

Date: October 13th

To: MPA Graduate Students

From: Dr. Scott Granberg-Rademacker, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Re: Comprehensive Exams

Below is a list of guiding questions that you need to address in your comprehensive exam essay. As indicated, the questions are given to assist in framing your essay, and are not to be answered in any order or specific answer format. Using literature in the field, the expectation is that you will link the theoretical concepts and empirical findings to the case: *Snow Removal*.

The guiding questions are:

- 1) What are the political consequences involved in this case?
- 2) What are the consequences for the budget? Consider issues of workload, productivity, public-private partnerships, contracting, and privatization?
- 3) What was the decision-making model in this case? Cost-benefit analysis, rational model, incremental model, mixed-scanning model, etc.
- 4) What human resource issues came into play in this case? Be sure to examine civil service issues, scheduling, pay scales, work units, etc.
- 5) From a theoretical standpoint, is this case a victory or a defeat for Scientific Management? Is this department organized by “product” or by “function”?
- 6) How would you assess the organizational communication both within and external to the New York Department of Sanitation?

During the exam period, October 13-17th, 2005; Dr. Johnson and I will be available to provide assistance if needed. Please contact us by telephone or email. The examination essay is due October 17th, 2005 at noon.

Best of luck!