

# ***POL 325/525, Comparative Administrative Systems***

Donald R. Burkholder, Ph.D  
Term I

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the structures, forms, control and / or level of citizen participation of public and quasi-public agencies primarily in western representative democracies, with some comparisons with developing systems. Bureaucracy and its forms of cultural adaptation. Comparisons of the relationship between political and economic systems. Regime-type related to bureaucratic structure or behavior as influenced by the political economy, and ultimate delivery of services and / or policy goals.

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## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To develop an awareness of the differing structures, forms, control, and level of citizen participation of public and quasi-public agencies primarily in western representative democracies, with some comparisons with Japan, the developing systems, and other systems as necessitated by the development of the 'global village'. Bureaucracy; centralization and decentralization, and forms of cultural economic and political adaptation. Regime type related to bureaucratic structure, functioning, behavior, level and meaning of 'merit system' or 'civil service' characteristics. Ultimate delivery of services and / or policy goals.

## **RATIONALE**

Comparative administrative system is a logical subject of study in the field of international politics and economics. Weber's model of ideal bureaucracy serves as the focal point for a comparison and contrast of public and quasi-public administrative systems in the relatively open systems, e.g., the western democracies, as well as the relatively restrictive bureaucracies in developing countries. The extent and form of regulation of political and economic freedom can be contrasted by reviewing the respective administrative systems, especially in light of varying forms and relative power of chief executive leadership. Although the field of comparative public administration was widely acknowledged as a worthwhile area of study in the 1950s and 1960s, when it attempted to be "theory building" rather than "practitioner oriented," its alleged over-emphasis on so-called theory building led to some decline in the demand for study in this sub-field of public administration. A set of readings has been designed to expose the student to a comparison of administrative systems at a time when differing forms of privatization and decentralization are being attempted with varying degrees of success in various states.

DRB

## **POL 325/525, COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Donald R. Burkholder, Ph.D.

#### **BOOKS**

**Bureaucracy in the Modern State: An Introduction to Comparative Public Administration.** Brookfield, Vermont: E. Elgar Publishing Co., 1995.

**Ethics in American Public Service.** Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Periodicals Press, 1995.

**Comparative Public Management: Putting U.S. Public Policy and Implementation in Context.** Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1994.

**Globalization and Marketization of Government Services: Comparing Contemporary Public Service Developments.** New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997.

Ferrel Heady, **Public Administration: A Comparative Perspective.** Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1966.

**Lessons from Experience: Experiential Learning in Administrative Reforms in Eight Democracies.** Oslo/Boston: Scandinavian University Press, 1996.

**Modern Systems of Government: Exploring the Role of Bureaucrats and Politicians.** Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1997.

Frieder Naschold, **Public Sector Transformation: Rethinking Markets and Hierarchies in Government,** Philadelphia: J. Benjamins Press, 1996.

B. Guy Peters, **The Future of Governing: Four Emerging Models.** Lawrence, Kans.: University of Kansas Press, 1996.

-----, **The Politics of Bureaucracy: A Comparative Perspective.** New York: Longman, 1978.

**Politics an Administration in Changing Societies: Essays in Honour of Professor: Fred W. Riggs.** New. Delhi: Associated Publishing House, 1992.

**Public Administration in Developed Democracies: A Comparative Study.** New York: M. Dekker, 1988.

Fred W. Riggs, **Administration in Developing Countries: The Theory of Prismatic Society**. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1964.

**Public Sector Reform: Rationale, Trends and Problems**. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications, 1997.

W. Hardy Wickwar, **Power and Service: A Cross-National Analysis of Public Administration**. New York: Greenwood Press, 1991.

#### ARTICLES

Robert Dahl et. al, "The Science of Public Administration: Three Problems." **Public Administration Review**. Vol. 7, No.1.

Woodrow Wilson, "The Study of Administration," **Political Science Quarterly**, 2 (June 1987): 197-222.

Max Weber, "Characteristics of Bureaucracy," in **Essays in Sociology**, translated and edited by H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. Oxford University Press, Inc. From Richard J. Stillman II (5<sup>th</sup>). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1992.

**POL 325/525**

**COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS**

**CLASS OUTLINE\***

Donald R. Burkholder

Special requirements:

- 1) A term paper/annotated bibliography of 20 pp. minimum plus annotated bibliography is required for graduate students. A minimum of 10 pages plus annotated bibliography is required for undergraduates. Due the Monday of the last week of class, at the beginning of class.
- 2) Readings are on reserve at the McNichols Library Circulation Desk.
- 3) Readings should be completed by the date indicated; and homework is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned.
- 4) Make-up quizzes and exams are not given; late assignments are not accepted.
- 5) A subscription to the Wall Street Journal is required.

W, Sept. 8      Distribution of course description, outline, reading list, and bibliography, political process model, single member district system model, centralized, disciplined compared with decentralized, relatively undisciplined political parties; budgeting model, administrative employment model; administrative discretion (American, separation of powers-based, for purpose of contrasting with parliamentary system). Classical liberalism. Proportional representation. Discussion of the meaning, concepts of Public and Comparative Administration, its utility, etc.

F, Sept. 10      Continued discussion of concepts presented last class. Distribution of basic articles on U.S. public administration.

Woodrow Wilson, "The Study of Public Administration," *Political Science Quarterly* 2 June 1987, 197-222.

Norton E. Long, "Power and Administration," *Public Administration Review* 1949.

M, Sept. 13      Discussion of articles distributed Friday.  
Distribution of new material.

Readings on the fields of development administration and comparative administration, from V. Subramaniam, (ed)., *Public Administration in the Third World: An International Hand book*. Greenwood Press: New York, 1990, and from Raph E. Chandler & Jack C. Plano, *The Public Administration Dictionary*. Santa Barbara, CA.: ABC-Clio, 1988.

W, Sept. 15 Discussion of previously assigned readings.  
Discussion of possible term paper / annotated bibliography topics.

F, Sept. 17 Discussion of previously assigned readings.

Distribution of Robert Dahl et. al., "The Science of Public Administration: Three Problems," *Public Administration Review* Vol. 7, No. 1, Washington D.C. (The case for comparisons based on scientific inquiry.)

-and-

Robert V. Prethus, "Behavior and Bureaucracy in Many Cultures," *Administrative Questions and Political Answers*, American Political Science Association, 1966, pp. 501-510.

M, Sept. 20 Meet in the McNichols Library Reference area. Librarian will discuss and teach library resources, annotated bibliography, etc. ATTENDANCE REQUIRED.

W, Sept. 22 Discuss previously assigned readings, possible research topics.

Readings on the impact of international trade and direct foreign investment on the national levels.

Justification of term paper / annotated bibliography topic, supporting bibliography.

F, Sept. 24 Readings on bureaucracy, its pervasiveness, from Max Weber, "Characteristics of Bureaucracy" Anthony Downs, *Inside Bureaucracy* (discussed in the context of comparative systems, i.e., separation of power or presidential, vs. parliamentary.

M, Sept. 27 First Mid-Term, first hour of class.

W, Sept. 29 Readings on the ecology and anatomy of organization in the public sector, from Berkley and Rouse, *The Craft of Public Administration*, and from Machiavelli, in *The Prince*, on the uses and control of administrative mechanisms.

F, Oct. 1 Discussion of readings, review of exam.

- M, Oct. 4 Readings on environmental policy and management in the European Community vs. the United States.
- W, Oct. 6 Readings on the search for governmental efficiency. Efficiency vs. effectiveness in a democratic system.
- F, Oct. 8 RESEARCH DAY. NO CLASS MEETING. WORK ON TERM PAPER/ ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
- M, Oct. 11 Guest speaker or video re European Union, and / or NAFTA.
- W, Oct. 13 Readings as assigned.
- F, Oct. 15 Readings on the search for governmental efficiency, recycling or reinventing, etc.
- M, Oct. 18 Anthony Downs, Inside Bureaucracy (discussed in the context of comparative systems, i.e., separation of power, parliamentary systems, etc.
- W, Oct 20 (OPTIONAL) DRAFT of Term Paper/ Annotated Bibliography Due, at **beginning of class**. Readings comparing environmental policy and management in the European Community and the United States.
- F, Oct. 22 Readings on the ecology and anatomy of organizations in the Public Sector, from Berkley and Rouse, "The Craft of Public Administration."

\* Subject to change.

## **POL 325/525, COMPARATIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS**

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

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Quizzes, Written Assignments, Homework	20% (averaged over term, lowest percentage dropped)
First Exam	15%
Second Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Participation*	15%
Annotated Bibliography/Term Paper & Presentation	20%

\* The expectation is that participation will be based on class reading, class discussion, individual research, and/or guest speaker presentations. In other words, familiarity with the material assigned and/or covered will contribute positively to class understanding of the concepts dealt with.