

## PSPS 5111: FINAL CASE STUDY

**Due Date:** Monday, [REDACTED]

**Overview:** Public administration is a field in which applied knowledge and skills are essential elements. As such, it is imperative that practitioners are able to identify and diagnose problems, understand organizational challenges, and propose equitable solutions. To these ends, your final paper will take the form of a comprehensive case study examining a problem or challenge faced by an individual or organization in the public or nonprofit sector. Each case study should identify a “real world” issue, and detail the issues at hand, how they relate to public administration from theoretical, historical, legal, and ethical perspectives, and how you might (have) address(ed) the situation.

**Instructions:** Please consult Hatcher, McDonald, and Brainard’s article, *How to Write a Case Study for Public Affairs* for an overview of writing case studies for use in public administration classrooms. Following this model, you should choose either an issue-driven or organizationally-based case for your topic. The focus of your case may relate to any topic we have covered in class (or something that is a relevant topic related to public administration), and take the form of types described by Hatcher et al., which can include: your general experience; that of a particular individual or organization; or one derived from published reports. (Note: if you are going to use a first-or second-hand account of a “real world” issue, please ensure you are being both ethical and judicious with the information that you share.)

In contrast to Hatcher et al., it is okay if you do not know the outcome of a particular case, particularly if this is something that is an ongoing issue or persisting problem in a particular organization, or within public administration in general. Rather, you may describe a particular issue or situation following a similar narrative, in which the background, relevant actors, and the problem is identified, but instead of the “resolution,” offer your own assessment. (Regardless of your approach, consider the case in terms of what we have discussed this semester by incorporating historical, theoretical, legal, ethical, and/or empirical perspectives. You are encouraged, but not required, to focus on an organization or issue area that is relevant to your academic and professional interests, particularly those that relate to issues within our region or topics that lend themselves to further development in the workplace or within the MPA curriculum.)

Final case studies should be approximately 10–12 double-spaced pages in length, and follow the “typical” formatting specifications (e.g. 1-inch margins, Times or similar font). You may use whatever citation format you please (APA, MLA, Chicago, or footnotes), with the exception of endnotes. Final submissions should be uploaded to Canvas as a PDF file by the assigned deadline.