



Master of Public Administration Program

## Ethics: The Pathway to the Good Life (Olympia)

Nov. 15-17, 2024 (Fri. 6-9, Sat. & Sun. 9-4)

Room: SEM 2 E2109

Faculty: Jeffrey C. Callen, MPA, PhD

**\*\*Document updated 09/09/2024\*\***

**\*\*\*Canvas will reflect most recent class content and material\*\*\***

**\*\*Canvas site will be available mid-September\*\***

**\*\*\*STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF ALL CHANGES TO CANVAS\*\*\***

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### MPA Mission Statement:

Our students, faculty and staff create learning communities to explore and implement socially just, democratic public service. We *think* critically and creatively; *communicate* effectively; *work* collaboratively; *embrace* diversity; we *value* fairness and equity; *advocate* powerfully on behalf of the public; and *imagine* new possibilities to accomplish positive change in our workplaces and in our communities.

"Be the change."

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### Course Description:

Public administration ethics is predominately concerned with behavior and decision making under difficult circumstances and present day conditions. In Ethics: The Pathway to the Good Life, we take a forward looking position and consider ethical public administration as a perspective of governing concerned with creating more 'good choices' for future generations. Topics such as climate change, social justice, economic and housing insecurity, policy changes, sustainability, and others will be center to our exploration of what is the Good Life?, for whom?, and how to move toward a better future for the next generations.

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### Learning Objectives:

1. Understand traditional public administration ethics and decision making.
2. Ability to facilitate and navigate discussions of the Goodlife.
3. Ability to connect ideas to practice.

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## Readings for Fall 2024 are available on Canvas

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### Assignments

Assignment details are posted to discussion boards on Canvas. You are expected to post your assignments and respond to your peers.

There are 3 assignments:

- 1) Pre-session writing on class readings, individual sources, and contemporary local events
- 2) In-session activities and observational writing
- 3) Group activity and presentation (with draft presentation in class and final draft due after class).

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### Course Policies

**Due Dates:** Working in the public sector means wearing multiple hats, responsibility to rights and stakeholders, very slow and predictable timelines, and a dynamic interconnected environment of lived experience experienced in very immediate timelines and shifting priorities. As our time together is limited to only one weekend, please pay attention to and respect The Calendar.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments are considered late if they are submitted more than 1 week after the due date *and no communication has occurred by then between the student and faculty regarding the assignment's submission*. If there is an unavoidable need to turn in an assignment late, the student should contact their faculty no later than the original assignment due date to discuss options. Assignments must be completed by the revised due date to ensure full receipt of course credit.

**Human Subjects Review (HSR):** *Students will NOT collect original data for this class.*

**AI:** In late 2022 OpenAI released ChatGPT which a conversation based AI tool. The Evergreen State College is currently planning to create an implement College wide guidance for the use and implementation of AI tools by students, faculty, and staff. During the meantime, the use of AI is on a faculty-by-faculty basis.

You are accountable for the work you submit. Within the classroom, all student work, conduct, and expectations are outlined in the student code of conduct, the MPA student handbook, our class syllabus, and our classes social conduct. We will be discussing AI, your education, and our class during our first weekend.

**Format:** Unless otherwise stated, all papers should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font, and follow APA format and citation style. [APA Style <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/index.aspx>]

Purdue Writing & Grammar Guide <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>] All written work will be of high quality, grammatically correct, clear and without spelling errors. Students may request resource writing assistance from faculty and/or the Graduate Writing Assistant. You can contact our writing support at: EvergreenWritingAssistant@gmail.com ; 360-867-6820 ; LAB I, Room 3016. Also, a guide to student writing at Evergreen can be accessed through the campus Writing Center: <https://inkwellpublication.wordpress.com/>

**Participation & Attendance:** Students are required to attend each class meeting in its entirety. Participation includes focusing on class content, speaking in class and seminar, listening to others, taking notes, completing class interactive exercises, avoiding distractions, and listening to and dialoging with the guest speakers. If an absence is unavoidable, faculty should be notified prior to a class and/or seminar absence.

After one absence per quarter (Ex. 3 hours on Friday is one absence), make-up work will be assigned. Makeup work must be completed by the end of Week 10 of the quarter in question for course credit. After 15 hours (Ex. one weekend) of absences total in one quarter, you may be denied full credit for the course. Also, after reoccurring absences (being late to class; regularly missing an hour of class weekend to weekend), you may be denied full credit. Finally, if you do miss a class, you are expected to do the reading for that class meeting and turn in any assignments that were due that class date.

**Credit:** Students will receive 2 graduate credits at the end of the course if all requirements have been satisfactorily completed. Students will be evaluated based upon their progress towards the learning objectives, assessed from classroom, seminar, and assignment performance. Plagiarism (i.e., using other peoples' work as your own) may result in total loss of credit for the class and may result in dismissal from the MPA program. See the [MPA Handbook](#) and [College statement on academic honesty](#) for more information. Failing to meet course requirements (ex. not completing one or more assignments, completing one or more assignments late, or multiple absences) may constitute denial of total credit at the discretion of the faculty. Students at risk of losing credit will receive written notification prior to the end of the quarter.

As our course is only 1 weekend long, an Incomplete will not be issued for this course. Students with missing or incomplete work may receive partial credit.

**Evaluation:** To receive credit, students are required to write 1) a self-evaluation and 2) a seminar faculty evaluation. All final evaluations are to be submitted via my.evergreen.edu. Evaluation conferences may occur over the phone or Zoom and should be scheduled with your seminar faculty. For more information about evaluations, see the section, "The Evaluation Process" at <https://www.evergreen.edu/our-learning-approach/narrative-evaluations>.

**Multiculturalism & Diversity:** Faculty and students will actively work towards contextually weaving multiculturalism and diversity throughout our learning as related to readings,

lectures, seminar, and group projects. In a learning community students and faculty share the responsibility for the teaching and learning environment. Multiculturalism and diversity is to be understood as: aiming to promote constructive community discourse about issues of culture, power, and differences.

**Technology Use & Learning Styles:** We all have different ways of learning. Faculty will actively work towards providing information in multiple formats: tactile, auditory, visual, experiential, etc. However, we are limited to means appropriate for the classroom environment. Surfing the internet, checking social media, reading e-mail, playing with cell phones are not appropriate. Consult your faculty to discuss technology use and learning style options.

**Reasonable Accommodations** will be provided for any student who qualifies for them through a working relationship with Access Services. To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact the office of Access Services for Students with Disabilities (867-6348 or 6364). If the student is already working with the office of Access Services the faculty should have received a letter clearly indicating the student has a disability that requires academic accommodations. If any student has a health condition or disability that may require accommodations in order to effectively participate in this class, please do the following: Contact faculty before class and Contact Access Services to receive a letter of accommodation. Information about a disability or health condition will be regarded as confidential. Please refer to TESC's [Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

**Conduct & Conflict Resolution:** Please refer to the MPA Student Handbook: <https://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/studenthandbook/conflictresolution>

Discuss any problems involving others in the learning community directly with the individuals involved (so long as the concerned party feels safe doing so). Possessing respect for others is fundamental to an open, free, and educational dialogue. All students are expected to support and contribute to a well-functioning MPA classroom and learning community. Behavior that disrupts the learning community may be grounds for disciplinary action, including dismissal from the MPA program. All students will be held accountable for maintaining the highest of academic standards.

**We will abide by the [social contract](#):** WAC 174-121-010 College philosophy.

**We will abide by the [student conduct code \(including academic integrity and plagiarism\)](#):** Chapter 174-123 WAC, Student Conduct Code & Grievance/Appeals Process: <http://www.evergreen.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct>

**We will abide by the [non-discrimination policies and procedures at TESC](#)**

**Guest policy:** Guests are welcome to visit our learning community during class time and seminar meetings with approval from course faculty in advance of each requested visit. It is the host student's responsibility to contact the faculty with details about the requested guest visit and await approval. Prospective students may visit one class meeting of first year Core

without advance faculty approval, but must notify faculty that they are present prior to the beginning of class. All guests must abide by all social contract, conduct code, and nondiscrimination policy guidelines as aforementioned in this handbook. Per faculty discretion, guests may be asked to leave and not permitted to return to class if these guidelines are violated in any way including behavior that disrupts the learning community. All guests are expected to minimize their participation in class and seminar discussions.

**Inclement Weather:** In the event of bad weather or emergencies students should check with for announcements of campus closures. Students can call the main campus line 360-867-6000 to get the latest news regarding a campus closure or delay. Faculty may decide to cancel a class meeting even if campus is open and we will send an all-class email prior to the start of class. Students are responsible for checking email and ensuring viable transportation options are available to them.

**Communicating:** Email and Canvas are our primary means of communication. Students are responsible for checking their Evergreen email and Canvas regularly.

**Use of Student Work Posted to Canvas:** Students post their work to an online learning platform known as “canvas”. Our class canvas site is accessible to faculty and students registered for this course only. The work students post on canvas is their private intellectual property and may not be used or distributed without their expressed consent. Some work may also be owned by Tribal governments, Tribal organizations, or Indigenous communities. Their informed and voluntary consent would also need to be obtained for use and appropriate cultural protocols would also need to be followed.

**Audio or Video Recording:** No audio or video recording may occur during class without the informed and voluntary consent of the students and faculty involved.