



UNM

SCHOOL of PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

**PADM 521: Healthcare Institution Development & Behavior
Fall 2015**

Professor: Nicholas Edwardson, PhD, MS

Email: nedwardson@unm.edu

Office: 3042 Social Science Bldg

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 PM and by appointment

Class: Tuesdays, 7-9:30 PM

Course Description

“The lion cannot protect himself from traps, and the fox cannot defend himself from wolves. One must therefore be a fox to recognize traps, and a lion to frighten wolves.”

-Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

This course is designed to introduce healthcare administration students to evidence-based management principles and techniques that will guide them in their current and future roles as healthcare decision-makers. The course material will cover a broad array of theories and conceptual models in the fields of organization development, organization behavior, personnel psychology, change management, and systems thinking. This course calls attention to various ‘wicked problems’ that exist in healthcare organizations and will provide multiple analytic lenses through which students will develop strategic means to address these problems.

This course is organized around six broad organization development and behavior themes: culture, change, leadership, relationships, information technology, and systems. For each of these themes, we will first spend a portion of our time understanding how these themes affect the modern healthcare organization. Next, we will explore how organization researchers have studied and framed these issues, seeking to understand how evidence-based management principles can be used to address them. Finally, we will use multiple analytic lenses to review healthcare organization-specific issues and create strategic plans to improve organizational effectiveness.

The success of this course relies heavily upon how engaged participants are in the various components of the course. The role of the instructor is to facilitate and guide

learning through class discussions, activities, assignments and feedback. The course favors an active role for participants over the more passive role taken in a lecture-oriented format. Be prepared to engage the course material and each other to draw on assigned readings and your experiences working and interacting with healthcare organizations. We will work from the premise that all participants bring important knowledge, skills, experiences and insights to the course that we can draw upon to create a successful collaborative learning experience.

Course Expectations

Participation & Attendance

This course does not have a textbook. Instead, we will rely on two conduits of knowledge transfer. First, students will be assigned to a few light readings between classes. (These articles will be posted in this course's UNM Learn module.) For each article, one student will be assigned to present said article in a 10-15 minute presentation (more on that below). The student will be responsible for providing presentation handouts to the class prior to the presentation. The instructor will also provide his own presentation handouts. This brings us to the second (and dominant) conduit of knowledge transfer: dynamic, in-class exchange. For this course, the majority of knowledge-transfer will occur between 7-9:30 PM on Tuesdays. To accomplish this, students obviously must be both physically and mentally present. There is no 'participation grade' per se, however it will be nearly impossible to receive a satisfactory grade should one miss more than one class. Should you need to miss a class, please email the instructor prior to your absence. It will then be up to you to acquire notes from a classmate or meet with the instructor for content clarification. This course's essays and final exam will be the easiest for those who participate in class discussion (that is, ask questions and make meaningful contributions to class dialogue), take concise notes, and complete the readings.

Assignments

Essays

The essay assignments serve as an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and application of the content covered in each of the six organization development themes. Combined, the six essays will account for sixty percent of your total grade. The body of each essay must be no fewer than 600 words. Each essay will consist of three sections:

1. Issue identification – Provide a real world healthcare example of an issue related to the theme at hand (e.g., for the course's first theme—culture—you might identify a hospital suffering from low-morale after losing its Nurse Magnet status). Students currently working in the industry are permitted (but not required) to write about a relevant issue their current organization is facing or has faced in the past. Students yet to join the industry (or those already in industry but without a relevant example) must find (and cite) an example from the literature. This opening section should include:

- a. A brief history of the problem
 - b. An explanation of how the problem is negatively impacting the organization
 - c. Any previous efforts to address the issue
2. Relevant Theory or Conceptual Model – Explain *at least one* theory or conceptual model from course material that could be used to frame the issue at hand. This section should include:
 - A. Its origins and founding author(s)
 - B. A layperson’s explanation of the theory or conceptual model
 - C. Any industry examples (healthcare or non-healthcare) of its application
3. Application – Connect the relevant theory or conceptual model with the organization issue. This section should include:
 - a. A justification for how the theory or conceptual model applies to the issue
 - b. An explanation as to how the theory or conceptual model could assist leaders/decision-makers in addressing the issue
 - c. Additional recommendations for addressing the issue

Essays are due at 7PM on the date noted on the course schedule below. All assignments should be turned in via UNM Learn.

Presentations

The presentation assignments serve as an opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of a theory. During the first week of class, each student will be assigned to research a specific organization development theory. The instructor will provide at least one relevant article to the student. It is then up to the student to craft a 10-15 minute presentation (accompanied by slides) that introduce the history, logic, and application of the theory. Presentation handouts must be made to the entire class prior to the presentation. Keep in mind that these presentations will serve as the principal mean of knowledge-transfer for the assigned theory to the rest of the class. Your classmates will likely draw on your presentation’s content in completing their subsequent essay assignment and final exam. Each presentation should include:

1. A layperson’s explanation of the theory
2. Its history/origin
3. What does it help explain?
4. A conceptual model / illustration
5. Application of the theory to a wicked problem (presentation can double-dip with essay assignment)
6. Like? Dislike? Why?

Take-Home Final

A take-home final will be administered during the last week of class. It will consist of 4-5 short answer questions and a two-page essay.

Grading

A+: 99 – 100%
A: 93 – 98%
A-: 90 – 92%
B+: 87 – 89%
B: 83 – 86%
B-: 80 – 82%
C+: 75 – 79%
C: 70 – 74%
C-: 65 – 69%
Fail: Below 65%

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual attendance is required. UNM Pathfinder policies apply, which in part means instructor drops based on non-attendance are possible. This policy applies regardless of the grading option you have chosen.

Accommodation Statement

Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

Academic Integrity

The University of New Mexico believes that academic honesty is a foundation principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the Pathfinder.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones, pagers (LOL), and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify me in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.

Library and Tutorial Services

UNM-Main campus provides many library services and some tutorial services for distance students. For library services, go to <http://www.unm.edu/libraries/> to link to a specific library or to contact a librarian. For tutorial services, go to <http://caps.unm.edu/online> to explore UNM's online services.