Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy  
University at Albany  
State University of New York  

PAD 709 – Foundations of Public Administration  

Fall 2011  
Class # 9039

Syllabus

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Office hours (Milne 206):  Wednesday  2:30 – 3:30

This course is built on the premise that every student pursuing doctoral studies in public administration and policy, regardless of area of specialization, should be knowledgeable about the intellectual history of public administration, including the ideas, theories, practices, and debates fundamental to the evolution of the field from its inception to the present.

“Contemporary public administrative thought and practice do not lend themselves to an encompassing synthesis or a single point of view.”

Required Books


“In its careful scholarship, its ambitious intent, and particularly its unprecedented synthesis of historical, theoretical, legal, and formal forms of analysis, Madison’s Managers offers a contribution nonpareil—one designed to reshape the field in fundamental ways.”

Required Journal Articles
Recommended


Selected Field Journals
*Public Administration Review (PAR)*
*Journal of the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)*

*Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (JPART)*
*Journal of the Public Management Research Association*

*Journal of Public Policy and Management (JPPAM)*
*Journal of the Association of Public Policy and management (APPAM)*

*Administration and Society*

*Academy of Management Review (AMR)*  *Journal of the Academy of Management*

Course Requirements
1. Contributions to seminar discussion based on course readings  20%
2. Seminar discussion questions and guidance  10%
3. Literature review  20%
4. Book analysis  20%
5. Course syllabus and final paper (20-25 pages)  30%
COURSE SCHEDULE

August 21

COURSE ORIENTATION: BECOMING A DOCTORAL SEMINAR
IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

"If spiraling social complexity has made government and its administration even more important, what ideas ought to
guide the task of making government work?"


AUGUST 30

SEP 6

SEP 13

PAD 709 MINI-COURSE
GUEST FACULTY INSTRUCTOR
PROFESSOR JOHN ROHRBAUGH

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A REFORM MOVEMENT

SEP 20

Woodrow Wilson, *The Study of Administration.* 1887. (Classics)

Frank J. Goodnow. *Politics and Administration: A Study in Government.* 1900. (Classics)

Bertelli and Lynn, pp. 1-43.

SEP 27


"The story of the construction of public administration unfolded within this gendered context, and certain aspects of it
can be understood only when gender is taken into account."


Reference


Book Analysis due
TOWARD A SCIENCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Oct 4

"In the first half of the twentieth century, scientific management was gospel and Frederick W. Taylor was its prophet." (Shafritz and Hyde, Classics, p. 9).


William F. Willoughby. The Movement for Budgetary Reform in the States. 1918. (Classics)

Max Weber. Bureaucracy. (Classics)

"For students of public administration, his concept forms one of the essential intellectual building blocks in our understanding of the formal institutional structure of public administration." (Richard J. Stillman, Public Administration, concepts and Cases, 1996, p. 57)

Louis Brownlow, Charles E. Merriam, and Luther Gulick. Report of the President’s Committee on Administrative Management. 1937. (Classics)

CHALLENGES TO THE "ORTHODOXY"

Oct 11
Chester Barnard, “Informal Organizations and Their relation to Formal Organizations,” The Functions of the Executive. 1938. (Classics)

Herbert A. Simon, “The Proverbs of Administration." 1946. (Classics)

Dwight Waldo, The Administrative State." 1948. (Classics)


Paul Appleby, “Government is Different.” 1945. (Classics)


Bertelli and Lynn, 44-60.

References
Mary Parker Follett, “The Giving of Orders.” 1926. (Classics)

THE NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND ITS CRITICS

Oct 18

[continued]


Recommended

IN SEARCH OF NEW SYNTHESIS:
FROM GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNANCE

Oct 25


Reference
PAR Symposium on Collaborative Governance. 2006. Articles in Vol. 22 (November Supplement)

Literature Review due

WALDO RE-VISITED

Nov 1
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A FIELD OF INQUIRY: A REINTERPRETATION

Nov 8

Nov 15  RESEARCH FOR FINAL PAPER AND SYLLABUS

IMAGINING THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE:
PROMISING IDEAS, THEMES, APPROACHES

Nov 22
Nov 29


Dec 6  IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS OF COURSE SYLLABI

Dec 6 - 12  COURSE SYLLABUS AND FINAL PAPER DUE