

PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

New Course Descriptions Fall 2022

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 Only

****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 capstone.***

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 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Environmental Economics and Policies (3 units)

Merim Baitimbetova

Economics

Online Only

This module is aimed at examining general issues of environmental economics and policies. The main concepts include efficiency, externalities, public goods, property rights, cost-benefit analysis, pollution, climate change, energy transition and regulation.

MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Experts Knowledge and the Problem of Public Policy (3 units)

[Ted McAllister](#)

American Politics

In-Person

Expert knowledge is the fuel that drives the dynamism of the modern world, which is why we value it so greatly. But expertise has an uneasy status in a democratic society, because the two things—expertise and democracy—are in fundamental tension with one another. Expertise

locates authority in specialized knowledge and professional certification, based on extensive education and exposure to rigorous standards of evidence operating in highly exclusive self-correcting communities of peer review. Democracy, on the other hand, is a principle that affirms the fundamental competence of every man or woman, simply as a function of their status as human being and citizen, irrespective of education, social class, or material wealth. The two ideas are in opposition. How, then, are we to think about the relative claims of experts and democratic citizens, and the use of expert knowledge in the courtroom, in the family, in the making of social policy, in life of the community? Should scientists and specialists enjoy a privileged status, relative to the political system? Or does democracy demand that expert knowledge always be subordinated to the public will? These are the kinds of questions that animate this course.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: Writing for a Wide Audience (3 units)

[Tunku Varadarajan](#)

American Politics

Online Only

“Writing for A Wide Audience” is grounded in the idea that expertise is a wasted asset if not shared with non-experts. The purpose of this course is to help you, the budding expert/specialist, learn how to write for the wider public—for people outside your policy discipline. You will work on writing that is rigorous but not jargon-riddled; accessible to readers who don’t share your obsessions; and compelling to people with little knowledge of (or even interest in) your subject. The class has a flexible curriculum, and the material evolves based on students’ needs and progress.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: How to Run the World (3 units)

[Kiron Skinner](#)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

Global politics and American foreign policy are created out of a dynamic mix of governmental, business sector, NGO and media participants. In this course, leading players from each of these sectors will engage with students, demonstrating both the complex nature of international relations, but also the importance of setting forth clear American interests.

MPP 682.01 Policy Relationships of State and Local Government (3 units) (see [catalog](#) for full description)

[Joel Fox](#)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

This year the class will focus on the often ignored but powerful policy making tools of direct democracy. Since California is renowned for its use of the direct democracy functions of initiative, referendum, and recall; this class will examine direct democracy, which once again will play a dominant role in major California policy decisions this election year. It is hoped that a conference around some of this year’s ballot measures can be created with student participation and assistance. Other aspects of California policy and politics will also be part of the course.

MPP 687.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: Ending Homelessness: The Public Policy Challenge of our Time (3 units)

[Rick Cole](#)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

"Homelessness" is the product of intersecting failures, including a broken housing market; inadequate mental health and addiction treatment services; mismatch between wages and housing costs; and reliance on law enforcement to address social breakdowns. This course will analyze the causes of homelessness; the competing political and ideological narratives around its nature and cure; as well as promising policy approaches that actually work. Using Los Angeles as the primary case study, adjunct professor Rick Cole draws on his first-hand experience as a former mayor and city manager along with guest speakers from government, law, nonprofits and those with lived experience of being unhoused.

MPP 687.03 Seminar in Regional Policies: Innovative Local Leadership (3 units)

[Kevin Faulconer](#)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

While federal and state policy debates continue to be polarized and dysfunctional, this class seeks to analyze the laboratories of democracy—America's cities. The broader govtech revolution—implementation of technology to enable more transparent, efficient, and accountable government—is a part of that story, but leadership is the foundation that facilitates environments where policy experimentation and innovation can take hold. This course will examine leadership, challenges, and innovative solutions taking place across the United States through a combination of practical examples from San Diego—one of the country's most innovative municipalities. This class will feature guest speakers practicing local leadership from inside and outside the state. Students will conduct and present research on cities. After taking this class, students will be positioned to become future leaders of America's cities.

MPP 690.01 Entrepreneurial Leadership in Education Policy (3 units)

[Hattie Mitchell](#)

State and Local Policy

In-Person

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 Education Reform, beginning in the early 1800s, to the current state of education. Students will examine topics like charter schools, private schools, vouchers, race and education, gifted education, international education, and entrepreneurship in education.

New Faculty Biographies

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



Merim Baitimbetova is a lecturer in economics with research interests in international business and emerging economies of China, Central Asian Countries and Russia. She is currently working towards her PhD at the University of Birmingham, which is on the political economy of integration in Eurasia. Her previous education includes a postgraduate degree in finance and accounting from the London South Bank University and undergraduate studies in economics at the Kyrgyz National University. She is a Fellow of Higher Education Academy (UK), having completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education. Baitimbetova has taught undergraduate and postgraduate students from wide-ranging cultural backgrounds in Europe, the UK, the US, and Russia. She held a lecturer in

economics post at Regent's University London and participated in the EU Erasmus scheme at the University Autonoma de Madrid. In addition, she was a visiting assistant professor at Seaver College at Pepperdine University, a visiting professor at École de management de Normandie in Le Havre and Plekhanov Russian Economic University in Moscow, and a visiting teaching fellow at the University of Birmingham.