

**School of Public Policy
New Course Descriptions
Fall 2016**

MPP 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Political Economy of Oil and Terrorism
Behzad (Ben) Tabatabaei
Economics or International Relations

This course will provide both a historical perspective as well as an up to date detailed information about the role of state sponsorship of terrorism, the financial networks that fund terrorism and how they function, the role of institutions and the incentive structure of these institutions and how susceptible they are to change or reform within non-democratic states. Questions to be explored include: What constitutes political Islam and what are the motivations behind political Islam? Which theories are used to explain this phenomenon and which theories objectively fail to provide a useful framework? What are these challenges and how well various US administrations are dealing with these issues? What are the short-term and long-term prospects for dealing with the rise of international terrorism in the age of nuclear proliferation? What are the differences between various terrorist organizations and their threat capabilities? Which theoretical framework best helps policymakers formulate an effective policy response? By the end of the course students should have a much better understanding of the Middle East as well as developing the proper framework to categorize and place information.

MPP 642.01 Environmental Regulation, Business, and Society (See catalog for full description.)
Wade Graham
American Politics or State and Local Policy

This course surveys the political, economic, and social implications of American resource management structures and statutes governing land, water, minerals, wildlife and fisheries, energy, flood, fire, air quality, and climate change. It begins with the historical development of the environmental movement and environmental policy in the United States. It will cover questions of environmental ethics, economics, law, politics, and regulation, using case studies of different economic sectors to explore the interactions of businesses, interest groups, agencies, politicians, scientists, and other forces in shaping American environmental policy. The intent of the course is to enable students to understand the dynamic structure of contemporary environmental policy questions, and provide them with the analytical tools to assess strengths and weaknesses in U.S. environmental policy regimes and to propose ways to reform and improve them. Students will look at questions of culture: tradition, ethics, conflicting values, and social change; at the machinery of environmental policy: politics, statutes, agencies, and courts; at economics: paradigms, subsidies, externalities, and cost-and benefit analyses; and at alternative regulatory designs, including market mechanisms, stakeholder processes, and state and local regulation. National, state, and local issues will be explored. There will be one session on China's environmental policy and development challenges. There will be two field trips—to the urban Los Angeles River and to the Malibu Creek watershed.

MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Public Opinion and the Problem of Democratic Governance

Ted McAllister

American Politics

How can we know what Alexander Hamilton called “the deliberate sense of the community” in an age of mass democracy? Communities and even small republics can deliberate because the size and composition of the public makes possible a serious conversation in which the “deliberate sense” of the group emerges from this conversation. But if citizen participation in governance is possible when the political unit is scaled to allow for an informed public capable of participating in the deliberative process, democratic governance becomes a problem when the scale overwhelms efforts to constitute a deliberating public. Modern, large-scale democracy has come to depend on public opinion as a substitute for citizen deliberation. The term “public opinion” has many overlapping meanings and ranges from claims about majority opinions to the expression of values collectively held and publicly expressed to an almost mystical claim about some abstract personification of the national self. In this course we will examine the competing views of the nature and definition of the public as seen in the classic exchange between Walter Lippmann and John Dewey. From there we will turn our attention to contemporary concerns about how public opinion is formed, by whom, and with what consequences.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Political Issues: Poverty, Inequality, and Racial Reforms

James R. Wilburn

American Politics or Economics

This is an open ended, non-judgmental course to study the serious efforts through the years to reform issues related to poverty, inequality, racial tensions, and economic recessions and the unintended consequences of those reforms. Topics to be encountered will include a chronicle of past successes and failures, to clarify what the perspective of history can teach us about any common themes of success, or unintended consequences of good-intentioned reforms. We will attempt to discover whether there are overarching questions that should be asked going forward to face current or future policy proposals. Students will not only study this landscape from 30,000 feet in search of common questions to be asked about economic, political and human nature principles, but will have the opportunity to select one particular issue about which they are particularly passionate on which to focus a term paper.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: American Governance Theory & Practice

Sean Jasso

State and Local Policy or American Politics

This course explores the most important theories that define the modern American governance system. For example, what are the theories of Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary? From theory we are able to more intelligently understand not only how American government works, but also the rationale behind the policy decisions it produces. Theoretical clarity then helps the student of public policy engage more broadly with the great challenges and opportunities consigned to political institutions. The course advances to the theories of comparative politics using the American system as a benchmark to study the governance systems of other world powers.

Faculty/Lecturer Biographies

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

Behzad (Ben) Tabatabaei

Dr. Behzad Tabatabaei is an international political economist who possesses the unique combination of academic know-how coupled with executive management experience. He has a doctorate in international political economy and public policy from the University of Southern California. Tabatabaei has the in-depth academic training and analytical skills to provide critical insights and expertise in multiple key areas including macroeconomic analysis, risk assessment, efficient resource allocation, formulating revenue-enhancing business plans, institutional challenges of developing economies, counterterrorism strategies, and the formulation and implementation of effective public policy. Tabatabaei's executive management experiences with print and broadcast media have honed an intimate understanding of image promotion, targeted marketing, and effective communication strategies. He has lectured on satellite television numerous times on building civil societies in emerging democracies and socio-economic and geo-political conditions of the developing world. A seasoned international business consultant with an understanding of both the Oriental and Occidental mindsets, Tabatabaei has access to high levels of government in Central Asia, with senior contacts in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region. These relationships have contributed to his ability to communicate effectively across cultural divides.