New Public Management
PhD Course

Course title: New Public Management
Course Administrators: Charlotta Levay & Anna Thomasson
Department: Department of Business Administration, Lund University
Credits: 7.5 ects credit points
Time: Spring 2017

Background and aims
This course is given by the Department of Business Administration at Lund University School of Economics and Management. It provides participants with an advanced overview of New Public Management (NPM), its origins, expressions and consequences. The course gives a broad as well as in-depth introduction to NPM ideas, why they emerged and how they are manifested in different countries and in different parts of society. Consequences from NPM are discussed with openness towards different perspectives and interpretations. The course adopts a reflective perspective to the notion of NPM and considers other, parallel concepts that attempt to capture contemporary trends in society in general and in the public sector in particular.

New Public Management (NPM) is the name of a set of ideas that have impacted not only the public sector in many countries, but also parts of the private sector. In the research literature, the concept was introduced already in 1991 and it has been frequently referred to since then. More recently, it has also reached the public debate in Sweden. Today, it is difficult to comprehend the public management literature without understanding the meaning of NPM. Consequently, the course will mainly be of interests to doctoral students within social sciences who in their research focus on public sector organizations and issues concerning public management, but doctoral students with other research focuses who have an interest in the topic are also welcome.
The course will start by covering the history of NPM and the classic literature within the field, such as the seminal article by Hood from 1991. Thereafter the course will move on to treat different aspects of NPM and the development of the research field, nationally as well as internationally. It will conclude with a discussion regarding current developments of public management research and the future of NPM. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own topic of research and their own empirical material in connection to NPM.

The course literature includes both classic works and contemporary research. It shifts between different perspectives and encourages students to reflect independently on definitions, manifestations and implications of NPM. It also includes a discussion of ‘Post-NPM’, a concept which was introduced more recently. The course is organized around the following themes.

1. Origin and spread of NPM
2. NPM – All things considered
3. Marketization and hybrid public organizations
4. Professions and NPM
5. Accountability and transparency
6. Beyond-NPM
7. Exam papers (final seminar)

The readings for each of these themes will be research articles and book chapters. The pedagogical model is to continuously engage participants in reflecting, writing and discussing about the topics treated. Seminars and lectures will be led by researchers active in research on different aspects of NPM and its manifestations.

**Learning Outcomes**

The following learning outcomes are proposed for the course.

**Knowledge and understanding**

- A thorough understanding of NPM - its background, definition, manifestations and implications.
- A thorough understanding of related or competing concepts from public management research.

**Applying knowledge and understanding**

- Applying the NPM literature to the personal research project
- Critical reflect on the NPM debate in research and popular media

**Communication**

- Have an ability to form arguments for both research and public debate orally as well as in writing.

**Scheduling**

Spring 2017, 7 half-day seminars (biweekly).
Examination
To pass the course, students will be expected to read the listed literature and complete written assignments during as well as at the end of the course. More precisely, examination consists of the following written assignments:

1. Reflection papers on each theme (½-1 A4 page)
2. Final examination paper. In this paper, students are asked to apply the literature on NPM to their own research area and critically reflect on the implications of NPM.
3. Draft of an opinion article on NPM.

Course Application
All applicants to the course are asked to submit 1 page where they indicate the topic of their PhD thesis and explain why they wish to take the course.

Contact Details
Contact information for the course leaders, who also will lead the six seminars:

Charlotta Levay charlotta.levay@fek.lu.se
Anna Thomasson anna.thomasson@fek.lu.se

Preliminary Structure and Course Literature

Seminar 1: Origin and spread of NPM, March 8th 2017

Seminar 2: NPM – All things considered, March 22nd, 2017

Seminar 3: Marketization and hybrid public organizations, April 5th, 2017

Seminar 4: Professions and NPM, April 19th, 2017

**Seminar 5: Accountability and transparency, May 3rd, 2017**


**Seminar 6: Beyond NPM, May 17th, 2017**


**Seminar 7, Exam papers, May 31st, 2017**