# Public management

## Prof. Stefano Villa

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

Public Administrations – through the production of goods and the supply of services – play a key role in the modern economic systems, and significantly influence the quality of life of individuals, as well as the productivity and competitiveness of a Country system.

Furthermore, the current global emergencies (such as the COVID-19 pandemic or climate change) teach us that it is increasingly necessary and relevant to develop common and shared planning abilities between the public sector and the world of private companies (for profit and non-profit).

Therefore, the course aims to: (i) introduce the actors and the activities of the public sector, (ii) illustrate the specificities and the mechanisms at the basis of the functioning of public administrations; (iii) explain how to measure the performance of public Institutes and programmes; (iv) know the principles and the logics of public accounting; (v) understand the implementation of the main management tools to the specific case of public administrations; (vi) analyse the different forms of interdependence between public administrations and private actors (enterprises and non-profit organisations).

At the end of the course, students will be able to

1. Know the main theoretical models explaining the functioning of public administrations;
2. Create a dashboard of indicators to measure the performance of public administrations;
3. Adapt the main business functions to the specific context of public administrations;
4. Read and write a financial statement for a local body, drafted according to the principles of public accounting;
5. Know the most relevant innovations of the procurement and the logistic function within the public sector;
6. Know the main forms of interdependence between public and private sector;
7. Analyse the pros and the cons of a *project finance* initiative;
8. Acquire the tools that are necessary for the management of public interest networks.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into five parts.

The first part (lectures 1-6) aims to understand why public administrations exist and what are their functions. First of all, it will introduce the main areas of intervention of public administrations and the key territorial authorities (supranational, national, and local), and illustrate the most important theories explaining the relevant role of the public in modern economies.

The second part of the course (lectures 7-12) will introduce the main features of the strategic and operational management of public companies, with a focus on specific business functions: (i) strategy; (ii) operations (iii) human resources management, and (iv) procurement.

The third part (lectures 13-16) will be based on the analysis of governance models, illustrating in detail the organisational conditions, the advantages, and the risks of different management models, such as (i) the creation of companies and public enterprises; (i) the outsourcing choices; (ii) public interest networks; (iii) Public-Private Partnerships; (iv) the project finance.

The last part of the course (lectures 17-24) will be focused on performance recognition and measurement systems in public administrations. It will illustrate – also through the use of case studies and practical activities – the different criteria that characterise the assessment of Public Administrations: efficiency, effectiveness, affordability, equity, legality, and ethics. In addition, it will introduce the principles and the logics at the basis of the creation of a public budget.

***READING LIST***

Cuciniello-Fattore-Longo-Ricciuti-Turrini (edited by), *Management pubblico,* Milan, Egea, 2018.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The teaching method will consist in a balanced mix of lectures, practical activities, and the discussion of case studies.

The study material for the final exam will include (i) the textbook specified in the reading list, (ii) the contents of the work carried out in class (the analysis of case studies and examples and the discussions proposed by the lecturer), (iii) the slides of the lecturer that will be made available on blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The assessment method will be different for attending and non-attending students.

*Attending students*

The assessment will be based on four elements:

1. A written interim test on the first part of the course (35% of the final mark);
2. A final written test on the second part of the course (35% of the final mark);
3. An individual assignment based on one of the case studies specified in the course content chosen by students (15% of the final mark);
4. The group work (15% of the final mark);

All the elements for the assessment (the individual assignment, the group work, the interim test, and the final exam) will be expressed in 30/30.

The students who pass the first interim test will have to take the second one no later than September 2024.

*Non-attending students*

A single written exam on the whole content of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students are invited to attend on a regular basis and actively take part to the practical activities and the discussions based on case studies. *Therefore, it will be necessary to analyse the case studies listed in the course content before their respective lecture.*

*All the case studies will be considered as an integral part of the study material for the final exam.*

The IT platform Blackboard will be used to carry out activities such as the distribution of teaching material, the submission of assignments, and the communication of results.

*Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.*