Requirements

*Note: Each student is **required** to have a completed Application for Degree on file before she or he may participate in this course! If you have not completed such an application, you **must do so immediately**.*

Note: You will need Adobe Reader for this course. This is a free download available on the web. It is also wise to do a Java Browser Upgrade on your computer before the start of the course.

Each student is expected to read all Monday Mail messages from the instructor throughout the course as well as any lecture that the instructor places on the home page. Communications with the instructor should also take place within the Mail function of Web CT Vista. In addition, the course home page will include the Course Syllabus, Instructions for Writing Policy Position Papers, Portfolio Guidelines, the Internship Handbook, the Student Evaluation Form, and the MPA Program Evaluation Form.

Students completing a traditional internship during the semester must adhere to all the requirements/guidelines outlined in the Internship Handbook. The internship report specified in the handbook will be the basis for the case study discussed below.

Each student will complete four pieces of writing during the course.

1. The first paper will be due on Tuesday, January 27. It will be 4-5 pages long. Place it in Course Assignments #1. **Read pages 3-182 in Morse, Buss, and Kinghorn.** Do you think that individual leadership variables (pages 3-105) or the framework in which leadership operates (pages 105-182) has the most impact on leadership in the governmental and non-profit sectors? Cite two articles from each of the two sections of the text, and bring in two real-world examples from your own experience and/or observation.
2. The second case study will be due on Tuesday, February 17. It will be 4-5 pages long. Place it in Course Assignments #2. **Read pages 185-356 in Morse, Buss, and Kinghorn.** How useful are the collaborative leadership models (pages 185-259) in nurturing change in some of the different “contexts” that characterize the 21st century (pages 263-356). Cite two articles from each of the two sections of the text, and bring in two real-world examples from your own experience and/or observation.
3. The final, professionally-developed case study or applied research project will be based upon your own work experience/internship and is due on Tuesday, March 31. However, your proposal for this paper (one page) is due on Tuesday, March 10. You have a choice between two types of projects. First, professionally developed case studies, requiring qualitative analysis of an actual policy problem that confronted your organization, should be based on the entire Argyle format (IA – VIB) and should be 8-10 pages long. Second applied research projects (8-10 pages long) should focus on a work experience/internship problem that required quantitative analysis, and that your organization either attempted to solve or has already solved. The entire analysis for this second type of project should be rooted, explicitly, in conclusions and methods from PADM 7060. In both the case studies and

applied research projects, strict confidentiality will be maintained between student and instructor. If you would prefer to keep some details about your project confidential between you and the instructor, delete those details from the paper that you put in the thread for other students. **Incorporate, explicitly, one conclusion or concept from each of Yin's first three chapters in this paper. In addition, incorporate one conclusion about leadership from each of your first two papers.** Place the proposal in Course Assignments # 3 and in Thread # 1. Place the big paper in Course Assignments # 4 and in Thread # 2

4. The fourth assignment is the portfolio and is due on April 28. It must be submitted on a CD and sent to or dropped off at the Department of Political Science. **Incorporate, explicitly, one conclusion or concept from each of Yin's last three chapters in some of the captions for your academic artifacts.** See the "Portfolio Guidelines" for additional details.

Students actually doing a work-based Internship during the semester should also follow the guidelines in the "Internship Handbook" for the Internship Course. They will also participate in an un-graded Internship Colloquium. This Colloquium will consist of three threaded discussions (#s 3-5) located on the course home page. Students will find a question in each thread and should respond to it. They should also read the submissions of other students and comment on two of them. Each question will require that they link their internship experience to the capstone course and MPA Program. The responses of each will be shared with other students taking part in this colloquium.

Grading

This course is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. The three written assignments should be submitted in the three "Course Assignment" drop boxes within the WebCT Vista course. Students must also complete all their threaded discussions. The Portfolio must be submitted on a CD and either dropped off at or mailed to the Department of Political Science. All assignments must be completed with a B average overall in order for the course grade to be Satisfactory. Also, in order to receive their final grade, students must complete the MPA Program Evaluation and send it to Dr. Argyle.

Course Access

Each student must have a VSU email account (each student is automatically assigned one upon registering for a course). If you haven't activated your student account, do so. Go to the VSU home page at www.valdosta.edu, and click on "WebCT." You may also go directly to www.valdosta.edu/webct/. Each student is to read and abide by the "WebCT Netiquette" found on this page.

Key Dates

Written Assignments Due

Jan. 27: Paper # 1 Due (4-5 pages). Course Assignments # 1	15%
Feb. 17: Paper # 2 Due (4-5 pages). Course Assignments # 2	15%
Mar. 10: Project Proposal Due (1 page). Course Assignments # 3 And Thread # 1	5%
Mar. 31: Case Study or Applied Research Project (8-10 pages). Course Assignments # 4 and Thread #2	25%
Apr. 28: Portfolio Due on CD. Mail or Drop Off in Dept. of Political Science	30%

Threaded Discussions:

Students Doing an Actual Internship Only

Feb. 24: Thread # 3 (See Thread for Question)

Apr. 7: Thread # 4 (See Thread for Question)

May 5: Thread # 5 (See Thread for Question)

All Students

Mar. 10: Thread # 1 (Insert in the Thread a one-page proposal for the big paper due on Oct. 28, and then comment on three student proposals later in the week).

5%

Mar. 31: Thread #2 (Insert in the Thread your big paper, and then comment on three papers of the same students whose original proposals you originally evaluated. Do this later in the week).

5%