INSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
PAD 500 FINAL PAPER REQUIREMENTS

I. THE ESSENTIALS

Length:  **Papers are to be no more than 15 pages** (12 pt., Times New Roman font with 1” margins). **Please double-space your paper.**

Due Date:  **Tuesday, May 6th in class**

Late Papers: Please note, if for any reason you are unable to turn in your paper on the due date and time, you will be granted an automatic extension until Friday, May 9th at noon. Papers should be placed in my mail folder in Milne Hall or under my door - Milne 300C.

If I have not received your paper by noon *for any reason* (including putting your paper in the wrong location) it is late and points will be deducted.

*I do not accept papers via e-mail.*

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a violation of intellectual honesty. Plagiarism is passing off another person’s work as one’s own the ideas, writings, creations, or inventions of another. It makes no difference whether the source is a student or a professional in some field. For example, in written work whenever as much as a sentence or key phrase is taken from the work of another without specific citation of the source, the issue of plagiarism arises. Paraphrasing is the close restatement of another’s idea using approximately the language of the original. Paraphrasing without acknowledgment of authorship is also plagiarism and is as serious a violation as unacknowledged quotation (taken from Alisa J. Rosenthal).

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

II. EXPECTATIONS:

There are a number of criteria that I will be looking for:

1. Argument:
   a. Original argument
   b. Clear and precise thesis statement
   c. Well-supported with specific examples and references to text and lectures
   d. Answers the question directly
   e. Not only understands the material, but has original analysis
   f. Counterarguments: Good papers don’t shy away from potential critics to the argument. Why might someone disagree with your analysis? How would you defend your argument?

2. Organization
   Coherent argument and structure

3. Punctuation and grammar
   Proofread!
“A” papers: Excellent papers that will have an interesting and original argument, clear and precise thesis. These papers will demonstrate the argument by using examples from the text we have read, in class lectures, as well as reference current events, journals and newspaper articles. “A” papers do not shy away from disagreement or taking strong stands, they address counterarguments. “A” papers have a very clear argument and structure free from grammatical mistakes.

“B” papers: Good papers with a strong argument and a clear thesis. These papers draw on the text and current events and demonstrate a solid understanding of the material. “B” papers engage the material in a meaningful way and offer original analysis. These papers identify potential critics and have no major structural or grammatical mistakes.

“C” Papers: Average papers that do not offer original argument or have one or more major problems: structure, grammar and punctuation, argument.

“D” Papers: Unsatisfactory papers that fail to offer an argument about the material or seriously misunderstand the text. These papers often bear evidence of having been hastily or carelessly written.

III. TOPIC
Politicians, reporters, and the general public like to curse the incompetence of public bureaucracy. After an entire semester as a public administration student, you have learned enough to evaluate the merits of their complaints. In this final paper you will be analyzing the administrative, institutional, and political opportunities and constraints that public bureaucracy operates under in America.

Pick an issue or event relevant to public administration and of interest to you. This could be a piece of legislation (like No Child Left Behind) or a particular failure of an administrative agency (such as the EPA’s failure to enforce particular pollution standards). Research the issue through online and/or paper sources.

1. Analyze the opportunities and constraints in which public administration operates in this case. You should include both the way that public administration works in theory and the way that it works in practice (i.e. the part that politics plays).
2. Explain the outcomes, and possible alternatives.
3. Offer your own conclusions. Given your knowledge of public administration, what ought to have happened.