Instructor Information:
Instructor: Dr. Justin Piccorelli
Phone: 307.766.2260
E-mail: jpiccore@uwyo.edu
Office: Arts & Sciences Building, Room 145
Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2-3:30pm

Course Information:
In-Person/Video: Meets Weekly on Tuesday from 4-6:50PM in the Arts and Science Building, Room 226 or if outside of region then meet through Zoom (Zoom.us), Meeting ID: 455 994 402

Prerequisites: Student in the MPA program, or formal Consent of MPA director, POLS 5000

Course Description:
“The student is introduced to the ethical nature and dilemmas of public administration in American constitutional government. Such topics are addressed as source of ethical obligation, role of loyalty, application of moral philosophy, constitutional theory and ethical obligation, relation of theory and practice, and methods of ethical reflection” (Course Catalog, 2015).

Disability Statement:
“It is University of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in the Student Educational Opportunity offices, Room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability” (University of Wyoming, 2015).

Objectives/Outcomes/Standards:
- Carefully examine how we think, reason, and judge so that we might be able to better understand and improve the foundation from which we make ethical decisions
- Recognize that as public administrators, or citizens for that matter, we rarely encounter an old problem to which we have a prescribed course of action—instead we face new problems to which we lack answers
- Analyze, more deeply, some of the issues related to the limitations of using a code of ethics to control administrative behavior
- Understand that as we as public administrators or citizens act, we are also simultaneously deciding what type of person we would like to be (Dewey; Stivers, 2014)

Text(s) and Readings:


Additional Readings will be provided
**Course Requirements/Assignments:**
The course will include lectures that call for each student to actively participate. As a graduate seminar the course provides room for discussion.

Students are evaluated on the basis of their classroom participation, and participation in online discussions. For some people participation calls for them to be vocal if they are not normally and for others it might entail holding some things back and contributing strategically so that classmates also have the ability to contribute.

There are a total of 3 assignments (2 essays, and one brief summary of your topic that you will be working on for your final). The two essays evaluate the quality and depth of your thinking related to the issue of ethics in the public sector. The summary of your topic helps you to develop your final paper and provides you with some feedback early in the process.

There is a final paper that will be between 18-20 pages long. The final will call for you to consult the course materials and do research above and beyond these materials (peer reviewed journal articles, scholarly books, and potentially newspapers or periodicals depending on what they are used for).

For the final paper you will be analyzing an ethical issue within the field of public administration, or more broadly, governance. You will analyze the actors involved and attempt to place them with respect to different ways of thinking, discern why the conflict has occurred, and design a creative approach to address the situation that demonstrates the application of your own judgment.

You will be given feedback on your paper topic before you present it in hopes that you will be better prepared for questions from your instructor, fellow classmates, and possibly members of the larger university community.

**Grading Standards:**
**Grading Breakdown:**
- Participation: 10%
- Assignments: 30%
- Paper Topic: 5%
- Final Paper (acts as exam): 35%
- Presentation: 20%

**Grading Scale:**
- A = 100 – 90
- B = 89 – 80
- C = 79 – 70
- D = 69 – 60
- F = 59 and below

Late Assignments:
- Only accepted with an approved excuse

**Attendance/Participation Policy:**
University sponsored absences are cleared through the Office of Student Life. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class (i.e. mental or physical issue that is empirically verified by a doctor’s note) then
appropriate arrangements can be made to make up the work. This requires you to notify me of your absence and condition as soon as possible, and it also requires you to take the necessary other steps to become caught up, like obtaining notes from a classmate, and bringing a set of specific questions to office hours that are related to the material.

Participation is closely related to being present, but also requires more than being a silent fixture in your chair, or writing endless comments and questions online. It requires you to make thoughtful questions and comments that are directly related to the course materials and hopefully enrich the learning process for others. These contributions should also help to keep discussion civil and avoid personal attacks on others. It is particularly difficult to participate in this manner if you do not read the material, are not well rested, or are distracted by online shopping. In other words you should not only read the material and spend some time reflecting on it, but you should also focus on listening to others (even when reading), i.e. good communication. To do well in terms of participation you should listen to lectures, complete the readings, and be prepared to discuss the material at each class.

Students are required to access their university email—it is an official means of communication and often used for announcements related to the class. Please only email me from your university email so that I can be compliant with FERPA guidelines.

Students must also be mentally present during lectures, including, but not limited to, avoiding the use of cellphones

Writing Center:
Students are encouraged to visit the university’s writing center for general support and guidance. I highly encourage you to visit the center often and throughout the semester. The writing center is an invaluable resource to the college that all students (regardless of ability) ought to utilize. Writing is an ability that is developed over a lifetime and something that you should practice daily. In light of this you should make an effort to be proactive concerning your ability to write, and when possible, less reactive. Hours and contact information for the writing center are posted here: [http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl/writing-center/](http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl/writing-center/)

Academic Honesty:
UW Regulation 6-802. (Suggested language: “The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated [from the University Catalog]. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other University regulations can be found at: [http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/new-regulatory-structure/index.html](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/new-regulatory-structure/index.html)” (UW Registrar, 2015)

Student Conduct:
For guidelines on appropriate student conduct in an out of class (as online forums are still considered related to class) you are encouraged to visit the Arts and Sciences’ webpage for a brief summary: [http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-8-30.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW-Reg-8-30.pdf)

A Note on Sources:
Anyone can make a Wikipedia entry. Intelligence and validity are not prerequisites to alter the site—only a computer, valid email address and access to the internet are required. In light of this Wikipedia is very
different from a scholarly book, peer-reviewed journal article, or even newspaper. Being a good researcher in a world with so much information requires you to be able to discern which sources are credible, and what a particular source might be appropriately used for. You should always be weary of search engine results given that the order is determined by popularity, not credibility. **Further, given that Wikipedia is actually written according to popularity it cannot be used or cited unless Wikipedia and its impact on society are the subject of your paper.**

**Course Outline:**

**Week 1 (January 24th): Introduction to Course and one another**

**Week 2 (January 31st): Ethics Reexamined, and Reason post 9/11**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*—Introduction, & Ch.1

**Week 3 (February 7th)**  
Analyze ASPA’s code of ethics, The Executioner of Paris  
Readings:  
*Applbaum*—Ch. 1 & 2, and ASPA’s code of ethics:  

**Week 4 (February 14th): Torture, Public Administration, and Public Thought**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*—Ch. 2 & 3  
1st Assignment Due Feb. 14th by 4pm

**Week 5 (February 21st): “Practice Positivism” and Role Morality**  
Readings:  
*Applbaum*—Ch. 3, 4, & 5

**Week 6 (February 28th): Issue of Security, Rohr’s Regime Values**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*, Ch.4, and [http://www.naspaa.org/jpaemessenger/Article/VOL16-2/16no2_05_KenMal.pdf](http://www.naspaa.org/jpaemessenger/Article/VOL16-2/16no2_05_KenMal.pdf)

**Week 7 (March 7th): Governing and Public Space**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*—Ch. 5 & 6  
2nd Assignment Due March 7th by 4pm

**Week 8 (March 14th): Spring Break**

**Week 9 (March 21st): Pragmatism and Public Administration**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*—Ch. 7  
**Paper Topic Due March 21st by 4pm**

**Week 10 (March 28th): Public Service Ethics and Discretion**  
Readings:  
*Stivers*—Ch. 8

**Week 11 (April 4th): Legitimacy and Discretion**  
Readings:  
*Applbaum*—Ch. 8 & 9

**Week 12 (April 11th): Considering the Underpinnings of a Research Methodology**  
Readings:  
Camilla Stivers (article bibliography information will be provided)

**Week 13 (April 18th): Dissent and Guerillas**

Week 14 (April 25th): **Presentations**

**Week 15 (May 2nd): Working Session, Extended Office Hours, but no formal class meeting**

*Final Papers Due 5/9 at midnight*

The instructor may make changes to the syllabus as the course proceeds. If necessary, these changes will be announced in class. Substantive changes made to the syllabus shall be communicated in writing to the students.