

EVERGREEN
THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Master of Public Administration
2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, Washington 98505

July 22, 2011

Dear Member of the Incoming 2011 MPA Class:

Congratulations on your acceptance into The Evergreen State College's MPA program! We, the faculty team for the 1st Year Core, are writing to: (1) introduce ourselves; (2) provide the book list for the Fall quarter (attached, plus the reading included in this mailing – the "little blue book" on Critical Thinking); and (3) give you some instructions for the first weekend of class (Friday-Saturday, September 23-24) and the first night of class (Tuesday, September 27).

Some of you have already taken an MPA elective course before MPA admission, as a non-admitted "graduate special student." For those of you who have not yet enrolled in a MPA course, prepping for the first class meeting is the norm and almost all faculty members require this from students. Book lists, instructions and syllabi MPA website's Course Syllabi page as early as possible so students are prepared for the first class meeting, at: <http://www.evergreen.edu/mpa/coursesyllabi.htm> . Our syllabus is already posted there. This is the only time you'll receive a mailing from us; in fact, by the time you receive this, we will expect you all to have activated your Evergreen email account and faculty and administration will communicate exclusively via email from here on out.

Your faculty members for the 1st Year Core are Larry Geri (Member of the Faculty), Lee Lyttle (Member of the Faculty and MPA Director) and Doreen Swetkis (Member of the Faculty).

- Doreen is the coordinator of this years 1st year program. She has been a teacher and scholar in urban studies and public administration, and a practitioner in nonprofit administration. She has taught for several years at Cleveland State University's Levin College of Urban Affairs. Doreen holds a masters degree in education (adult learning and development) and a doctorate in urban and public affairs.
- Larry has been on the TESC faculty since 1994 and was MPA Director from 2002 to 2006. Prior to teaching he was an analyst and manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing oversight for the USDA's international programs. His academic interests include international organizations, nonprofits and public policy. Larry wrote two reports on the state of Thurston County and is a board member of United Way of Thurston County. He has just co-authored a book on U.S. energy policy. He has a B.A. in economics from the UW, an MPA from George Washington University, and a DPA from the University of Southern California.
- Lee has served the college as a faculty librarian, dean of first year studies, and dean of the library. His academic and professional background includes public administration, international and local community development, environmental planning, and information science. He was a program officer with the United Nations in Papua New Guinea and Zimbabwe, Africa and has served on numerous campus task forces including those on faculty hiring, the limited use of firearms, and emerging technology. In the local community, he has chaired arts and parks advisory boards and was a commissioner on both the Olympia and Washington State Arts Commissions. Lee holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts: architecture, and three master's degrees in public administration, urban planning, and information studies.

We have heard wonderful things about this incoming cohort of students and are really looking forward to working with what we believe is an exceptional group.

As you know, we are meeting on the weekend of September 23-24 (Friday 5-9, Sat, 9-5). The readings for the first weekend are as follows (the full book list for the entire quarter is attached):

- A link to the [Strangers to Ourselves--Timothy D. Wilson](#) (PDF) 7/12/11.
- [William Fawcett Hill's Learning Through Discussion](#) (3rd Ed.) Waveland Press by Rabow, Jerome, Michelle Charness, Johanna Kippermann & Susan Radcliffe-Vasile (1994)
- Chapter 2 of [Managing Human Behavior in Public and Nonprofit Organizations](#) (2nd Edition) by Denhardt, Robert, Janet Vinzant Denhardt & Maria P. Aristigueta (2008).
- Paul & Elder, [The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking](#) - All (**this is the little blue book included in this mailing**).

In the first weekend we will focus on the following:

- Getting to know each other
- Knowing self and knowing self in context of others/teams
- Learning to learn
- Critical thinking, reading, writing
- Orientation activities

In addition to doing the reading for the first weekend, there is one assignment due when the Orientation weekend begins on Friday, September 24:

1. Reflective Exercise: Due: Orientation weekend (Saturday, 9/24); 1-2 pages. Bring hard copy.

Participating in a learning community and in seminar is fundamental to the Evergreen learning environment. Therefore, we ask students to examine an aspect of working and learning in groups. In 1-2 pages, describe your experience working in teams and your self-perception of how you work in teams (likes and dislikes, strengths and weaknesses, etc.).

2. The guide for all seminar papers.

The seminar papers summarize the main elements of the assigned text. In order to write these papers well, we recommend you use [The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking](#) (the little blue book included in this mailing). Specifically, the Template for Analyzing the Logic of an Article is particularly helpful. Instead of analyzing an article, you will analyze the assigned reading (which may be a chapter, several chapters or an entire book – when it is several chapters, perhaps by different authors, do not analyze each chapter separately but, rather, the general themes that tie the chapters together). Additional information on what is expected for these papers will be discussed during orientation.

3. Seminar reading and paper due Tuesday, September 27th the 1st week

Box, *Public Administration and Society*, Part 2

Pommersheim, Frank. (1997). *Braid of Feathers: American Indian Law and Contemporary Tribal Life*, Parts 1 and 3.

Questions? Post your question to the mpa2011 listserve at mpa2011@lists.evergreen.edu so everyone in class can have the benefit of the answer. A member of the faculty will be available during most of the summer.

Again, we look forward to working with you – have a great summer and we'll see you in September.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lee Lyttle" followed by a stylized flourish or second name.

Larry Geri, Lee Lyttle and Doreen Swetkis

Attached: booklist

cc: Randee Gibbons

Book List

- Appiah, K. A. (2007). *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Box, Richard C. (Ed) (2009) *Public Administration and Society: Critical Issues in American Governance (2nd Edition)*. M.E. Sharpe.
- Denhardt, Robert, Janet Vinzant Denhardt & Maria P. Aristigueta (2008). *Managing Human Behavior in Public and Nonprofit Organizations (2nd Edition)*.
- Paul, Richard and Linda Elder (2008) *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*. The Foundation for Critical Thinking. www.criticalthinking.org (Copy included in mailing)
- Pommersheim, Frank. (1997). *Braid of Feathers: American Indian Law and Contemporary Tribal Life*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
- Rabow, Jerome, Michelle Charness, Johanna Kippermann & Susan Radcliffe-Vasile (1994) *William Fawcett Hill's Learning through Discussion (3rd Ed.)* Waveland Press.
- Reich, Robert (2008) *Supercapitalism: The Transformation of Business, Democracy, and Everyday Life*. Vintage.
- Rodrik, Dani. (2011) *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Shafritz, Jay M. and Hyde, Albert C. (2008) *Classics of Public Administration 6th edition* Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 978-0495189565.
- Sowell, Thomas (2011). *Basic Economics 3rd Ed: A Common Sense Guide to the Economy*. Basic Books.

A word about book expenses: The cost of books for the fall quarter of both first and second year core will be higher than subsequent quarters, since the key texts will be used for two quarters. Please be aware that we take the cost of texts into account when we make our book selections and do our best to keep these costs low.

The bookstore will initially place an order for used texts; if they can get sufficient copies of used books, they will not place an order with publishers. We are not sure when the bookstore will have fall titles on the shelf, though we hope they will be available by late August. For more information, contact the Evergreen Bookstore at 360-867-5300. Another option is to purchase books via an on-line bookseller such as Amazon.com or Alibris.com.

If you want to get a head-start on readings (other than for the first few class meetings), we recommend reading the texts that are exclusively for this quarter (you may get a quarter or more ahead if you read the other texts but that's too far ahead for effective learning).