

PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
New Course Descriptions
Fall 2019

MPP 619.01 Current Issues in Public Policy: Designing and Writing Research and Grant Proposals

[Marlon Graf](#)

Economics, American Politics, International Relations, or State and Local Policy

This class will examine two of the major processes that shape the conduct and execution of public policy research—research design and grant writing. The first component of the course will examine the structure, design, and approaches to research across a broad spectrum of policy issues, areas, and purposes. The course will delve into the structure of a good research design as well as how such proposals should be composed for a range of audiences. It will explore literature reviews, methodological design, data curation, human subjects (and IRB) issues and best practices for writing and composing research proposals. It will then turn to the question of packaging and targeting these proposals to a wide range of audiences including corporate foundations, nonprofit foundations, federal agencies, state and local governments, and private citizens.

By the conclusion of this course students will not only have an understanding of these processes but will have prepared at least one detailed research proposal (including a detailed bibliography) for multiple audiences. As an experiment in this academic year, these proposals can serve the dual purpose of serving as a research plan for their Capstone Policy Seminar in the spring semester. Students intending to enroll in the “individual author format” capstone in the spring will be required to submit such a proposal for admission into the class, and are thus encouraged to register for this elective.

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: Education Leadership, Policy, and Politics
[Hanna Skandera](#)
American Politics or State and Local Policy

This course explores the role of leaders in education policy and the levers for impacting student outcomes within a complex landscape. The first component of the course will discuss the current status of education politics and policy, including identifying the historical forces that shaped it and its future direction. Next, we will examine the impacts of various systemic roles—school boards, districts, departments of education—regarding state policymaking and the associated political challenges with a particular focus on effective leadership in contemporary education organizations. We will explore in more depth the administrative activities by state and federal governments, internal organization and coordination of agencies and bureaus, changing roles and relationships of government as they affect educational leadership.

This course seeks to prepare leaders as catalysts of improvement and impact in the U.S. education system with an understanding of educational practices, institutions, policies, and initiatives and the importance of engaging in bold decision making from a system-wide perspective. We will look at ideas and perspectives of key education leaders and several practitioners will participate in class discussions throughout the course.

MPP 682.01 Policy Relationships of State and Local Government (See catalog for full description.)
[Joel Fox](#)
State and Local Policy

This course emphasizes that one must understand the politics that surround public policy to accomplish public policy goals. The general objective is to use real world situations for students to learn the issues and concepts that represent and shape the policy relationship between state and local governments, as well as issues dealt with independently by state and/or local governments in California. A second objective is to identify areas and opportunities for improvement in state and local governance. Third, the goal is to hone communication skills that will serve the student in practicing in the public policy arena. We will achieve these objectives through the use of assigned readings; listening and questioning experts and professionals on various subjects dealing with state and local government; following current events related to these subject areas; and fulfilling both oral presentations and written assignments. Students should expect to attend required field trips as a learning component of this course.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Boom and Bust—Solutions to Systemic Causes of California Policy Failures
[Carson Bruno](#)
State and Local Policy

This course will explore California's boom and bust budgeting system as the underlying systemic cause to a cross-section of California policy failures, understanding why this foundational problem has gone unfixed and unchallenged by both Democratic and

Republican Governors and the State Legislature for generations. In exploring the historical context of California's boom and budgeting, this course will ask students to consider the role each the local and state governments play in addressing systemic policy failures as well as the role of the individual, the private sector, and the non-profit/civic arena. Using the State of California's budgeting and financing systems, this course will dive into a number of policy areas, better illuminating the intersections, similarities, and methods to promote and implement effective and efficient reform.

Aside from the readings and class seminars, this course will feature an experiential component with students assigned to a California State Legislative office to work on a policy research project. Students will be expected to interact digitally and/or in-person with their legislative partners over the course of the Fall 2019 term, bringing together theoretical and practical skills necessary to identify policy failures and navigate the legislative and political process to enact meaningful solutions.

This course will build on MPP 604: Political, Organizational, and Strategic Aspects of Public Policy Analysis to master the policy area knowledge and policy analysis skills: 1) defining a policy problem, 2) prioritizing evaluation criteria, 3) identifying policy alternatives, 4) assessing the alternatives, 5) implementing a solution, and 6) evaluating the solution and problem.

The course will feature a mixture of assigned readings, class seminar discussions, pop quizzes, and individual and group assignments/presentations. It is likely students will be expected to participate in a field trip to Sacramento and/or field trips to Los Angeles-based legislative district offices. Students will be required to make necessary accommodations with other classes/faculty in the event such field trips conflict with other enrolled courses.

New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies

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

Hanna Skandera

Hanna Skandera has over two decades of executive leadership experience to a variety of national and state-level private, public and not-for-profit organizations serving rural, suburban and urban settings.

Currently, Skandera is CEO of Mile High Strategies serving as an education and employability entrepreneur, thought leader, senior advisor and executive coach in leadership development and strategy, growing organizational impact, and transforming organizational culture. Skandera is also editor and chief of *The Line*, Founder of Pathway 2 Tomorrow, chief in residence with Chiefs for Change, superintendent in residence with the Broad Center and a Distinguished Teaching Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Recently, Skandera served as secretary of education for the State of New Mexico under Susana Martinez. Previously, Skandera served as undersecretary for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, deputy commissioner for Governor Jeb Bush and deputy chief of staff and senior policy advisor for US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Skandera was also a research fellow with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University and a Pahara-Aspen

Institute fellow. Skandera graduated cum laude with a degree in business from Sonoma State University and graduated Valedictorian from Pepperdine's Graduate School of Public Policy.

She also serves on the Colorado Community College Board, Great Cities, Great Schools Advisory Committee, Uncharted Learning Advisory Board, Code.org Board, Pepperdine School of Public Policy Advisory Committee, is Chair of the George W. Bush Center Education Advisory Board and former Chair of Chiefs for Change, a bipartisan policy and advocacy organization she launched.