

Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam in Public Administration Fall 2014

*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. John Gaus offered a framework for understanding the nature of U.S. government through the 1940s. Describe how, and discuss why, the administrative state has evolved as it has since Woodrow Wilson's classic article "The Study of Administration" (1887). What forces have driven that evolution, why, and how?
2. Woodrow Wilson is often viewed as the founder of the self-conscious, systematic study of public administration in the United States. In his famous essay on "The Study of Administration," Wilson asserted that "The field of administration is a field of business. It is removed from the hurry and strife of politics; it at most points stands apart even from the debatable ground of constitutional study." Assuming that "constitutional study" includes constitutional law as declared by the U.S. federal courts, a very large corpus of constitutional study has developed since Wilson's day. Write a brief essay explaining the relationship between contemporary U.S. constitutional law and U.S. public administration.
3. Three groups of scholars grew disenchanted with the shape that the administrative state had taken and how we were studying it over the past three decades of the 20th century: the New Public Administration, Public Choice, and the Blacksburg Manifesto. What were their critiques of practice and theory building? What prescriptions did they offer for "fixing" them? How enduring have their contributions to theory and practice been?
4. Public administration has incorporated concepts and theories from a variety of disciplines over the years, including sociology, economics, industrial engineering, political science, business, and history. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the contributions of any two disciplines to the development of public administration, being sure to identify the contributions of particular scholars in that development.
5. Discuss how and why business principles have informed administrative reform movements in the U.S., whether or not this is a good approach to take for reforming public agencies, and whether it is or is not helpful in the networked state.