

Department of Business Administration

EHFE008, New Public Management,
7.5 credits
New Public Management,
7,5 hp
Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå

General information

The course EHFE008 is a course on Business Administration at the third cycle level.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Business Administration

This course 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 of 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 is of particular interest to doctoral students within social sciences who focus on public sector organizations and issues concerning public management, but other doctoral students with an interest in the topic are also welcome.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

A passing grade is awarded to students who:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main tenets of NPM and their practical and theoretical implications.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how NPM ideas have evolved and impacted the public sector in different countries.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main strands of research regarding NPM ideas and reforms.

Competence and skills

A passing grade is awarded to students who:

- Are able to present and analyze research and practical issues related to NPM, both orally and in writing.
- Are able to communicate their analysis of NPM to scholarly audiences as well as the wider public.

Judgement and approach

A passing grade is awarded to students who:

- Are able to make meaningful connections between NPM ideas and practices and the topic of their own PhD project.
- Are able to relate practical aspects of NPM to theoretical considerations, and vice versa.

Course content

The course starts by covering the history of NPM and the classic literature within the field, such as the seminal article by Hood from 1991. It then moves on to treat different aspects of NPM and developments of the research field, nationally as well as internationally. It concludes with a discussion regarding current developments of public management research and the future of NPM. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to reflect on their own topic of research and their own empirical material in connection to NPM.

Course design

The course is organized around a series of themes, such as origin and spread of NPM, politics vs. administration, marketization, professions and NPM, accountability and transparency, and after/beyond NPM. For each theme there is a set of articles and book chapters for reading and a session with lectures(s) and seminar discussions. The pedagogical model is to continuously engage participants in reflecting, writing and discussing about the topics treated. Seminars and lectures are led by researchers active in research on different aspects of NPM and its manifestations.

Assessment

To pass the course, students are 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.

Credits

Grades are Pass or Fail.

Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The University will take disciplinary actions against any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other improper practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specific period of time.

Entry requirements

PhD students accepted to the PhD programme in Business Administration or an adjacent subject are eligible for the course.

Course literature

See separate literature list.

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Collection of journal articles and book chapters, e.g.:

Evetts, J. (2009). New professionalism and new public management: Changes, continuities and consequences. *Comparative Sociology*, 8(2), 247–266.

Hood, C. (1991). A public management for all seasons? *Public Administration* 69(1): 3–19.

Hyndman, N., & Lapsley, I. (2016). New public management: The story continues. *Financial Accountability & Management*, 32(4), 385–408.