

Chesapeake Faculty Course Description

Course: PUAFA 201: Leadership for the Common Good

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This course aims to inspire, teach and engage students in the theory and practice of public leadership, citizenship, and civic engagement – from the local to the national and global. Good *public leaders*—whether in or outside of government—often display certain capacities and virtues, such as being able to articulate and effectively implement an ethical vision. Such leaders facilitate broad-based citizen participation in matters of public interest.

Because sustainability is an issue that crosses all disciplines and will require leaders from all sectors, it naturally lends itself to incorporation into my course and the Public Leadership Program overall. The course utilizes case studies, role play, and news articles to allow students to learn leadership in a hands on way. The course incorporates sustainability both in small and large ways. This includes small cases and examples of sustainability, such as the Merck case, during modules such as citizenship, ethics, and civic engagement.

The most substantial sustainability component comes mid-semester where I've devoted a week to review and practice all leadership skills discussed to that point. This will occur through a case study centered on climate change negotiation. The case involves seven countries negotiating an extension of the Kyoto treaty. More information about the case is located here:

<http://eocw.org/environmental-negotiation/climate-diplomat-post-2012-climate-negotiation>

The negotiation will start with a presentation by Mark Stewart, Senior Project Manager at the Sustainability Office, detailing the issue of sustainability and climate change. This will serve to motivate students and expand their knowledge of the issue. Students are then broken into teams of eight, including seven counties and one team of moderators. These teams are presented with detailed, complex information surrounding how their particular county is dealing with the issue of climate change and the implications around any action. They then come together and try to reach consensus on a number of climate related outcomes.

During the course of the negotiation I encourage students to think of the “common good”, the title of our course, and utilize the skills they've learned in class, such as using the strengths and different motivations of the members in the team to accomplish this task and to come to consensus, the use the power (or lack thereof) effectively, incorporating the ethical consequences of their actions in decisions, and considering the short term versus the long term (i.e. legacy) implications of their decisions. After the negotiation, Mark Stewart will wrap up the conversation with ways in which students can become more involved with the issue and what they can do personally to help with the issue of sustainability.

The result will be a more complex understanding of the issue of sustainability, the trade offs involved, and the immense need for leadership in the area. In addition, students will practice and enhance their own leadership skills necessary to be effective and ethical public leaders.