Course Description

This course traces the intellectual currents in the historical field of public administration and its more contemporary companions of public policy and public management. The course provides an in depth introduction to research and theory about public administration. It is intended to familiarize students with major research streams in the field and issues and debates involved in them. Further, it is intended to assist students in thinking about and planning their own research directions.

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce doctoral students to the historic intellectual conversations about the nature and scope of American public administration, public management, and public policy. This introduction will facilitate the ability to:

a. develop a “cognitive map” of the major contributors and their intellectual relationships;

b. identify the major theoretical and practical issues in the field and some of the answers that have already been given;

c. examine research approaches utilized to address public administration questions;

d. develop the ability to think critically, synthetically, and to develop new theory;

e. learn the craft of writing academic papers;

f. develop familiarity with some of the literatures relevant to public administration.

Course Requirements

1. Reading Assignments. Students are expected to read the weekly assignments and to participate actively in discussions.

2. Students will regularly be assigned to analyze and report on specific readings in class. For the assigned report, a memo analyzing the reading will be distributed to the class – no more than three pages in length.
3. Each student will select a paper delivered at the National Public Management Research Association Conference (PMRA) and write a critique of it.

4. Readings Presentations   20%
   Seminar Participation   20%
   2 Book Analyses and Critiques  30%
   Research Design Papers  30%

Assignments

1. **The first assignment: Research presentations** are to be prepared to discuss the readings for the day through the preparation of critiques of the week’s readings. Prepare the memo according to the presentation guidelines.

   **How to Exchange Files**
   Summaries and critiques should be made available to the class by Tuseday night so that we have enough time to read, think about, and formulate our questions before class on Tuesday.

   To make the copies available to your colleagues, email a copy of your review to everyone in the class (including the professor).

2. **The second assignment: Seminar participation** is dependent upon how well you summarize, critique, and present the article AND listen and react to the presentation made by your peers of their assigned articles. Class discussion will bring out the subtleties, connections to other works, and the relevance and power of these ideas for modern theory and practice. Your assignment includes reading others’ critiques the night before, listening to their presentation and providing your own critique. Most of the readings tend to be quite short but nonetheless, compact and intense. Although one person will be responsible for leading the class discussion, I will ask others to comment about the reading.

   Please do not read your critiques! You should understand the reading and your critique of the work sufficiently that you need only refer to your notes, not read from them.

3. **The third assignment: Write a critique of the two books**, Kevin B. Smith and Christopher Larimer, *The Public Policy Theory Primer* AND Kevin B. Smith and H. George Frederickson, *The Public Administration Theory Primer*. A set of guidelines will be presented for this assignment. You will project one of your critiques at the end of the quarter.

4. **The fourth assignment: Write a research design for a public management or public policy problem.**
Text

The following three books that are available at SBX Bookstore and Barnes & Noble Bookstore located on High Street:


Make-ups will only be given for those students who become ill or have a death in their immediate family. Papers which are one day late (after the hour on the day due in the seminar) will have the grade lowered one-half and two days late – a full grade, and more than two days late will receive a 0. No late presentations will be accepted. No incompletedes will be given. However, if you have flu symptoms – coughing, sneezing, runny nose, or fever, etc., do not come to class and contaminate your classmates. Please e-mail the instructor and alternate arrangements will be made.

I. August 22: Introduction and the Big Ideas of Public Administration


II. August 29: Research Design

Research Questions and Designs

III. September 5: Public Management – The Field

Laurence Lynn, “Public Management: A Concise History of the Field.


H. George Frederickson, “Whatever Happened to Public Administration”. 


IV. September 12: Public Policy – The Field

Peter DeLeon, “The Historical Roots of the Field”.

Kevin B. Smith, “Economic Techniques”.

Jonathan Wolf and Dick Haubrich, “Economism and its Limits”.


Rudolf Klein and Theodore Marmor, “Reflections on Policy Analysis”.

V. September 19: Classics of Public Administration

Fry and Raadschelders, chapters 1 - 9

Reports on:


Luther Gulick and Lyndall Urwick, eds., Papers on the Science of Administration, Institute of Public Administration, 1937.


**VI. September 26: “Public and Private Management”**

Hal G. Rainey and Young Han Chun, “Public and Private Management Compared”.


Policy Letter – Office of Management and Budget on Inherently Public Functions
VII. October 3: Research Issues


VIII. October 10: Decision Making and Strategic Management


IX. October 17: Accountability and Control


X. October 24: The Environment of Public Management and Policy


XI. October 31: Administrative Reform


XII. November 7: Comparative Public Management


Jos Raadschelders, Commentary

Jamil Jreisat, Commentary

Kristen Andersson, Commentary

Nilima Gulrasani and Kim Moloney, Commentary


XIII. November 14: Public Law and Public Administration


XIV. November 21: NO CLASS

XV. November 28: Presentation of Research Design Papers

DISABILITY STATEMENT

THIS MATERIAL IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL’S OFFICE AT 292-8696 FOR ASSISTANCE. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THEIR NEEDS KNOWN AND FOR SEEKING THE AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE IN A TIMELY MANNER.