



Faculty of European Studies
Department of Political Science

Course outline

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRACTICES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE U.S.

Teacher: Dr.sc.soc. *Aleksejs Šņitņikovs*

PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE COURSE

Successful fulfilment of the requirements of the course will give 3 credits (B), (4,5 ECTS).

The purpose of the course Institutional development and practices of public administration in Western Europe and the US mainly is to give the students the overview of the administrative history of the West which would provide them the understanding of the historical roots of the institutions of public administration nowadays. The course starts off with the overview of some basic theoretical concepts and the institutional structures preceding bureaucracy in the context of a more general state-formation process in the West. It proceeds to looking at the process of rationalization and bureaucratization in Early Modern Europe. The process of institutional development of public administration is set in the context of modernization: the development of capitalism, industrialization and democratization. Then the course moves on to the differences of institutional development in the Western Europe and the public administration in the U.S. We will also look at some distinguishing features of the administrative practices in the countries of Western Europe and the U.S.

Expected results: after passing the course the students will be able to distinguish various historical forms of public administration and to link them to the more general development of the state and the process of modernization. Students will obtain some analytical tools of historical political sociology which can be applied to the analysis of societal and political processes. Students will get the understanding how the features of the bureaucratic organization became parts of the administrative systems in the course of political history and modernization. The students will get an idea of peculiarities of administrative structures and practices in the countries of Western Europe and the U.S.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

1. lecture: The subject of administrative history: methodological and theoretical concepts

Literature:

- Raadschelders, Jos C.N.: Handbook of Administrative History. New Brunswick: Transactions Publishers (2000), pp. 3-15.

2. lecture: Pre-bureaucratic administrative structures

Literature:

- Bendix, Reinhard: Nation-Building and Citizenship. New Brunswick: Transactions Publishers (2005), pp. 39-65, 127-139.
 - Mann, Michael: The Sources of Social Power, Vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2012), pp. 146-155.
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3. seminar: The study of public administration in historical perspective

During the seminar we review the concepts related to administrative power and discuss the historical forms of state administration, patrimonialism and bureaucracy. All students are expected to participate in the discussion.

Literature:

- Weber, Max: Economy and Society. Berkeley: University of California Press (1978), pp. 226-237, 255-259.
- Mann, Michael: The Sources of Social Power, Vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2012), pp. 6-9.

Essay theme: Forms of pre-bureaucratic administration (to be submitted on the day of seminar 3)

4. lecture: State-formation and the development of bureaucratic administrative structures

Literature:

- Giddens, Anthony: The Nation-State and Violence. Cambridge: Polity Press (1992), pp.83-121.
 - Kaspersen, Lars Bo: State Formation. In: Benedikte Brincker (ed.). Introduction to Political Sociology. Copenhagen: Hanz Raitzels Forlag (2013), pp. 15-31.
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5. lecture: Characteristics of state-formation in France, England and Prussia

Obligatory literature:

- Gladden, E.N.: A History of Public Administration. London: Frank Cass (1972), pp. 141-165.
 - Finer, S.E.: The History of Government. Oxford: Oxford University Press (1999), pp. 1024-1051.
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6. seminar: The processes of state formation and the development of state administration

The questions of the seminar will concern the processes of state formation in the Western Europe and the factors causing the development of bureaucracies. All students are expected to participate in the discussion.

Literature:

- Blickle, Peter (ed.): Resistance, Representation, and Community. Oxford: Clarendon Press (1997), pp. 115-132, 325-338.

Essay theme: State-formation and bureaucratization (to be submitted on the day of seminar 6)

7. lecture: The forces of modernization and the development of public services

Literature:

- Giddens, Anthony: The Nation-State and Violence. Cambridge: Polity Press (1992), pp. 122-197.
 - Mann, Michael: States, War and Capitalism. Oxford: Basil Blackwell (1988), pp. 73-123.
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8. lecture: Development of the nation-state and public services in Europe

Literature:

- Giddens, Anthony: The Nation-State and Violence. Cambridge: Polity Press (1992), pp. 198-221.
 - Raadschelders, Jos C.N.: Handbook of Administrative History. New Brunswick: Transactions Publishers (2000), pp. 87-108, 167-189, 191-215.
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9. seminar: The growth of the public sector: causes and consequences

The questions to be discussed during the seminar concern the dynamics behind the expansion of the public services in the Western countries and the relationships between industrialization, democratization, nation-building and bureaucratization. All students are expected to participate in the discussion.

Literature:

- Raadschelders, Jos C.N.: Handbook of Administrative History. New Brunswick: Transactions Publishers (2000), pp. 245-271.
- Gladden, E.N.: A History of Public Administration. London: Frank Cass (1972), pp.307-319.

Essay theme: Growth of the public sector and the modern nation-state (to be submitted on the day of seminar 9).

10. lecture: Structural features of public administrations in Western Europe in comparative perspective

Literature:

- Peters, Guy P.: The politics of bureaucracy: An introduction to comparative public administration. London: Routledge (2010) pp. 125-163.
 - Wilson, James Q.: Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It. New York: Basic Books (1989) pp. 295-312.
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11. lecture: Bureaucracy and its political environment in the U.S.

Literature:

- Wilson, James Q.: Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It. New York: Basic Books (1989), pp. 31-49.
 - Gordon, George J.: Public Administration in America. New York: St. Martin's Press (1992), pp. 31-47.
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12. seminar: Characteristics of institutional practices in public administrations of Western Europe and the U.S.

During this seminar we sum up what we have learned about the structural features of public administrations in Europe and the U.S. and the interactions of the systems of administration with their political environments. All students are expected to participate in the discussion.

Literature:

- Peters, Guy P.: The politics of bureaucracy: An introduction to comparative public administration. London: Routledge (2010), pp. 125-163.
- Wilson, James Q.: Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It. New York: Basic Books (1989), pp. 295-312.
- Gordon, George J.: Public Administration in America. New York: St. Martin's Press (1992), pp. 48-76.

Essay theme: Characteristics of public bureaucracy in Western Europe and the U.S. (to be submitted on the day of seminar 12).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Four essays – each 2 - 3 pages (in Times New Roman, 1,5 space). Essays can be submitted either in paper form or electronically.
- One research paper – 3000-3500 words – in which the student explores a subject covered in lectures in more detail. The themes of the essays will be announced at the course. For the work on the research paper the student can use the course literature as well as the library literature and the internet resources (academic articles). Regarding the literature the student can ask advice of the teacher of the course. The research paper should be submitted no later than 6th of November 2017, 16:30. Research paper can be submitted either in paper form or electronically.
- The exam will be in written form. The student will have to answer several questions about the topics covered in the lectures. Exam will be on 10th of November.

GRADING

The final grade is made from all the aspects of the course. Your knowledge is being graded in the 10 point grading system. The final grade is made from:

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| • participation in lectures and seminars | 20% |
| • essays | 25% |
| • research paper | 25% |
| • exam | 30% |