I. Course Description (From SDSU Catalog)
Key issues in public administration, social policy. Emphasis on government structure and public decision-making process, organizational behavior, effectiveness of criminal justice policies, zoning, and land use considerations.

II. Course Objectives:
This course is designed to introduce students to the principals and constraints that form the environment of the public administrator. Public Administration involves the “core activities” of government that are performed, for the most part, by highly trained experts and specialized organizations; its purpose is the development and implementation of public policy. This broad definition encompasses a large dynamic portion if government at all there levels of the federal system, engaging even non profit and private enterprise.

It is impossible to cover in one course all of the material from and the academic discipline of public administration; it is even less reasonable to attempt to develop every skill that is necessary to be an effective public manager. Therefore, this course attempts to familiarize you with the various complexities of the field of public administration--other courses are offered that allow you to continue your study and increase your skills. This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to public administration through readings, cases, discussion, and practical exercises.

III. Student Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
Describe and compare the basic concepts, principles, and terms common to meaningful public administration and political inquiry;
Critically analyze rules or generalizations about the nature, process, and relationships among various urban phenomena;
Describe the power relationships between the various governmental systems;
Describe and critically analyze the values and ideologies of selected urban systems with special emphasis on democratic theory and the United States;
Demonstrate active judgmental ability in balancing prescriptive and empirical data when analyzing significant and controversial urban problems;
Demonstrate the application of fundamental research techniques, critical thinking skills, and college level writing competency;
Course Syllabus
Public Administration: The Urban Scene

IV. Materials

A. Required Texts:

B. Supplemental Videos:
As required.

C. Other Materials:
As required.

V. Grades & Evaluations

350 Total points are possible for this course. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% = “A” range, 80-89% = “B” range, 70-79% = “C” range, 60-69% = “D” range, 59% and Below = F

1. Attendance, Participation, and Discussion. N/A

2. WRITE-UP’S (50 Points). There will be two online “VIDEO WRITE-UP’S” (25 points each). You will watch assigned videos and submit online a 2-3 page MAX. analysis of the video incorporating relevant chapter themes and terms into your analysis. Video topics will be posted on Blackboard and emailed to you.

3. Examinations (Midterm’s = 2 x 100 Points & Final Exam= 100 Points). Exams may consist of T/F, Multiple choice, or short answer and/or essay questions. You must complete all quizzes and exams, failure to do so will result in an automatic failing grade. All exams will be held in-class on specified dates in the syllabus

4. Make-ups. Make-up exams will only be given to students with approved excuses for their absence. Missing an exam without an excused absence will result in an automatic failing grade. See the instructor to schedule the exam. Make-up exams should be scheduled ASAP following the missed test.

VI. General Information

1. You are responsible for all due dates for assignments and exams!!!

2. Cheating will not be tolerated. Students cheating on exams or papers (i.e., not writing them themselves) will receive a grade of "F" and be referred for discipline pursuant to University policy.

3. Announcements- Blackboard (exam dates, schedule/assignment changes, extra-credit opportunities, etc.) will usually be made one time. It is the student's responsibility to obtain this information (preferably from another student) should they miss it in class.

4. All work submitted by students for evaluation must meet the minimum criterion for college-level work. And all work must meet the basic requirements of grammar and logical structure expected in college writing.

5. Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class.

6. Students should always make and retain a copy of any assignment turned in to the instructor. The instructor assumes no liability for should any materials turned in or mailed to the instructor be lost or destroyed.
VII. COURSE CALENDAR - Spring 2014 REVISED 02/25/14
Note: This is a general schedule of events for the semester, it is subject to modification.

Reading Assignments:

Jan 28    Introduction
Feb 4     Chapter 1- Accountability
Feb 11    Chapter 2- What Government Does— And How It Does It/
           Chapter 3- What is Public Administration?
Feb 18    Class Project- Online. **Write-up 1**
Feb 25    Chapters 4- Organizational Theory/
           Chapters 5- The Executive Branch
Mar 4     Chapter 6- Organization Problems/
           Chapter 7- Administrative Reform
Mar 11    **Midterm 1**
Mar 18    Class Project- Online. **Write-up 2**
Mar 25    Chapters 8- The Civil Service/
           Chapter 9- Human Capital
Apr 1     ***Spring Break***
Apr 8     Chapter 10- Decision Making /
           Chapter 11- Budgeting
Apr 15    **Midterm 2**
Apr 22    Chapter 12- Implementation/
           Chapter 13- Regulations and the Courts
Apr 29    Chapter 14- Administrative Accountability, Effectiveness, and Politics & In Class Review
May 6     **Final Exam**