

**Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam in Public Administration
Summer 2012**

*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. Extensive PA research has discussed the role of street-level bureaucrats in the administration of public services. Much of this research has focused on whether (and to what end) these front-line government employees have *discretion* in their day-to-day work. Write an essay in which you explain why this issue is so important to the field of PA. What are the consequences if street-level bureaucrats have discretion? What are the consequences if they do *not* have discretion?
2. Next year, AU will host the fourth annual Charles Levine Memorial Lecture. The first three speakers were Ken Meier, Hal Rainey, and Laurence Lynn. If you were tasked to choose our next speaker, whom would you choose and why? It should go without saying that the individual must be an active scholar who has made a meaningful impact on the field of public administration. Describe the individual's core contributions to the literature, making a compelling case as to how he or she has shaped the field and influenced the work of other scholars.
3. In a recent essay, Jos Raadschelders characterizes public administration scholars as either "scientists" or "holists." He writes:

"Scientists such as Simon, Meier, and O'Toole, now advocate more rigorous research methods with an eye to developing public administration as a science and a true academic discipline. Holists such as Waldo, Stillman, and Wamsley are more concerned with the understanding of government as a whole and emphasize its service to the community at large. To them, public administration trains professionals as well as scholars."

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the "scientist" and "holist" approaches to the study of public administration? Can these perspectives be reconciled, or will they be perpetually at odds with one another?
4. Public service motivation has become one of the most popular topics in the public management literature. Describe this area of research and place it in the historical progression of public management more generally. What do we know about public service motivation? What do we *not* know? What are the methodological strengths and weaknesses of this research?
5. The term "legislative-centered public administration" is sometimes used to denote the U.S. Congress' post-World War II role in federal administration. What are the chief components of legislative centered public administration, how did they develop, and what is their impact on federal administrative behavior and contemporary public administrative theory?