# Public Management

## Prof. Elena Zuffada

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims:

* to apply the conceptual formats of business economics to the specific context of public administrations in order to examine the organisational dynamics and operational issues and measure results in relation thereto;
* to analyse the development of the role of public administrations within modern economic systems.

The students are expected to acquire:

* An adequate understanding of the role and relative weight of the public system's performance vis-à-vis a nation's competitiveness.
* An in-depth understanding of how public administrations are run at a national and international level.
* The capacity to analyse and tackle public management issues in order to identify the range for action and the tools with respect to modernizing Italy's public administration.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* General overview of the public sector.
* The role of public administrations in respect to a country’s competitiveness.
* Historical evolution of public entities: from the exercise of powers vested by government authorities to the supply of services and regulation of the economic-social system.
* Potential and limits for applying business logic to the management of public administrations.
* Characteristics of public entities and the repercussions thereof on management.
* The relationships between central government and local administrations: decentralisation vs. autonomy.
* Traditional and innovative sources of funding.
* Organisational choices and HR management systems.
* Accounting and reporting in the public sector: the move from cash to accrual, the relevance of management accounting.
* From administrative checks to management control: how to increase managerial accountability.
* Performance measurement: users’ satisfaction; social reporting.
* Change management in public entities, and related challenges for public managers.

The syllabus with the course timetable and the list of learning materials will be posted on Blackboard.

***READING LIST***

E. Zuffada, *Una pubblica amministrazione che funziona per la crescita del Paese. Cultura, strumenti e condizioni per un reale cambiamento*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2012.

***TEACHING METHOD***

With an emphasis on developing the theoretical and practical understanding of public administrations and tackling current issues in managing public-sector companies, a combination of teaching methods is contemplated (lectures on theory, class discussion of case studies, discussions with professionals in the field and business games), so to enrich the analytical skills and the critical attitude of students.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Grading will be based on the results of a written test, lasting 60 minutes. The exam will comprise:

* multiple choice questions
* open questions.

The evaluation of the open questions will focus on the clarity of answers, their completeness, their adherence to the question asked, the use of an appropriate language.

Pass grades are equal, at least, to 18/30.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.

Attending class is warmly advised. Students must have read basic courses in business ecoomics, organisation, accounting, management control.