

Dear Graduate Students:

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2009 Fall semester online course, Global Issues in Public Administration (MPA 616N700). It's good to see both familiar names and new ones. Whether you have previously completed online courses or if this is entirely new to you, I hope you will find it an interesting and useful experience.

The online program moves at an accelerated pace. During the eight-week period that you will be taking this course, the workload is the equivalent of taking two graduate courses at the same time. However, you will have the flexibility and convenience of studying whenever you choose, and you will not have to spend time commuting. We hope this results in a more focused and efficient use of your time.

Since the online courses are eight weeks long, and they cover the same material as the traditional 15-week course, it is essential that we start working seriously on the subject matter on the class's start date. The luxury of taking the first two weeks to get used to a class or of falling behind and catching up later is simply not available for this type of course. Therefore, you must be prepared and ready to go from day one.

There are two textbooks for this:

- Kettl. (2003). *Global Public Management Revolution*. Brookings Institute Press (ISBN 0815764073).
- Nye and Donahue. (2000). *Governance in a Globalizing World*. Brookings Institute Press (ISBN 0815764073).

The course texts can be purchased through the Marist Bookstore (<http://marist.bkstore.com>) or other online vendors. While, I don't necessarily have a problem with students ordering their books from online vendors, please do not utilize the used text services available through many online vendors like Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Used text vendors are nice resources if you don't have a time deadline, but because these services allow smaller, less reliable vendors and/or individuals to sell used textbooks, it can sometimes take upwards of a month to get books, and by then, the course is half over. All this is to say, please make sure to obtain your textbooks before class begins, and if you cannot get the texts, it is up to you to make arrangements to get the readings.

Once the you have access to the course through iLearn, please go into the discussion room titled "Introductions" and give us an idea about what you do when you are not taking classes (i.e., where you live, work, some interests, where you got your undergraduate degree/major, how far you are in the MPA program at Marist, and any other information that might be of interest to the rest of the class).

The official start date for the course is Monday, August 31, 2009, but the course usually opened for students the preceding Friday. It is in your best interests to login and get a feel for the course before Monday.

I try to keep my online courses fairly structured. You are expected to participate in online discussions each week, and course deliverables are due on Thursdays. My general rule is that I'll post up to two chapters from a book online before I'll require everyone to purchase it. For the first week (actually it's less than a week), I've posted all the readings online – this includes two chapters from Thomas Friedman's *Lexus and the Olive Tree* and other materials for the first week. Once you get into our course within the iLearn system, the first week's material will be available under "Lessons."

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When this class is "live" (students have registered and paid and student names have been downloaded to the class roster), you may access this course simply by

Go to: <http://ilearn.marist.edu>
Enter: k-acct and password

If you are a new student (and have paid and registered), you must contact our Marist Help Desk to obtain your K-account (845-575-HELP). Technically, my office hours are on Mon. from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Wed. from 9 AM to 11 AM and on Thursdays from 7 PM to 9 PM, Eastern Standard Time. Don't be afraid to contact me by e-mail renahill@aol.com) or phone (845-454-0156). As I am not on campus, I will try to return your email or phone message as soon as possible. Please let me know what email address you will be using so that your message does not end up in spam.

Looking forward to meeting you in cyberspace,

Rena Ann Hill
Marist College