Ethics, Governance and Public Service

Credits: 2

Lecturers: Howard Whitton and Constantine Palicarsky

Assessment: Individual participation 40% Essay 60%

Teaching: Seminars: 10 sessions x 2 hours

Course Outline
This course explores the public sector ethics as an applied discipline; as a set of rules that give the answer to the question “what do I as a public servant must do in a particular situation”. responsibilities of public policy makers and public servants. These responsibilities occur in the context of competing obligations that guide political actors inside and outside government, particularly when notions of what is good, just, and legitimate public policy are contested.

Course Objectives
Students will have the opportunity to:

- examine the underlying assumptions behind the ethical responsibilities of public officials and government figures in democratic societies;
- explore key aspects of professional ethics – conflicts of interest, loyalty, duty, subordination;
- give attention to the way in which institutional arrangements and reforms promote or inhibit moral choices and anti-corruption strategies.
- Assess norms and values related to the public service.

Assessment
To successfully complete the course you are required to submit a 3000 word essay and participate fully in seminars.

The essay is due Monday May 15th, 2005. The hard copy of your word-processed essay along with an electronic version should be submitted to Heni Griecs by 4.00pm. No extensions will be given.

Participation in the seminars will be a central component of assessment. We will use a number of criteria will be used to evaluate participation:

- Evidence of having read materials in advance of the seminar
- Indication of having investigated web-sites identified in the course document
- Exploration beyond sources provided in the course document or in seminars
- Participation in seminar discussions and appropriate engagement with other seminar participants
- Analytical insight, critical debate and questioning of core concepts and ideas.

**Course Timetable**
April 10–14, 2006
April 24 – 28, 2006

**Location**

All seminars will take place from 10.00am—12.00pm room XXXXX.
Ethics, Governance and Public Service

Seminar Topics

1. Ethics – concept basics, what it is and what it is not

- Ethical theories
- What is it all about?
- Definitions
- Can it be taught?
- Can it be enforced?
- The trust issue

2. Professional Ethics for the Public Service – Codes of Ethics and Codes of Conduct

- Moral vs. Ethics. Vs. other norms
- Codes of conduct / compliance based codes
- Codes of Ethics / Values based codes
- Importance of PSE

3. Conflicts of Interest – Prevention or Management?

- Definition of Conflict of Interest
- Perceived vs. actual conflict of interest
- Is it corruption
- Distinguishing from other ethical dilemmas
- Ways of prevention and/or management

4. Solving Ethical dilemmas - checklists

1. Conflicts of interests
2. Gifts and gratuities
3. Post-employment
4. Registration procedures

5. Working Public Sector ethics

- Enforcement
6. Ethics and Corruption

- Corruption and unethical behaviour
- Practical approaches to prevent corruption involving PSE

7. PSE Enforcement

- Can we enforce it?
- Codes of conduct and internal controls
- Responsibilities – internal and external bodies

8 Whistleblowers and whistleblower protection – what they are and what they are not.

- Definition
- Whistleblowers or whistleblowing?
- Whistleblower protection – models
- Does it work?

9. Institutions building – the Ethics component

1. Administrative capacity – what does it mean in the PSE context?
2. Elements of the administrative capacity
3. Internal procedures, guidelines, manuals

10. Integrating Ethics and anti-corruption – some practical ideas.

1. Business ethics and corporate social responsibility
2. Peer pressure and enforcement
3. Rules and procedures
4. Your ideas?
Useful Web-sites

Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Relations:  
http://www.cceia.org

Stanford Center on Ethics  
http://ethics.stanford.edu/programs_lect.htm

Office of Public Service Values and Ethics – Canada:  
http://www.hrma-agrh.gc.ca/veo-bve/index_e.asp

http://www.idlo.int/texts/IDLO/mis6740.pdf

Anti-corruption Gateway for Europe and Eurasia  

Anti-corruption Network for Transition Economies  
http://www.anticorruptionnet.org/

Global Forum on Fighting Corruption  
http://www.revistainterforum.com/english/articles/121701artprin_en.html

Public Integrity Education Network  
http://www.integrityeducation.org/index.php?cmssessid=T11a1c48582e892046057fde519cf4af2f24a3b95e5bf42984407a40fcddbf94  
username: PIEN  
password: szirak

Transparency International  
http://www.transparency.org/

USAID: Fighting Corruption  
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/democracy_and_governance/technical_areas/anti-corruption/

Utstein Anti-Corruption Resource Center  
http://www.u4.no/

World Bank Institute on Governance and Anti-corruption  
http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/governance/

TIRI  
www.tiri.org

Suggested additional readings:  
F. Fukuyama State building: Governance and World Order in the 21st century
Daniel Kaufmann, *Corruption, Governance and Security: Challenges for the Rich Countries and the World*

Martin Tisne and Daniel Smilov, *From the Ground Up: Assessing the Record of Anticorruption Assistance in Southeastern Europe*, CPS, 2004