This course will provide a broad overview of the political environment of U.S. government bureaucracies and their employees. Our goal is to better understand the politics of public bureaucracy, particularly how bureaucracy works within a democracy. For historical context, we begin with a look at the development of bureaucracy and government in the U.S. We then look at different conceptions of the politically relevant motivations of public employees and their general economic and political environment. For much of the remainder of the course, we will look at the interactions between bureaucracies and a variety of other institutions and groups that we traditionally think can and/or should "control" them in a democracy: legislatures, executives, courts, other bureaucracies, interest groups, and the public. We conclude with an examination of what the overall political role of bureaucracy is and should be in the U.S.

There is one required book for the class, available at the bookstores:
The textbook is also on reserve at Young Library.

In addition, there will be assigned articles and chapters from other books. These readings are on reserve at the library (the free way) and available in a course packet at Johnny Print copy shop – across S. Limestone from the Business School (the convenient way). The dates for topics are approximate and subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

**Grading**

The midterm counts 35 percent, the cumulative final exam is 40 percent, a paper assignment counts 20 percent, with class participation comprising the final 5 percent.

Grading is on a 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 65-79=C, Below 65=E scale. Make-ups of exams are permitted only with official university documented excuses. I am much more sympathetic if I know in advance that you have to miss an exam. If not attending class and/or not doing the readings become problems, we’ll start having quizzes over the readings (the maximum that quizzes as a group will count is 10 percent, with other parts of your grade reduced proportionally).

Paper assignments will be described in a handout in next week’s class.

**Topics and Reading Assignments**

**Introduction** (Jan. 19)

**The Political Environment** (Jan. 26)
-- James Madison, "Federalist Papers 10 and 51" (distributed in class).

**The Development of U.S. Government Bureaucracy** (Feb. 2)

**The Organizational Environment** (Feb. 9)
-- Wilson: Preface, ch. 1-2, ch. 7
Bureaucrats (Feb. 16)
-- Wilson: ch.3, 4, 6, 8
-- C. Northcote Parkinson, “Parkinson’s Law or the Rising Pyramid” (1957)
-- Lawrence Peter and Raymond Hull, “The Peter Principle” (1969)

Legislatures and Bureaucracy (Feb. 23)
-- Wilson: ch. 13
-- Morris Fiorina, “Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy”

Mar. 2 MIDTERM EXAM

Executives and Bureaucracy (Mar. 9)
-- Wilson: ch. 11, 14

Spring Break, Mar. 16

Courts and Bureaucracy (Mar. 23)
-- Wilson: ch. 15.
-- David Rosenbloom, "The Judicial Response to the Bureaucratic State.

Bureaucracy and More Bureaucracy (Mar. 30)
-- Wilson: ch. 10, 12

Bureaucracy and Groups (Apr. 6)
-- Wilson: ch. 5

Bureaucracy and the Public (Apr. 13)

Bureaucracy and Markets (Apr. 20)
-- Wilson: ch. 7,19

Bureaucracy, Representation and the Public Interest (Apr. 27)

Tuesday, May 4 Final exam, 6:00