

# PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

## New Course Descriptions Spring 2020

**MPP 607.01 Policy Seminar (Capstone): (4 units)** (see catalog for full description)

***Robert Kaufman***

***Capstone – Individual***

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): Empirical Policy Analysis (4 units)** (see catalog for full description)

***Luisa Blanco and James Prieger***

***Capstone – Group or Individual***

This capstone course is designed for the student interested in self-motivated policy research using data. Any student intending to perform econometric analysis should take this capstone. Other approaches to the capstone are also encouraged, such as projects that use qualitative and descriptive data analysis. Projects can be completed in a group or individual setting, but in the former case the research will still be self-motivated. Projects in this course have focused on a wide variety of policy issues, such as the environment, health, migration, labor issues, education, and national security. Students should already have a topic for policy research prior to registration. This course is for capstone projects that intend to use data--of any sort and analyzed by any method—in a serious way. At one end of the spectrum, this could be an econometric investigation. At the other end, qualitative approaches to data gathering and analysis are also acceptable. This course would not be appropriate for someone interested in writing an essay with no empirical component or analysis.

**MPP 607.03 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Disaster Relief (4 units)** (see catalog for full description)

***Michael Shires***

***Capstone – Group***

This research seminar is part of the Capstone Policy Seminar series and will be offered in only a group format. The course will require an intensive policy research effort centered around the general themes of disaster response, relief and recovery. From local responses to the Woolsey Fire to the international responses to major disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, floods and even volcanic eruptions, the methods and goals of these initiatives will be explored and developed. Students will be expected to develop a detailed policy analysis over the first 10-12 weeks of the semester that addresses a problem or set of issues set in one of these contexts. The professor will provide students with a context for understanding the policy area as well as possible candidate questions for their collaborative research project(s). Students will also be allowed to propose their own research project or problem.

Student teams will be required not only to prepare a quality major research paper, but also to develop a presentation of their results that may be given to a broader policy audience. The research portion of the course may be supplemented with discussions of the existing frameworks, guest speakers, and field trips. The small size of the course will allow for a focused research initiative whose results may be published or presented before a client audience.

**MPP 619.01 Seminar in Current Pub Pol Issues: Innovation, Leadership, and Healthcare Policy (3 units)**

***James Prieger and Anna Choi***  
***Economics or American Politics***

This class in fostering innovation and creating entrepreneurial environments through public policy will include discussions about innovation as a key driver of economic growth and the important role of innovation for the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries. Questions addressed will include how much pharma companies should profit from new drugs, who should pay for new drug development, and how the current system allocates care and access to drugs.

**MPP 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy (3 units)**

***Anna Choi***  
***Economics***

This is an introductory course to behavioral economics and its applications in public policy. The course will begin with basic principles and theories of behavioral economics and will cover some of the contributions and limitations. Behavioral economics attempts to incorporate more realistic assumptions into economics, motivated by research in psychology. The objectives of the course are to better understand behaviors we observe in the world and to improve our analyses of policies in different fields. Major course activities (may be subject to change) include student-led presentations and discussions, assignments, and detailed research proposals.

**MPP 658.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Political Communications and Strategy (3 units)**

***Dan Schnur***  
***American Politics***

Students will learn the principles of campaign message development, and will be asked to practically apply those lessons by developing campaign messages of their own. They will be asked to attempt to deliver campaign messages as well, both in writing and in classroom exercises that require them to play the role of both candidate and campaign strategist by participating in mock news conferences, ad tests, and other simulations of real-life campaign experiences. By the end of the semester, they will be prepared to write a full-length campaign strategy prospectus on behalf of a political candidate or cause of their choosing. Students with an interest in politics and government will benefit from the ongoing discussion of contemporary and historical political activity as a regular feature of the course. Those students considering careers in politics and government will benefit from access to an instructor with real-world experience in these fields, as well as practical written and in-class exercises designed to help them understand the unique requirements of political messaging. Other students who are preparing for careers outside of politics and government will find the real-world framing of this course to be a useful complement to other classes in the program.

**MPP 665.01 Region Specific Studies: Eastern Europe (3 units)**

***Alexei Shevchenko***

**International Relations**

This course focuses on major security, political and economic challenges confronting post-communist Eurasia with a particular emphasis on the crucial case study of Russia. The main themes are the problems of democratizing authoritarian regimes, improving the quality of governance and responding to new security threats. In addition, American post-Cold War foreign policy in the region will be examined. The course emphasizes conceptual analysis by drawing on key theoretical debates in international relations and comparative politics.

**MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: Sanctions and Foreign Policy (3 units)**

***Andrea Mihailescu***

**International Relations**

This course will examine sanctions policy and how foreign policy decisions are made. The course will survey how the United States along with its foreign allies and partners have used sanctions, focusing on the last two decades. Sanctions is a powerful tool short of war and the United States has come to rely on it heavily in places like Iran, North Korea, Venezuela, among many others. It will explain how countries coordinate their sanctions efforts with each other and at the United Nations. It will cover its successes and failures and everything in between. It will delve into how sanctions policy is made within the United States between the Executive and Legislative branches of government, as well as the role of the intelligence community in developing sanctions evidentiary packages. Reading materials will include UN Security Council resolutions, Executive Orders, and journal articles. Assignments will be applied and students will write policy memos and position papers as if they were U.S. government officials. Guest speakers will include current and former government officials. Students will engage in a White House Situation Room mock simulation and recommend to the President a course of action that involves identifying a sanctions policy.

**MPP 668.02 Seminar in International Relations: European Union Economic and Policy Framework (3 units)**

***Marlon Graf***

**International Relations**

In this course, students will receive an in-depth introduction to the political and historical development of the European Union. In the beginning of the Semester, we will review the history of Europe and its expansion to a major world player. We will then proceed to cover the various institutions and roles in the complex European policy system. After the initial focus on European processes and institutions, we will turn our attention to various case studies on key topics on the European and international policy agenda. Specifically, we will spend at least one week discussing the following issues: EU expansion, Brexit and separatist movements, immigration, common agricultural policy, single market and common monetary policy, common defense and foreign policy, as well as data security and privacy. Moreover, there might be room for students to choose additional case studies of interest. Throughout the semester, students will be exposed to a variety of methods and analysis techniques commonly used in policy and will gain further experience in working with both quantitative and qualitative data. The deliverables for this course will include a detailed, step-by-step analysis of a policy problem in an area of each student's choice in the form of a final memo

and presentation, as well as several problem sets that will test their knowledge of the methods and concepts covered in class.

**MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Education Reform and Leadership (3 units)**  
**Hattie Mitchell**  
**State and Local Policy**

This course is a study of the Education Reform Movement. Students will examine the policies that shaped the Ed Reform Movement, the leaders who guided policy and grassroots efforts, and the political divide that emerged. The course will take students through the early stages of Ed Reform, beginning in the early 1800s, to the current state of education. Students will also examine topics like school choice, charter schools, vouchers and the state and federal role of education policy.

### **New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies**

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



#### **Steven Bilakovics**

Steven Bilakovics received his Ph.D. from the Department of Political Science at the University of Texas at Austin, and taught at Yale University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Harvard University before coming to UCLA. He teaches courses on democracy, capitalism, American political thought, and the history of political thought. Bilakovics is the author of *Democracy without Politics* (Harvard University Press, 2012), which extends Tocqueville's analysis of democracy to uncover the democratic sources of political cynicism. His current book project, *The Anxiety of American Dreaming*, examines the perennial pessimism - the enduring fear that the Dream is on the verge of decline into the American nightmare - that shadows the Dream's quintessential expression of American optimism.



#### **Andrea R. Mihailescu**

Andrea R. Mihailescu is currently on sabbatical from the U.S. Department of State. She was a Member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff at the Department working on sanctions issues (North Korea, Iran, Venezuela, among others) as well as CFIUS transactions. In that role, Mihailescu provided analytic policy recommendations and alternative courses of action to the Secretary to advance a more

effective U.S. sanctions policy and national security priorities. Prior to that, she worked on a detail assignment to the Department of Defense to support Secretary Mattis on securing a multi-billion Special Measures Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Korea. Before joining the Pentagon, Mihailescu was the senior advisor on North Korea sanctions issues to Ambassador Dan Fried in the Office of the Coordination for Sanctions Policy where she helped lead the effort in designing the North Korea pressure campaign. Mihailescu was also an economic intelligence analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research supporting senior State Department policy-makers by identifying economic pressure points in the Iranian regime. In that role, her intelligence assessments were often included in the President's Daily Brief and other senior level U.S. intelligence products. She also served as a backup briefer to the President's Daily Brief. Before joining government, Mihailescu was a freelance journalist covering oil and gas issues. Mihailescu was a Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholar. She is a graduate of The George Washington University (MBA), American University (MA), and University of Connecticut (BA).

### **Hattie Mitchell**



Hattie Mitchell is a social justice entrepreneur and the Founder of Crete Academy. In her role as Principal of Crete, a non-profit, charter school, she serves children in South Los Angeles who are experiencing homelessness and living in poverty. Through an integrated school model, which she developed, she and her team support 133 students in grades TK-6th. Prior to founding Crete, Mitchell worked for a national charter management organization expanding their portfolio of charters around the country. During her tenure as an educator, Mitchell served as a second and fifth grade teacher, Dean of Students and worked at both the state and federal levels on education policy initiatives. As the Chief of Staff for Student Programs at the Louisiana Department of Education, Mitchell led the state's Race to the Top program. In her

federal education role, she worked for President Obama, as an education intern and led the first White House Conference on Bullying Prevention. Mitchell holds a bachelor's degree in Urban Learning and Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential from California State University Los Angeles, a master's degree in Public Policy from the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, and a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California.



### **Dan Schnur**

Dan Schnur is a professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communications and the University of California, Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies. He has been teaching courses in politics, communications, and leadership since 1996 and has also

taught at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management. He is the director for the "California Influencers" project, a statewide program in which 60 of the state's foremost experts in politics, policy and government discuss the 2018 campaign. He is the founder of the USC/LA Times statewide political poll. Previously, Schnur worked on four presidential and three gubernatorial campaigns as one of California's leading political strategists and served as the national director of communications for the 2000 presidential campaign of U.S. Senator John McCain and was the chief media spokesman for California Governor Pete Wilson. In 2010, Schnur was appointed chairman of the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), where he implemented groundbreaking campaign finance disclosure requirements. He also was a founder and cochairman of the Voices of Reform project, the bipartisan statewide effort whose work laid the foundation for California's landmark redistricting reform. After completing his FPPC term, Schnur registered as a No-Party Preference voter and launched Fixing California, an organization dedicated to campaign finance and political reform. In 2014, he ran for statewide office as a non-partisan candidate for California Secretary of State. Schnur has been an advisor to multiple foundations, trusts, think tanks, and a variety of K-12 education and college and workforce preparedness efforts. His commentaries have appeared in several newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. In addition, he has been an analyst and political commentator for CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and National Public Radio. He is a graduate of the American University in Washington, D.C.