

School of Public Policy
New Course Descriptions
Spring 2013

MPP 607.01 Policy Seminar (Capstone): International Relations/National Security (See catalog for full description.)

James Coyle

Capstone – Group

This course represents the capstone experience of the master's program here at Pepperdine. The expectation is that students will prepare a detailed, sophisticated regional U.S. national security strategy for the President and the National Security Council. The policy analysis will not only provide a detailed assessment of American foreign policy and the issues surrounding it, but also provide the client with a detailed implementation analysis for the future. The details of the assignment and process will be provided under the "timeline" section of the syllabus.

MPP 607.02 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Education Policy (See catalog for full description.)

Mike Shires

Capstone – Group

This research seminar is part of the Capstone Policy Seminar series. With education policy as the core theme, the course will provide students with a quick overview of the modern public school enterprise and its attendant issues before immersing them in the key, practical challenges of public schools and school districts. The course will require an intensive research effort centered on the issues that intersect in today's K-12 classrooms. California is, in some ways, a remarkable laboratory for seeing how these issues play out in the classroom and thus the course will take advantage of the struggles unfolding in local school districts as a learning laboratory. Education policy often dominates state and local policy discourses and represents one of the largest single categories of public investment in the United States. Overall some 75.2 million students are enrolled in the nation's 139,207 educational institutions and more than 10 million teachers, faculty and other professionals staff them. Students will learn from this complexity and demonstrate their policy competency by completing a compelling piece of analysis in this dynamic policy environment. This capstone policy seminar will use research teams to prepare a detailed policy analysis of an important public policy issue for a local school district. The research teams will, in conjunction with the professor, identify an important policy problem in a local school or school district and develop a major policy report for a practitioner audience—in this case the superintendent or elected Trustees of the district—that addresses the identified problem. Students will also prepare a formal, detailed presentation of their analysis and recommendations to be presented before an expert and/or stakeholder panel.

MPP 607.03 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Current Issues in Public Policy: Where Markets and Government Fail (See catalog for full description.)

Sean Jasso

Capstone – Individual

This capstone course is designed for the student to research a policy domain of their choice culminating with a rigorous policy analysis and presentation. The overarching aim is that the student's policy analysis becomes a high-valued document (much like a master's thesis) showcasing intellectual prowess for a wide audience, yet more directly, a future employer. The traditional rationale for public policy is upheld by the theoretical context of "market failure" and/or "government failure"—each a central pillar of study in this capstone course through key readings and case studies in the field. The learning outcomes include advanced practice in critical thinking, expository writing, and public policy analysis skills preparing the student nearing their commencement for success in the competitive market.

MPP 607.04 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Environmental Policy (See catalog for full description.)

Wade Graham

Capstone – Individual

This capstone course in environmental policy will explore interconnected policy challenges at the local, regional, national, and international levels. It will examine the City of Malibu's problems with water quality regulation and political jurisdiction in the context of county and state environmental and permitting requirements. It will look at Greater Los Angeles as a regional city acting on a global stage, facing tangled challenges relating to growth, water supply, air and water pollution, public health, international trade, and climate change policy. It will examine US policy on trade and the environment and on energy and climate change. Finally, it will explore China's domestic environmental challenges and energy policy, in the context of global climate change and trade politics. There will be several guest speakers and possible field trips. Students will prepare a prospectus, presentation, and project paper.

MPP 640.01 The Political Biography of a New Policy (See catalog for full description.)

Ashton Ellis

American Politics

This course will focus on the creation and reform of four major federal entitlement programs. After discussing the federal government's historical stance towards entitlements, we will cover: the GI Bill and subsequent expansion to non-military higher education loans; Social Security; and Medicaid and Medicare. Various reform ideas will be examined including, for example, portions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka, ObamaCare), and relevant versions of Paul Ryan's counter-proposals, among others. The learning outcome for this class is for students to know the purpose, history, performance, and sustainability of some of the most important spending priorities in the federal budget.

MPP 651.01 American Democratic Culture: The Nature of Presidential Leadership

Steven Hayward

American Politics

This course will examine the intersection between *politics* and *policy*, and the vital role of presidential leadership, insight, rhetoric and public opinion in bringing about large policy changes. "Politics" and "policy" are often considered separate realms of public affairs today—an artifact of modern ideas that "progressive" or "scientific" administration can transcend basic historic controversies about justice or substitute for personal qualities in elected officials. The course will be vitally concerned with the connection between democratic persuasion and a leader's substantive underlying political strategy. The main question for modern policy makers is understanding how political expertise differs from scientific or technical expertise, and what qualities are necessary for presidential success. The first third of the course will survey fundamental issues in executive political leadership drawn from classic texts before moving to analysis of the modern presidency.

MPP 665.01 Region Specific Studies: International Relations of Africa

Robert Lloyd

International Relations

This course focuses on one particular country or region with attention given to the region's history; its economic, political, and social institutions; and its relationship to the United States and other nations. Special focus will be on the implications of the region's needs and characteristics for the formulation of U.S. foreign policy.

MPP 665.02 Region Specific Studies: Middle East

James Coyle

International Relations (comparative government)

This course is an examination of the revolutionary changes that is sweeping the Middle East, with a special emphasis on eight areas: Tunisia, Iran, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Libya and Syria/Lebanon. Students will compare and contrast these countries to isolate variables that have led to the historic demand for change, and why these demands are successful in some countries and not in others. No review of the Middle East is complete, however, without a review of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Students are expected to defend their opinions on the subjects discussed in class; the important point is not what the opinion is, but the facts and logic the student can bring to the discussion.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: Chinese Politics and International Relations in the Age of Reform

International Relations

Shevchenko

The class will combine in -depth coverage of Chinese domestic politics in the reform era (1978-2012) with the study of the Chinese grand strategy (including economic, political and security/military aspects) in international relations. In domestic politics we will focus on the causes of China's post-Mao reforms and political/economic factors accounting for the reform trajectory. We will also explore contradictions of the reform process and evaluate consequences of the systemic reform for Chinese economy, elite politics and state-society relations. Finally, we will attempt to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Chinese reform model and the prospects for political liberalization in China. In our analysis of Chinese foreign affairs special attention will be devoted to Sino- American and Sino-American-Taiwanese issues. We will also focus on major changes and continuities in China's international outlook and behavior since Mao's death and assess China's emerging role in post-Cold War regional and global politics.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Aging Policy and American Politics

Caroline Cicero

State and Local Policy or American Politics

Social Security and Medicare, which comprise one-third of our federal budget, were used during the recent political campaigns to scare both senior citizens and younger generations alike. With more than 75 million Baby Boomers turning 65 over the next two decades, older adults will comprise 20-25 percent of the American population by 2030. This demographic transition poses major opportunities and challenges for policy makers as well as entrepreneurs and service providers. This course will examine policies related to the Health and Economics of Aging and Retirement, and it also will concentrate on important policy challenges such as Alzheimer's, long term care, housing, caregiving, transportation, nutrition, research funding, emergency management, and disease prevention. Federal, state, local, and familial approaches will be analyzed in relation to relevant international aging perspectives as well.

New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies

Faculty biographies: <http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/academics/faculty/>