

PIA6303: COMPARATIVE PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Comparative Public Sector Management

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

6303

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

POL6303 Comparative Public Sector Management

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Enable students to understand, discover, and evaluate critically alternative management and policy implementation strategies for organizing and delivering public services. During the course, students will develop critical skills and innovative ideas in comparative analysis in relation to a variety of approaches to effective public sector management, governance and regulation. Opportunities are provided for focused, in-depth comparative study of issues and topics drawn from areas such as: modernising disciplined services; managing heritage, leisure and cultural services; the delivery of family and social service programmes; performance evaluation and audit; private and third sector (NGO and not-for-profit) involvement in public services delivery and in social enterprise; crisis management and also logistics. The selection of topics addressed each year may vary.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Examine critically key theories and practices relating to the contemporary organization, delivery, regulation and governance of public sector activities including those delivered through joint sector collaboration;	20	x	x	
2 Search for, appraise critically and synthesize comparative evidence about the rationales for and relative effectiveness of different management strategies in the delivery of specific public services such as those relating to disciplined services (eg. police, immigration, customs and correctional services); family and social services; heritage, cultural and leisure services; etc.;	30	x	x	
3 Apply appropriate data sources and utilise skills in comparative research and writing, communication, teamwork discussion and presentation in relation to selected aspects of the management issues and public services being studied.	50	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	These are organized thematically to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Explain concepts, theories, and methods in issues and comparative public management; · Analyse management issues from scientific, economic, institutional, managerial, and political perspectives. 	1, 2	
2	in class discussion	These are sessions for students to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Raise questions and make critical observations on the concepts and methods introduced in the lectures. 	2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Group paper (policy memo)	1, 2, 3	50	6,000 words	No
2	Take-home test	2, 3	50	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Test (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

To test student's ability to analyse and integration with theory

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates a good understanding of public sector management. Arguments are well-structured and supported by relevant concepts as well empirical examples. The writing is clear with proper citations.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrates a fair understanding of public sector management. Arguments are mostly well-structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing is mostly clear with proper citations.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrates an inadequate understanding of public sector management. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrates a weak understanding of public sector management. Arguments are unclear with almost no support by concepts and examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Failure

(F) Demonstrates significantly incomplete understanding of basic theoretical concepts OR does not contribute to paper.

Assessment Task

Group Paper (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

To test student's ability to analyse and integration with theory

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates good understanding of public sector management. Arguments are well-structured and supported by relevant concepts as well empirical examples. The writing is clear with proper citations.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrates fair understanding of public sector management. Arguments are mostly well-structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing is mostly clear with proper citations.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrates inadequate understanding of public sector management. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrates limited understanding of public sector management. Arguments are unclear with almost no support by concepts and examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Failure

(F) Demonstrates significantly incomplete understanding of basic theoretical concepts OR does not contribute to paper.

Assessment Task

Test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

To test student's ability to analyse and integration with theory

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates a good understanding of public sector management. Arguments are well-structured and supported by relevant concepts as well empirical examples. The writing is clear with proper citations.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrates a fair understanding of public sector management. Arguments are mostly well-structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing is mostly clear with proper citations.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrates an inadequate understanding of public sector management. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Failure

(F) Demonstrates significantly incomplete understanding of basic theoretical concepts OR does not contribute to paper.

Assessment Task

Group Paper (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

To test student's ability to analyse and integration with theory

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates good understanding of public sector management. Arguments are well-structured and supported by relevant concepts as well empirical examples. The writing is clear with proper citations.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrates fair understanding of public sector management. Arguments are mostly well-structured and supported by some relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing is mostly clear with proper citations.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrates inadequate understanding of public sector management. Arguments are not well-structured, and lack support by relevant concepts and empirical examples. The writing does not flow and lacks proper citations.

Failure

(F) Demonstrates significantly incomplete understanding of basic theoretical concepts OR does not contribute to paper.

Part III Other Information**Keyword Syllabus**

Public sector management, innovation, governance and regulation. Comparative public management; programme delivery; performance evaluation and audit; private and third sector (NGO and not-for-profit) involvement; social enterprise, social capital and empowerment.

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

	Title
1	Peters, B. Guy and Jon Pierre. Eds. 2003. Handbook of Public Administration. London: Sage.
2	Cheung, A. B. L. and Scott, I. Eds. 2002. Governance and Public Sector Reform in Asia: Paradigm Shifts or Business As Usual? London: Curzon Press.
3	Clark, Barry 2016. Political Economy: a comparative approach, Santa Barbara: Praeger

Additional Readings

	Title
1	Various readings provided directly to students during the course