

Professor C.L. McNeely
Fairfax Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3-4 p.m.
Arlington Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3-4 p.m.

Spring 2005

PUBP 503-001
Culture, Organization, and Technology
Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10 p.m.

Effective policy analysis, program design, implementation, and management often depend on understanding the culture(s) of the organizations and individuals involved. Whether we are talking about issues related to professional cultures, bureaucratic, technological, or business systems, or processes of organizational and societal change, cultural knowledge can be a crucial determinant of success or failure. This course focuses on the dynamic role of culture in societal, political, and economic processes as they affect organizations, with special attention to technological change and influence at various levels of analysis. Thus, with the aim of providing both practical and intellectual skills, the objectives of the course include learning to

- observe and describe culture at the organizational and societal levels;
- observe and describe important cultural and organizational features of target groups and populations;
- identify cultural enablers and barriers in policy development, program design, and implementation; and
- observe and describe the interaction between technologies and cultural and organizational systems, and their relative effects.

Moreover, the course introduces students to a variety of analytical techniques (e.g., ethnographic case methods, structured and unstructured interviews, participant-observation, survey research, etc.) for addressing relevant issues in culture, organization, and technology.

Requirements

All students are expected to come to class prepared, having completed the required readings for each week, and to participate in class discussions. In addition, students are each required to make one panel presentation, for which they will also facilitate discussion, and to prepare four brief essays addressing selected topics that will draw on assigned readings and serve as talking points in class. Other requirements include completion of an empirical research paper and a final examination. Grades are determined as follows:

- class participation and essays: 20%
- presentation: 20%
- research paper: 30%
- final examination: 30%

Reading

In addition to a wide variety of selected articles and book chapters on reserve in the library, required reading for the course includes the following book available in the bookstore:

Mann, Jim. 1997. *Beijing Jeep: A Case Study of Western Business in China*. Boulder: Westview Press.

SPP Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>)