

PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

New Course Descriptions Fall 2020

MPP 619.01 Current Issues in Public Policy: Designing and Writing Research Proposals (3 units)

[Marlon Graf](#)

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

Online

**Strongly Recommended/Required. Students taking the individual capstones will be required to submit a detailed research proposal (such as the one to be prepared in MPP 619) to be allowed into the course.*

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 627.02 Seminar in Economic Policies: Comparative Education Policy and Analysis (3 units)

[Anna Choi](#)

Economics or International Relations

Online

This course will begin with an overview of different education systems and policies around the world. Students will learn about common challenges that teachers, students, parents, and governments face and what skill-sets students should learn in the 21st century. In addition, the course will review various lessons learned in different contexts. Another part of the course will focus on the role of comparative education research and policy analysis in education policy. Throughout the course, students will learn how to interpret research findings, make appropriate policy recommendations, and present data and analysis effectively.

MPP 642.01 Environmental Regulation, Business, and Society (3 units) (See catalog for full description.)

[Wade Graham](#)

American Politics or State and Local Policy

Online

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 (3 units)

[Hanna Skandera](#)

American Politics or State and Local Policy

Online

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 engage with some of the most premier leaders in K-12 education, look at their ideas and perspectives, and hear about their leadership journeys throughout the course.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: American Governance Theory & Practice (3 units)

Sean Jasso

American Politics or State and Local Policy

Online, (1 hour synchronous a week, 2 hours asynchronous a week)

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.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: Risk Analysis (3 units)

Andrea Mihailescu

International Relations

Online

This course will study risks associated with international investment and how to assess opportunity costs. The course will survey how U.S. companies invest in international markets and how they assess and measure risk when investing in challenging and complex environments where restrictions and barriers to entry are high. The course will focus on international investment largely from the United States perspective, except in the case of Iran. Domestic business is complicated as it is but corporations must assess a series of risks before investing or expanding in international markets, including political, risk mitigation, religious, authoritarian, among others. These risks affect the profitability of a business venture, or limit the expected value of an economic action. This course will examine Macro-level and Micro-level political risk assessments. The course will be qualitative and quantitative. Students will study country level analysis and industry/project level analysis inform the decision-making of investors and business owners from various sectors such as energy, banking, entertainment, and retail with guest speakers from these sectors. Students will put together real world business models and proposals in group and individual assignments. Most of the semester will review expansion in Russia, China, Africa (Nigeria), Latin America (Brazil), and the Middle East (Turkey & Iran).

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Issues in the Changing Metropolitan Area (3 units)

Thomas Lynch

State and Local Policy

Online

This course will cover fundamental features of managing change in a local government setting, and cover challenges facing public agencies today, including overall organizational structures, internal and external influences, and interaction with elected and appointed officials, citizen groups, and members of the public. The changes impacting local government may originate from local, State, Federal or even International events, or new technology, all of which may alter the course of government response. The class will include a local case study challenge that will be structured in a team approach. The case studies will focus on policy and managerial issues impacting local Southern California cities and/or nonprofit organizations. Students may have the opportunity to present their project research, and final work product to the organization's executive management and/or elected officials, and to the class. Note: students will be responsible for transportation to possible site locations.

New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies

Full-list of faculty biographies available at: <http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/academics/faculty/>



Ken Sagynbekov

Dr. Ken Sagynbekov is the director of health economics at the Milken Institute. Sagynbekov leads the Institute's health research portfolio, which has included studies of domestic and global health disparities with the focus on health outcomes for women and for rural populations. Before joining the Institute in 2015, he was a tenured faculty at the Economics Department of the University of Regina in Canada, where he taught applied econometrics and the economics of health and served as lead investigator in several large government-funded research projects related to the criminal justice system. In addition to academia, Sagynbekov worked as an economic

consultant in Central Asia with USAID's fiscal reform initiative. He received a BSc in finance from Clemson University and earned his MA and PhD degrees in economics from the University of Mississippi. He works at Milken Institute's Santa Monica office.



Camron Sublett

Dr. Cameron Sublett earned his doctorate in education policy, leadership, and research methods from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research examines policy, finance, and economics in higher education with a particular focus on community colleges. Sublett also researches and writes on career and technical education policy, workforce development, and alternative pathways to school completion. He is an active member of the Association for Education Finance and Policy, the Association for the Study of Higher Education, and the American Educational Research Association. Sublett was selected as an Emerging Education Policy Scholar by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and American Enterprise Institute in 2016 and as an Emerging Policy Scholar by the UC Center in Sacramento in 2015. He is a senior research associate at WestEd, a nonpartisan,

nonprofit agency designed to improve education outcomes for every learner from children to adults.