

**School of Public Policy  
New Course Descriptions  
Spring 2014**

**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): Major Issues in Public Policy** (See catalog for full description.)

*Robert Kaufman*

*Capstone – Individual*

The Major Issues in Public Policy Capstone course will provide the student to the opportunity to generate a rigorous, well-argued research paper, with policy implications. The subjects and methodologies are open. Students will develop a clear, cogent, research design, choosing a topic that is significant but manageable within the confines of a semester. The professor will review at least two drafts of the paper, which each student will have to defend publicly in the final week of class in a point-counterpoint format, paired with a fellow student. In this way, the course hopes to refine the student's capacity to write a worthy policy paper within at least hailing distance of publishable quality.

**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 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Economics of Education Policy**

*Michael Shires*

*Economics of State and Local Policy*

This seminar will examine K-12 and postsecondary education policy debates and issues from the powerful lens of applied economic theory. Concepts including human capital, labor and workforce development, technological innovation and public finance all play out in the rich tapestry of the nation's schools, school districts, and universities. Since these issues unfold most often at the local and state levels, much of the emphasis will be on understanding the implications of actual education policies as they unfold across the nation. Because it is a seminar, students will take a leading role in making the content of the class current, real, and relevant. Topics will include curriculum design, testing, workforce training and development, access to postsecondary education, the role of research universities in the economy, and the supply and demand for skilled workers.

**MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Public Opinion and Statesmanship**

*Ted McAllister*

*American Politics*

This class will examine the enduring question of the relationship between public opinion and statesmanship in democracy. Divided into three sections, the course will explore: 1. Authority and power in democratic systems that recognize the de facto sovereignty of public opinion; 2. The formation of public opinion in the context of mass democracy, powerful media, and the influences of powerful people and private institutions; 3. An exploration, through biography and case studies, of the possibilities of statesmanship in shaping and directing public opinion.

**MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Media and Public Policy**

*Matthew Peterson*

*American Politics*

The course will introduce students to the intersection of online media and journalism with politics and public policy in American political life. The goal of the course is to teach students to think critically about media and public policy. Rather than a textbook approach, students will examine the current, actual workings of media and politics, with a focus on the so-called "new media" on the internet and its relationship to state and local politics. Lectures will be supplemented with guest lecturers in relevant fields, who will be available for student questions. Students will complete a group blog project on city politics, weekly research exercises and quizzes, as well as a final project which will consist of either: a) a treatment and first pass at a script for a short documentary film or b) a developed outline of a series of investigative journalism articles, with at least one article written in full.

**MPP 665.01 Region Specific Studies: Saudi Arabia**

*Karen Elliott House*

*International Relations*

This course will provide an in depth look at the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of oil on which Western economic health depends and also the wellspring of the *jihadi* philosophy that seeks to destroy the West. The course will explore Saudi Arabia's unique history (never colonized), one-dimensional oil economy, absence of normal political institutions beyond a ruling royal family of 7,000 princes, omnipresent brand of Wahhabi Islam, rising social tensions involving particularly youth and women, relations with America and Mideast neighbors, and the outlook for survival of its ruling dynasty. It also will provide insights into the life of the Prophet Mohammad and his continuing influence on this Islamic society. All this is intended to prepare students to confront the policy choices the U.S. faces in managing this critical relationship based on mutual needs rather than common values.

**MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: War: Origins, Means, and Ends**

*Victor Davis Hanson*

*International Relations*

Why do states continue to go to war? This course will answer that age-old question by tracing the evolution of Western warfare from the Greeks to the present nuclear age. In addition to a historical survey of conflict, the class also will explore the causes of wars, the way in which they are fought, and the results that they produce. Texts will include both philosophical and political studies of how warfare can be prevented or its effects mitigated, and first-hand accounts of the experience of battle by those who endured it. Requirements include a midterm test, a paper, and final in-class examination.

**MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policy: Public Safety and Homeland Security**

*Bob Brooks*

*State and Local Policy or American Politics*

Pivotal events such as the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina have transformed the traditional role of state and local criminal justice and public safety agencies. These events also brought about an interdependence between federal, state, and local agencies that had not been previously required. This class is intended as a survey of the topics, conflicts and challenges that confront local and state criminal justice and safety agencies, especially the emerging responsibilities related to homeland security and emergency management. Students will be provided with the skills to formally consider and address issues and debates within the area. Students will be expected to apply the diverse tools developed in the core curriculum to this complex policy topic.

## **New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies**

### **Matthew Peterson**

Matthew J. Peterson is currently revising his dissertation on the meaning of the public good in early America for publication and writing further about the notion of the common or public good in political philosophy writ large. He is especially interested in how and why our various understandings of God and the universe or nature help inform our understanding of ourselves and how we think we ought to act and organize ourselves as communities. As managing director of the Charles De Koninck Project, he is helping build an institute that encourages capacious discussions of fundamental questions in philosophy of science, ethics, politics, the human person, philosophy, and theology. He has taught logic and rhetoric as well as Herodotus's Histories and the Lincoln-Douglas debates at Azusa Pacific University. His senior thesis explored the notion of the beautiful in medieval thought (Thomas Aquinas) in relation to art and learning. He directs the Burnweit Database project at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College, which will put biographical data about California lawmakers and other officials throughout the state's history online. As a political consultant with National Demographics Corporation, he specializes in online strategies and community network analysis. Over the last decade, he has created blogs for think tanks, businesses, and research institutes for a variety of purposes. He is also vice president of business development at Simka Entertainment, a family movie production company; he is developing a documentary on the higher education bubble as well as serving as a co-creator and co-producer of Forgotten Road Radio.

All other faculty biographies available at: <http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/academics/faculty/>