This course is a general introduction to administrative law in the American political system. Understanding this area of law is important for all citizens because administrative regulations govern nearly every aspect of our lives -- from cradle to grave. Administrative law also regulates the regulators. More specifically, administrative law is concerned with accountability and due process in governmental decision making. In the words of former Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, “procedural fairness and regularity are of the indispensable essence of liberty.” These values are what separate us from autocratic and totalitarian regimes.

Topics covered in this course include the growth of the administrative state, regulations and administrative orders, judicial review of agency actions, official and governmental liability, administrative searches, and the rights of public employees. Our focus will be on federal administrative agencies, but there will be some discussion of state administrative law as well.