COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title   : HA4011 Public Administration: Past, Present, and Future

Pre-requisites   : HA1003, HA2020

No. of AUs.   : 4

Contact Hours   : 52

Course Aims

This course aims to provide an overview of the classic literature on public administration. The course develops understanding of the major and most influential theories of public administration. It also promotes critical thinking about what constitutes good governance and how practice can be informed by theory. As governance permeates most human activities, the course may be of interest for those who wish to expand their knowledge on how government functions, regardless of whether they would like to pursue a career in the public sector.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Describe major public administration theories pertaining to the dichotomy between politics and bureaucracy.
2. Apply the public administration theories you have learnt to the real-world examples of decision-making in the government.
3. Reflect on what public administration practices inform "good governance".

Course Content

1. What is public administration?
2. The basic setup of public administration (1880s ~ 1920s)
3. Is public administration the same as organizational theory? {1930s ~ 1950s}
4. The first reflection of dichotomy: Internal vs. external control + Waldo {1940s}
5. Modern organization (motivation only) theories today
6. The influx of policy studies (analysis and decision making) (1950s ~ 1960s)
7. New Public Administration (NPA)-Deeper reflection of dichotomy {1970s}
8. The expansion of policy studies-taking in implementation (1970s)
9. Theories and practices of New Public Management (NPM) (1980s ~ 1990s)
10. Technical problems of NPM (1980s ~ 1990s)
11. Constitutional challenge against NPM-Blacksburg Manifesto (1990s)
12. The loss of public/fairness/democracy in NPM and the spirit of PA (1990s)

13. Reconsidering dichotomy in NPM {1990s ~ 2000s)
14. Ethical challenge against NPM (1990s ~ 2000s)
15. The rise of public service motivation (PSM) as the follow-up of Frederickson's spirit of public administration (1990s)
16. Reconsidering "bureaucrat bashing" in NPM (2000s)
17. The fast growth of PSM research (2000s ~ today)
18. The reflection of PSM (2000s ~ today)
19. Comparative public administration-beginning with PSM research
20. Moving away from the Western model? More confidence in Asian studies
21. Does public administration/policy make people happier? (2000s~)

Course Assessment

Last-hour weekly critique   : 30%

Classroom Performance   : 10%
- Leading discussion

Classroom Performance   : 20%
- Participation in discussion

Term paper   : 40%

Total   --------

100%