

*Course Objective*

This course is designed to explore significant developments and themes in the theory of public administration, especially American public administration. The seminar builds on more basic courses in public administration and is intended in part to assist students in preparation for doctoral preliminary examinations in public administration; enrolled students should already have completed the basic courses. Major foci in this seminar include the historical development of public administration as a body of thought and as a theory of politics; the enduring theme of public administration and democracy; various possible unifying themes, theories, and criteria; and prospects for the future. The course is aimed at encouraging advanced students to refine their abilities to identify, analyze, interpret, critique, evaluate, and contribute to the literature and intellectual developments of this field of scholarship, as well as to place current and emerging trends in broader context.