

## **Governance and Politics (26:834:603) [3 credits]**

### **Course Description**

This course covers such topics as bureaucratic politics, democratic theory, and public sector governance. Within this seminar, we will explore the relationship between governance and politics and recognize that politics, in one form or another, is inherent in governance. The course will begin with an overview of democratic governance and management reform, then will transition to public sector values. There is a focus on the relationship between governance and politics in the US Executive branch.

### **Learning Objectives**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand how the interaction between governance and politics fits within the broad public management literature.
- Understand how governance and politics interact in both US and non-US contexts.
- Improve their academic writing, research, and presentation skills.

### **Requirements**

Requirements will vary by instructor and may include:

- Leading Discussions— Students will be assigned to lead the discussion on individual readings each week.
- Module Quizzes —There are quizzes associated with most course modules.
- Literature Mapping Paper, Concept Map, and Presentation— A short literature review paper and concept map on a topic of your choosing related to the course is due toward the end of the semester. Students will give presentations based on their final papers.

### **Schedule / Outline of Topics**

- Week 1: Introduction and Overview
- Week 2: Democratic Governance in Context
- Week 3: Management Reform as a Political Enterprise
- Week 4: Perspectives on Accountability (Part 1)
- Week 5: Perspectives on Accountability (Part 2)
- Week 6: Public Values and Ethics
- Week 7: Workshop at Dana Library and Discussion of Concept Mapping
- Week 8: Transparency, Open Government, and Participatory Governance
- Week 9: US Legislative Bodies, Policy Development, and Regulation
- Week 11: US Chief Executives and Administrative Agencies
- Week 12: Political Science and Public Administration
- Week 13: Academic Writing, Research, and Presentations
- Week 14: Student Presentations

### **Texts / Materials / Resources**

The selection of textbooks and readings will vary by instructor. Listed below are some of the possible textbooks, materials, and resources an instructor may select for this course:

- The faculty will assign book chapters and journal articles.
- Meier, Kenneth J., and Laurence J. O'Toole Jr. 2006. *Bureaucracy in a Democratic State: A Governance Perspective*. Johns Hopkins University Press.;
- Behn, Robert D. 2011. *Rethinking Democratic Accountability*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Thompson Frank J., Kenneth K. Wong, and Barry G. Rabe. 2020. *Trump, the Administrative Presidency, and Federalism*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Rosenbloom, David. 2000. *Building a Legislative-Centered Public Administration: Congress and the Administrative State, 1946-99*
- Golden, Marissa Martino. 2000. *What Motivates Bureaucrats? Politics and Administration During the Reagan Years*. Columbia University Press.