



PEPPERDINE
School of Public Policy

New Course Descriptions Fall 2024

Note: MPP 617.01 Designing and Writing Research Proposals (3 units) with [Marlon Graf](#) is strongly recommended/required for those students desiring to pursue an individual capstone. Those that do not will be required to submit a detailed research proposal (such as the one to be prepared in MPP 617) to be allowed into the capstone (see [Capstone Notice](#)). MPP 617 can count for one of the four specializations: Economics, American Politics, International Relations, or State and Local Policy

MPP 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Urban Economics (3 units)

[Dayea Oh](#)

Economics or State and Local Policy

In Person

This is a survey of a broad range of policy and theoretical issues which emerge when economic analysis is applied to an urban setting. This course covers the determinants of regional and metropolitan growth. Topics include urbanization and urban growth, housing markets, location decisions of households and firms, transportation, urban labor markets, and the local public sector.

MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Leadership and Key Decisions of WWII (3 units)

[Victor Davis Hanson](#)

American Politics or International Relations

In Person and Online (see modality for details)

Leadership on the battlefield is the true crucible of public decision-making with actual, and often, immediate life and death implications. As leadership involves both a set of personality traits and decision processes, in this course, Dr. Hanson will use several case studies from World War II to highlight timeless leadership principles, which can be applied to a variety of public policy environments.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Political Issues: Election 2024 (3 units)

[Joel Fox](#)

[Dan Schnur](#)

American Politics or State and Local Policy

In Person

Explore the dynamic landscape of political communications in the 2024 election cycle, learning, analyzing and discussing a historic campaign season as it unfolds each week. We will examine the presidential campaign, but also the fights for control of the House and Senate, as well as state and local campaigns. In addition to weekly classes, students will be asked to participate in three outside-of-class programs throughout the semester, where they present their own research and insights on the campaign activity they observe. Gain the skills and insights needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of political communication in Election '24.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Issues in the Changing Metropolitan Area (3 units)

[Thomas Lynch](#)

State and Local Policy

In Person

This course will cover fundamental features of managing change in a local government setting, and cover challenges facing public agencies today, including overall organizational structures, internal and external influences, and interaction with elected and appointed officials, citizen groups, and members of the public. The changes impacting local government may originate from local, state, or federal governments, international events, or new technology, all of which may alter the course of government response. The class will include a local case study challenge that will be structured in a team approach and address actual problems. It will require an in-depth evaluation of both the pro's and con's of proposed policies, the short-term and long-term impacts, the full financial costs and objective recommendations to the decision-making body. The case studies will focus on policy and managerial issues impacting local Southern California cities and/or nonprofit organizations. Students may have the opportunity to present their project research, and final work product to the organization's executive management and/or elected officials, and to the class. Note: students will be responsible for transportation to possible site locations.