

*The Foundations of Public Administration Series* is a collection of articles written by experts in 20 content areas, providing introductory essays and recommending top articles in those subjects.

## **Public Service, Ethics, and Democracy** **A Syllabus**

*To serve in the name of democracy is to acknowledge that every public servant is a citizen and every citizen is expected to serve the common good. As a consequence, one cannot discuss the intricacies of democracy without addressing the administrative “branch” of government consisting of those public administrators/civil servants on whom ultimate responsibility rests to insure that “the laws are faithfully executed.”*

*To be sure, the effectiveness of every form of government depends wholly on the manner in which the corresponding administrative system faithfully embodies the fundamental value base that legitimizes the relevant form of governance. In the case of democracy, this means that the administrative cadres at all levels of government are expected to embrace the fundamental ethical/moral values that form the cornerstone of the democratic teleological vision.*

*Freedom, equality, and justice are the bedrock values that all who serve in the name of democracy are obligated to expound as well as protect. In addition, there follows an ancillary, but equally significant set of ethical/moral values that needs to be embraced by public administrators and citizens alike; namely, kindness, unselfishness, and beneficence.*

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## *Foundations of Public Administration*

Public Service, Ethics, and Democracy

*Louis C. Ganthrop*

The articles contained in this syllabus, "Public Service, Ethics, and Democracy," have been selected to demonstrate the extent to which ethical/moral values are deeply and widely embedded in our democratic system. The prime challenge for the students who move through the subsequent sets of articles is to integrate the ethical elements examined here into a viable and dynamic ethical system capable of guiding democracy through the challenges and demands of a Twenty-first Century network of *global governance*. Public service in a global mode cannot be ignored; the future begins in the present.

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**Louis C. Gawthrop** is currently an Eminent Scholar and Professor of Government and Public Administration at the University of Baltimore. He received a B.A. degree from Franklin and Marshall College, M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from The Johns Hopkins University, and a Master of Divinity degree from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, M.A. Dr. Gawthrop has previously taught at Indiana University-Bloomington, the State University of New York—Binghamton, and the University of Pennsylvania, has been a visiting research fellow at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Harvard Divinity School, and the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, where he pursued advanced study in theology, ethics, and public policy, and has been the Distinguished Visiting Tinbergen Professor of Social Sciences at Erasmus University in the Netherlands.

Dr. Gawthrop was the 1998 recipient of the American Political Science Association's John Gaus Award for a lifetime of exemplary scholarship in the tradition of political science and public administration. He has contributed to numerous volumes on public administration and has written numerous articles on ethics and public sector administrative process. He is the author of five books: *Bureaucratic Behavior in the Executive Branch* (The Free Press), *Administrative Politics and Social Change* (St. Martin's Press), *The Administrative Process and Democratic Theory* (Houghton Mifflin), *Public Sector Management, Systems, and Ethics* (Indiana University Press), and *Public Service and Democracy: Ethical Imperatives for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (CQ Press [ne. Chatham House Publishers]). He is co-author (with Virginia B. Gawthrop) of *Public Administrative Review Cumulative Index 1940-1979*. Dr. Gawthrop was editor-in-chief of *Public Administration Review* from 1978 to 1984.

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