This Proseminar reviews theories, concepts, and research in the field of public administration and focuses on emerging areas of scholarship and practice. It draws from interdisciplinary literature in the areas of public administration, organizational behavior and leadership, and management science and practice.

The primary focus of this course will be on administrative theory. More specifically, this course will focus on the following five domains: 1) the philosophical roots of the field and epistemology; 2) public administration and democracy: democratic theory, leadership, power, and conflict; 3) modern history and structure of public administration; 4) theories of public organizations and environments; 5) professionalization of and education for the public service.

Four sets of interrelated topics are outlined to guide the study in this class: a) Macro Field Theory—Definition of the field and epistemology used for its study; b) Public Administration and Democracy—Roots and current thinking; c) Public Organizations and Historical Experience—Theories and practice; and d) Enduring and Contemporary Issues—Discipline of democracy, professionalism, and the search for responsible leadership. Reading materials are suggested under each topic and you will find overlap in the usefulness of the reading materials in different subject areas. It is therefore highly recommended that you do the readings well in advance. Books are marked with a (b) in the readings, while articles have the first name of the author and an (a). The latter may be downloaded from the library databases using a social science index such as JSTOR or Academic Onefile. The course will also have a CANVAS site available to students.

Class sessions will be conducted as seminars. A substantial burden for maintaining productive dialogue will rest upon class participants, therefore we must all keep up with class readings. Questions are posed under each domain simply as a guide for discussion; certainly these are not all of the questions these topics will lead us to explore. You will develop your own resources throughout the course, providing opportunity for developing your abilities to define and master topics, a critical skill for inquiry. Challenge yourself by identifying and reading authors with differing views.
Required Texts


**Recommended Texts** (particularly necessary for those who do not have academic background in public administration)


**Recommended Reading (ASPA Book Talk Series)**


Required Articles


**Written Assignments**

This course will have four written assignments; the first is worth 10% of your grade, the last 3 assignment are worth 30% each. All written assignments should be turned is as double spaced, paper copies (unless otherwise stated), and turned in on the date due.

1. Each week a student from the class will lead discussion on one of the journal articles. The number of presentation per student will depend on the number of students in the class. As part of the assignment, the student must post their discussion guide to the timeline on Canvas by **5pm the day before class**. The discussion guide should include the key points of the day’s reading, a description of new concepts and methods, and at least three questions for class discussion. On the scheduled day, the student(s) will then be expected to present the main ideas from the readings and to lead class discussion.

**Template for Discussion Guide (1 page)**

**Subject:** Date – Topic (as listed in syllabus)
Summary: up to 300 words summarizing the key points of the reading; reference back to earlier course readings if there are important connections

Concepts: list new (major) concepts or terminology, and include a definition and page citation

Methods: briefly describe the research methods and data used in the readings; describe in more detail if it is a method we have not yet discussed in class

Discussion Questions: include at least 3 questions for class discussion

2. Chose a nation that you are familiar with, students are encouraged to go outside of the United States. Write a paper focused on two topics (a) chief policy issue now confronting the public sector of that nation and (b) the major elements (e.g. structure, policy strategies and ideology) of the nation’s public sector. You may turn to news reports (e.g. The Economist, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal), public policy journals (e.g. The Public Interest, Social Policy, Public Policy, Policy Analysis, Policy Science) as to academic journals with comparative studies (e.g. Comparative Politics, Public Management, Foreign Affairs, etc.). This is a good opportunity to perfect your familiarity with the variety of indexes available for social science research. The product will be a 10-15 page paper presenting the results of your efforts.

3. Develop a “reader” on administrative theory. This reader should identify articles, selection of books, or other printed materials which you believe best captures issues at the forefront of the study of the field of public administration. Review recent issues of Public Administration Review, Administrative Science Quarterly, Administration and Society, Harvard Business Review, and Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory. The product of this effort will be an 8-12 page analytical essay in which you justify your selections (in the style for an introductory chapter to a book of readings) and an annotated bibliography of about 25 sources with a listing of your selections with complete bibliographic citations. This assignment should help you study for your comprehensive exams.

4. Finally, each class participant will write a seminar research paper on a topic of their own choice. A 500 word proposal is due week 9. The topic chosen must be within the field of administrative theory, but within that constraint, it should be one that truly interests you. Some students may find this a good opportunity to work through theoretical issues related to their anticipated dissertations. This paper will be due on the last class and should be around 20 pages.
Course Topics

A. Macro Field Theory—Definition of the field and epistemology used for its study
Readings: Shafritz and Hyde (b); Behn, Robert D.; Finer, Herman; Stevenson, Max and Jeremy Plant; Plant, Jeremy; Waldo, Dwight; Wilson, James Q. (a).

Week 1, Feb 7, 2017 - Frameworks in Practice— What distinguishes a field from a discipline? What constitutes the field of public administration in practice including its boundaries: public/private partnerships, administration, governance and management, etc.? What historical frameworks account for enduring and emerging issues? How is publicness defined? How are boundaries set and expanded? Who are the boundary theorists?

Week 2, Feb 14, 2017 - Conduct of Inquiry— How do public administration practitioners and scholars define knowledge and its limits in the field, accomplish learning, conduct research, and use information and understanding? How does this field answer the question, how do we know what we know? Are old debates between Simon and Waldo, Simon and Dahl, Simon and Banfield still relevant? What other debates may we consider? How are information technologies redefining the field theory wise?

Week 3, Feb 21, 2017 - Philosophical Roots— What philosophical orientations have been and are now basic to public administration? Consider rationalism, humanism, positivism, utilitarianism, pragmatism, critical theory, are there others?

Week 4, Feb 28, 2017 - How are theories of human behavior understood and used in public administration? What about leadership theory? What is James Q Wilson referring to in the “Moral Sense”?

B. Public Administration and Democracy—Roots and current thinking
Readings: Roberts (b); Bertelli, Anthony M., and Laurence E. Lynn, Jr; Hill, Larry B; Putnam, Robert D; Guo, Chao, Rubin, I. (a)

Week 5, March 7, 2017 - Political theory—How do theories of roles of the state, government, and other political institutions impact public administration? In particular, how do ideas of constitutional democracy (civic duty/public service, responsibility/accountability; limited government and individual rights as well as alternatives to them relate to political theory?

Week 6, March 14, 2017 - Economic Theory—What has gone into the making of economic society and what are the linkages to administrative theory? How has privatization and contracting changed the role of government? What role those accountability play in this new reality? How are public economics and private economics alike and different?
Week 7, March 21, 2017 — ASPA Conference- Policy Issue in industrialized nation assignment due by Friday, March 24th at 5 pm. Please post on Canvas or leave in my mailbox.

Week 8, March 28, 2017 – Spring Break

C. Public Organizations and Historical Experience—Theories and practice
Readings: Pollitt and Bouckaert (b); Battaglio, R Paul, Jr; Legge, Jerome S, Jr; DiIulio, John D. Jr; Ahn and Bretschneider, O’Toole, L.J. (a)

Week 9, April 4, 2017 -Bureaucracy and Alternatives—How have concepts and practices of bureaucracy developed from Max Weber into the 2010s? How are they similar in the US for profit, nonprofit, nongovernmental public, and varied public organizations? How do contemporary concepts such as the new public management, organizational reengineering, six-sigma relate to concepts and practices of bureaucracy? Do Shafritz’s expositions on theories of public organizations fit US practices? Are the same adaptable to practices outside of the US? Proposal for research paper due.

Week 10, April 11, 2017 -Systems Theory—How has general systems theory seeking patterns generic to performance of all systems impacted public administration? What systems thinking presently predominates in US national government? How about State and local governments?

Week 11, April 18, 2017 -Historical Perspective—What have we learned from reforms? What theories remain important? Presentations of reader with annotated bibliography and assignment due.

D. Enduring and Contemporary Issues—Discipline of democracy, professionalism, and the search for responsible leadership.
Readings: Meier, K.J. (a); Gooden, S.T. (a); Laegreid, P. & Rykkja, L.H (a); Newland, Chester(a) Recommended reading: Kettl, D. (b); Epp, C.R., Maynard-Moody, S., & Haider-Markel, D. (b).

Week 12, April 25, 2017 -A Field of Disciplines—What theories bring greatest discipline to the field of public administration? From what disciplines and fields are these disciplines derived? Are any theories chiefly associated with public administration? How is the increasingly interdisciplinary character of studies and practice generally impacting theory building at large, and more specifically, in Public Administration?

Week 13, May 2, 2017 -Professionalism and Politics—What standards define professionalism in Public Administration. How is professionalism defined in cultures outside the US? What role do the appointed officials play in the administration of
agencies? Is it possible to reconcile professionally expert administration with constitutionally democratic politics?

**Week 14, May 19, 2017** – Contemporary Issues and Future Development—What are the great issues of importance to and in administrative theory today that are not already focused in this syllabus? What does the future hold for field? Will privatization and contracting change the mandate of government? Will the nonprofit and for profit sectors continue to be large service providers?

**Week 15, May 16, 2017** – Presentation of seminar research paper and assignment due.