Interdisciplinary Approach to Public Administration  
(Interdisciplinary dimension/perspective on PA)

- Public administration as an interdisciplinary approach refers to the field of study or a body of knowledge that has been founded/developed by integrating/blending the insights/knowledge of various social science disciplines to construct a more comprehensive understanding.  
- In its early years of its founding, it was a part of the field of law, politics and management science. Although it has developed today as a separate field of study independent in many ways, it is still enjoying contributions of other disciplines in the social sciences. Thus, public administration is an interdisciplinary field of study borrowing knowledge from different disciplines: political science, law, sociology, psychology, economics, business management, and so on.

| -Public administration is a cluster of knowledge of separate but interrelated disciplines  
- The literature of public administration shows that it is a composite knowledge of many other social sciences.  
- Its interdisciplinary nature can be best illustrated in terms of its relationship with other social sciences

Contribution of social sciences to public administration:

a. Political science: in the early of its development it was studied as part of political science. The most important contribution of political science to public administration lies in providing the linkage between the various actors and institutions of the political system in which public administration operates. Political science deals with government whereas public administration with its action. It has gradually been realized that theories of politics and theories of public administration can't be separated precisely and public administration can't be successful without proper understanding of politics, political problems and political system. Public administration can't lie outside the domain of politics since politics determines the tasks of administration.

B. Law: law is a foundation of public administration since it has to function within the legal framework of a particular country. Day to day regular activities and functions of administration are regulated by existing formal legal structure of public institutions. Its official duties, responsibilities, power and discretionary authority should be based on the constitution, acts, rules, regulations and decisions of judiciary. Public administration is also involved in making laws as well as their proper implementation. It is required to work within the framework of law and its functions should be legally justified.
C. Sociology: As a branch of sociology, public administration has close relationship with sociology. Sociology deals with society, social groups, their habits and customs and their activities which help public administration in formulation and implementation of policies. Sociology has contributed to public administration with its focus on group dynamics/behavior and socialization in an administrative setting. In order to make policy decisions and ensure their proper implementation, organizational structure, people and their dynamics in organization and their behavior in group are very important.

D. Psychology: It has provided the understanding the psyche of the individuals, their feelings and attitudes to public administration in an institutional setting. Psychological theories have significantly contributed to understanding a unique personality of individuals, organizational behavior, employee motivation and personnel management. Today, public administration is supposed to take the psychology of the people into consideration to make its efforts effective.

E. Economics: In the contemporary complex society, economic factors play important roles in the functioning of government. Public administration has brought economic tools, techniques and guiding principles for operating state functions effectively. Economic planning, economic conditions of the masses, regulation of national and international economic life; domestic and international trade; economic stability, economic and financial policies; production and exchange of public goods and services have been the major considerations of modern government that public administration has to deal with.

F. Business/general management: It has also significantly contributed to the knowledge of private sector management to public administration. Public administration has benefited from the understanding of organization theory, decision making theories, planning, budgeting and financial administration which brought from business management. The knowledge of general management is found crucial in the understanding of complex organizational setting in the public sector and even in bureaucracy.

Conclusion
The interdisciplinary approach to public administration attempts to provide many insights into the complexity of the field by combining knowledge from different social sciences. It may serve to our understanding of the state, its branches, its administrative mechanisms and their management for better public performance.

This approach indicates that public administration has to deal with varieties of social issues (economic, social, political, legal, etc.) in a variety of contexts.