

# Principles of Public Administration & Democratic Governance (20:834:501) [3 credits]

## Course Description

This course introduces students to the theoretical, intellectual, historical, institutional, and constitutional foundations of American public administration. We will explore the intersection between public administration theory and practice and examine many of the practical challenges currently affecting the American administrative state at all levels of government, including recent opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

## Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Explain what public administration is and why it is critical to the practice of American government and the democratic governance process.
- Identify seminal scholars, theories, and some of the political, economic, and social dynamics associated with the historical evolution of the American administrative state.
- Apply theories of democratic governance to the practice of public management and running the American Constitution.
- Develop an understanding for how and how the American Constitution and the rule of law legitimate U.S. public administration in theory and practice.
- Improve writing quality, analytical thinking, and oral presentation skills.

## Requirements

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Assigned weekly readings from textbooks and other materials.
- Discussion of Supreme Court cases and their relevance to American public administration and democratic governance.
- Group presentation of assigned materials.
- Final examination covering key concepts discussed throughout the course.

## Schedule / Outline of Topics

- Week 1: Course Introduction
- Week 2: Developing a Comprehensive Understanding for What Public Administration Is & What Makes It Different from the Private & Nonprofit Sectors
- Week 3: Politics & Public Administration
- Week 4: Federalism, Intergovernmental Relations, & Public Administration
- Week 5: Bureaucracy & Public Administration
- Week 6: Connecting Public Administration with Organization Theory, Practice, Behavior, & Change I
- Week 7: Connecting Public Administration with Organization Theory, Practice, Behavior, & Change II
- Week 8: Public Administration & Human Resources Management
- Week 9: Public Administration, Public Policy & Analysis, & Program Evaluation

*This is a sample syllabus. Students should always obtain syllabi for their current courses from their professors.  
(v. 1/23/24)*

- Week 11: Public Administration & Public Management
- Week 12: Public Administration, Accountability & Public Service Ethics
- Week 13: Public Administration & Democratic Constitutionalism
- Week 14: Group Presentations
- Week 15: Group Presentations

### **Texts / Materials / Resources**

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

- Rosenbloom, David H. and Howard E. McCurdy, editors. 2006. *Revisiting Waldo's Administrative State: Constancy and Change in Public Administration*. Washington: Georgetown University Press.
- Shafritz, Jay M. and Albert C. Hyde. 2012. *Classics of Public Administration*. Boston: Wadsworth.
- Waldo, Dwight. 1948. *The Administrative State: A Study of the Political Theory of American Public Administration*. New York: Ronald Press Company.
- Selected academic articles that can be downloaded from the University Library's webpage and U.S. Supreme Court opinions that can be downloaded from the Court's website at [www.supremecourt.gov/opinions](http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions).