

PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

New Course Descriptions Spring 2022

Capstone Notice: *Students desiring to pursue an individual capstone and did not take MPP 619 must submit a research proposal by December 17. See registration website for instructions: "[Capstone Notice](#)" section.*

MPP 607.01 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Trends in Policy Analysis (4 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Sean Jasso](#)

**Capstone – Individual
In Person/Consultation**

The "Trends in Policy Analysis Capstone" course will provide the student the opportunity to generate a rigorous, well-argued research paper, with policy implications. The subjects and methodologies are built around a traditional policy analysis framework. The student will develop a policy analysis on a topic of their choice aimed at a client-audience. The course modality will be on-campus for the first four weeks including live Zoom for those students out of state and the remaining term in consultative sessions.

MPP 607.02 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Empirical Policy Analysis (4 units) (see catalog for full description)

[James Priege](#)

**Capstone – Group or Individual
In-Person**

This capstone course is designed for the student interested in self- and group-motivated policy research using the tools of econometrics and other data-analytic techniques. Any student intending to perform econometric analysis should take this capstone. Other approaches to the capstone are allowed, such as projects that use qualitative methods, but every project is expected to involve significant analysis of data. Projects are encouraged to be completed in a group setting, although individual projects may also be allowed upon approval. 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. This course would not be appropriate for someone interested in writing an essay with no empirical component or analysis of data.

MPP 607.03 Policy Seminar (Capstone): International Relations/National Security (4 units)
(See catalog for full description)

[James Coyle](#)

**Capstone – Group
Online Only**

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 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Anna Choi](#)

Economics

Online Only

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, detailed research proposal/paper.

MPP 643.01 Immigration Policy (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Brian Goebel](#)

American Policy and Politics

In-Person

Despite dramatic changes in the US economy and labor markets, our approach to border security, relations between the States and Federal Government, Presidential assertions of unilateral authority, migration patterns, the demographics of refugee and asylee applicants, and transnational crime, the key pillars of US immigration policy have not been meaningfully updated or reformed since 1986. During this time, political discussions of immigration-related topics have become increasingly coarse and disconnected from facts and data.

With Congressional inaction, Presidents have become increasingly assertive on immigration matters, testing the limits of Executive authority and judicial review of Executive actions. How did we get here? This course will cover the history of immigration policy in the US, with particular emphasis on the period from 1965 to the present. It will explore the myriad immigration challenges our country now faces, from the plight of the roughly 11 million undocumented residents currently living in the US, to the question whether people fleeing corrupt and lawless States are entitled to asylum under US law, to the concern that our immigration system is hampering rather than helping our future economic prospects. It will include a review of current and alternate policy approaches for addressing these and many other challenges, including a review of approaches taken by other G20 nations. The course will also explore larger questions, such as “why have borders,” “is immigration reform politically possible,” and “what does our current approach to immigration reveal about our ability to govern, the strengths and weaknesses of federalism, the state of our two major political parties, and our shared values as Americans?”

MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Health Policy & Politics (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

David Mansdoerfer (see bio below)

American Policy and Politics

Online Only

This course will examine the interconnectivity of Health Policy and Politics. From the COVID-19 response, to emerging issues in public health, clinical practice, and resource allocation, Health Policy & Politics will challenge students to dig deeper into critical issues that impact individuals and

society as a whole. This course will include weekly guest speakers ranging from former high-level governmental officials (local, state and national) to lobbyists and clinical / health policy experts. The course will culminate with a presentation and defense of a recommended course of action for a hot-button health policy issue to a panel of special guests.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Political Issues: Manliness: Courage in a Disordered Age (3 units)

(see catalog for full description)

[Ted McAllister](#)

American Policy and Politics or International Relations

In-Person

This course explores the Greek concept of spiritedness. Spiritedness is dangerous and yet necessary for civilization. People who are spirited prefer, as Harvey Mansfield noted in his book on manliness, “times of war, conflict and risk. Manliness brings change or restores order at moments when routine is not enough, when the plan fails, when the idea of rational control by modern science develops leaks. Manliness is the next-to-last resort, before resignation and prayer.”

We associate manliness or spiritedness with courage but also it is the raw material for savagery. Manliness might save civilization or destroy it, depending on how it is cultivated, how it is used, and depending on the times in which it is used. In disordered times, like our own, manliness can seek to save or restore our civilization or it can lead to a new age of tyranny. In ages of disorder, then, we confront the need for the most dangerous part of the human soul to save us, to bring a return to order.

This part of the human (in contrast to both reason and appetite) is not understandable by liberal conceptions of the person since a spirited person operates outside of, or “beyond,” the economic system and so is not moved by liberal conceptions of self-interest or luxury nor by the slavish appeals to self-preservation. And yet, spiritedness is necessary for progress because without daring, a willingness to take risks, then entrepreneurial, intellectual, and scientific innovation would be impossible. Fear of risk, an exaggerated love of safety or health, are pathologies that threaten the very virtues necessary for civilizational and cultural survival. In this class we will explore the need for spiritedness and examine the cultural drift toward risk aversion and, paradoxically, the dangers such aversion poses for the American order.

MPP 651.01 American Democratic Culture: Tocqueville, Local Self-Rule, & Civil Society (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Ted McAllister](#)

American Policy and Politics or State/Local Policy

In-Person

“Public Policy and American Democratic Culture” concentrates on the relationship among culture, society, and politics. As such we are interested in history, in interpreting cultural expressions, in understanding changing social forms and institutions, and in understanding better the complex relationship between a democratic culture and its political expression.

This semester our focus will be on exploring Alexis de Tocqueville’s famous argument that American democratic culture was self-ruling because, in part, of the solidity of what he called “Township rule”—the development of robust local government supported by vigorous civil society and the resulting cultivation of local attachment and affection. We will explore the threat to American self-rule by the progressive weakening of both civil society and local government, usually at the hands of the federal government and corporate power. Our investigation will include social scientific literature on weakening social ties and attending loneliness as well as the importance to both liberty and self-rule of local attachments, local government, and non-governmental associations.

MPP 665.01 Region-Specific Studies: China in International Politics (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Alexei Shevchenko](#)

International Relations

In-Person

China is the world's most important rising power and the engine of global economic growth. Its grand strategy in international politics increasingly influences every continent. The rise of China and its consequences for the geopolitics of Asia and the world is the greatest challenge to global peace and prosperity over the next decades. The course fuses IR theory, diplomatic history, and contemporary case studies to examine China's pursuit of "comprehensive power" in international politics and assess China's role and influence in contemporary world and regional affairs. In our analysis of China's global emergence special attention will be devoted to Sino-American relationship.

MPP 665.02 Region-Specific Studies: Religion and Society in Africa: An Introduction (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

Michael Glerup (see bio below)

International Relations

Online Only

By 2051, one in ten children born in the world will be Nigerian, and by the end of the century, half the world's population will be from Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, by 2050, five of the ten largest Christian populations in the world – Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda – will be in Africa. No other continent will force western policy experts to confront modernity – population growth, environmental pressure, poverty, fragility, or urbanization – in such an extreme form. Yet, historically, western international developments efforts or interventions in Africa have had limited positive impact. Why? Failure to understand the local context. This course aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the local context, especially in regards to African expressions of Christianity and Islam. Guest lecturers will include leading African scholars to discuss health policy, ecological issues, local governance, leadership development, West African Islamic movements, and country-specific issues.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: Sanctions and Foreign Policy (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

[Andrea Mihailescu](#)

International Relations

Online Only

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: Leadership and Diplomacy (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

Michael Keane (see bio below)

International Relations

In-Person

This course has the objective of training students to achieve excellence in ethical leadership. We will distill the ingredients of successful leadership by studying a broad range of individuals from a variety of backgrounds including politics, the military, religion and civil rights. The course will examine the various theories of leadership, including the great man theory, great wave theory and traits theory, and dissect their strengths and weaknesses. We will also explore the narrative theme of the “hero’s journey” and the ideal of leaders and heroes from Greek and Roman mythology to Marvel Superheroes. Additionally, we will explore the critical role that leadership plays during times of crisis, both international and domestic, by reviewing a series of such historical incidents. Guest lecturers, from diverse backgrounds such as Navy Seals and entrepreneurs, will also be invited to share their own experiences and insights into leadership.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Leading Cities: Urban Policy in Action (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

Rick Cole (see bio below)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

We live at an inflection point in human history: the first time a majority of the world's population live in cities and American cities are the epicenter for economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities. Taught by a former mayor and senior local government executive, this course deals with the practical realities of power, politics and policy in cities and regions. Grounded in the history and evolution of how cities work and how they are governed, the focus is on how to make lasting change to create a more equitable and sustainable future for American cities. Emphasizing the role of civic, political and management leadership, the class combines theory and practice, using greater Los Angeles as the primary case study. The course includes varied writing assignments with the goal of imparting useful skills for future leaders.

MPP 687.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: Family Policy (3 units) (see catalog for full description)

Charmaine Yoest (see bio below)

State and Local Policy

Online Only

One of the more prominent, on-going public policy debates concerns a cluster of social and economic issues generally referred to as “family issues.” This class will examine several of those issues in the context of the overarching debate over the importance of the family to civil society and the state. This course is designed to provide a familiarity with the contours of the larger political discussion related to the relationship between individuals, the family as an institution, civil society and the state. Class assignments are designed to provide the student practical experience with different modes of debating these issues in real-world political discourse.

New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies

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

Rick Cole – Biography



Rick Cole is the Executive Director of the Congress for New Urbanism, an influential national membership organization that advocates for "the architecture of community" fighting to legalize walkable urbanism, promote the 15 minute city and design for climate change. He spent three decades in public service leadership as Mayor of Pasadena, Deputy Mayor of the City of LA and City Manager in Santa Monica, Ventura and Azusa. Called "one of Southern California's most visionary planning thinkers" by the LA Times, he was honored by Governing Magazine as one of their "Public Officials of the Year." He has taught urban policy at Occidental College, religion and politics at Fuller Theological Seminary and US history at Pasadena City College.

Michael Glerup – Biography



Michael Glerup is the Executive Director for the Project on Religious Freedom and Society in Africa and a Research Associate on the Religious Freedom in Africa Project at Yale University Macmillan Center. He has taught extensively in Africa on religion in late antiquity and has conducted research in the history of exegesis as the Director of the Early African Christianity Projects and as the executive director of the Center for Early African Christianity at Eastern University. He also initiated and directed regional and pan-African conferences in Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Egypt. His

recent editorial contributions include *The Songs of Africa: The Ethiopian Canticles* and *Historical Atlas of Ancient Christianity*. Glerup holds a PhD in theological studies, philosophy, and theology from Drew University.

Michael Keane – Biography



Michael Keane is a former Fellow of the US Department of Defense's National Security Education Program. In 2003 Keane was embedded with the US Army's 101st Airborne Division in Iraq and in 2009 he was embedded at the headquarters of the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan. He has managed international businesses and has also served as a consultant for the World Bank on anti-money laundering and counterterrorism finance. He has authored three books on military affairs including *The Modern Dictionary of Strategy & Tactics*. Keane's commentaries on national security have

been featured on CNN, CNBC, NBC, NPR and in the *Los Angeles Times*, and he has been profiled in *BusinessWeek* magazine. He has also served as a Clinical Professor at USC's Marshall School of Business. Keane holds a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law, and MBA from the University of Chicago and a BA from USC.

David Mansdoerfer – Biography



David Mansdoerfer is currently the Special Assistant to the President at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. In this position, David has overseen all of the University's external response to COVID-19. Prior to joining, David served as a Presidential Appointee in the Trump Administration in the role of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). There, he had operational responsibility for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health including the offices of; HIV and Infectious Disease, Human Research Protection, Minority Health, Women's Health, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and the Surgeon General. Mansdoerfer also served as the HHS Chief Labor Negotiator. During his time at HHS, he worked on a variety of topics including the top Presidential initiatives of Ending HIV, Opioids, Youth Sports and Veterans Suicide. In other capacities, David has served as Deputy Chief of Staff for California State Senator/Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach, served as the Chairman of the Mission Viejo, CA Planning and Transportation Committee, and is

currently a Board Member for the Community Engagement and Opportunity Council. In 2020, David was recognized for his instrumental role in the establishment of the Federal Ending HIV Initiative by the President's Council on HIV/Aids (PACHA). Mansdoerfer was also recognized by Pepperdine as a 40 Under 40 alumni. David graduated with his MPP from Pepperdine University, and B.A. in Business from Vanguard University. He is married to his wife Megan and has three children—Sawyer, Cash & Norah.

Abbylin H. Sellers – Biography



Abbylin Sellers is an Associate Professor of American Politics at Azusa Pacific University. Her areas of teaching emphasis are American politics and public policy, specifically American government, US political institutions (the constitutional presidency and war powers; Congress and the legislative process), welfare policy, state and local politics, women in politics, and 20th century Communism. Sellers research on political behavior focuses on descriptive representation and how it affects political engagement, efficacy, and trust, and she is currently working on a book project about immigrant entrepreneurs in Los Angeles County. She serves as the practicum director for her department and Pi Sigma Alpha faculty adviser. She is also an honored visiting graduate faculty for Ashland University's Masters in American history and government program and on the Summer Faculty for the James Madison Foundation's Summer Institute. Sellers received her PhD from Claremont Graduate University in

political science, her master's in public policy from Regent University and her bachelor of arts from Westmont College.

Charmaine Yoest – Biography



Dr. Charmaine Yoest has served in many facets of political life—in the White House, on a presidential campaign, and leading a national nonprofit. She directed the domestic policy work of a national think tank voted most influential on policy issues three years running. Those issues included health care and welfare reform, education policy, family formation, women's issues and religious liberty. Yoest served in the White House as Associate Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and also as the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she provided leadership for the \$1.3 trillion Department's public affairs programs, and coordination of strategic messaging across the 11 HHS Operating Divisions. She has appeared as a spokesperson on every major television network and cable outlet, and has been published in the leading national publications. She has provided testimony in front of the United States Congress on multiple occasions. Yoest is a visiting fellow for the Heritage Foundation's Institute for

Economic Freedom where she is focused on a Future of Work project. She is also the author of *Mother in the Middle* (HarperCollins), an examination of child care policy.