

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam in Public Administration
Spring 2016

*Answer **three** of the following questions in **4.5 hours**, avoiding duplication between answers where possible. Remember to demonstrate a comprehensive command of the literature by discussing the scholars and/or movements that are relevant to each response.*

Good luck!

1. In *Mastering Public Administration: From Max Weber to Dwight Waldo*, Bryan Fry and Jos Raadschelders present intellectual biographies of Max Weber, Frederick Taylor, Luther Gulick, Mary Parker Follett, Elton Mayo, Chester Barnard, Herbert Simon, Charles Lindblom, and Dwight Waldo. Compare and contrast the main ideas and contributions of any two of these major figures to the development of the field of public administration.
2. Assume John A. Rohr was correct in insisting that “constitutions matter” to the theory and practice of public administration and write an essay seeking to substantiate that claim with respect to the United States, whether based on Rohr’s work, that of others, or your own perspectives.
3. Daniel Mazmanian and Paul Sabatier argue that the study of policy implementation starts with a policy decision made by central government. The top-down approach assumes a direct link between policies and observed outcomes and tends to ignore the impact of policy implementers on policy delivery. Other scholars led by Michael Lipsky and others, offer the counter argument that policy implementation is more about the network of actors involved in actual policy delivery. Trace the recent (last 5-10 years) research that supports the bottom up approach to policy implementation.
4. Public administration’s current emphasis on “management” and related concepts stemming from New Public Management raise important issues about democratic government, effective government service provision, and responsiveness to citizens. Formulate three research questions that address each of these issues. Then draw on scholarly literature to speculate on answers to the questions.
5. If you could change one thing about the performance movement, what would it be and why? Answer this question with the following issues in mind: democratic governance, the role of policy analysis in governance, and citizen demand for effective government.