

# PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

## New Course Descriptions Spring 2023

**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): Major Issues in public Policy (4 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Robert Kaufman](#)

**Capstone – Individual**

**Capstone – Group - A-Mark Foundation grant project participants only with [Dr. Marlon Graf](#) advising**

The Major Issues in Public Policy Capstone course will provide the student to the opportunity to generate a rigorous, well-argued research paper, with policy implications. The subjects and methodologies are open. Students will develop a clear, cogent, research design, choosing a topic that is significant but manageable within the confines of a semester. The professor will review at least two drafts of the paper, which each student will have to defend publicly in the final week of class in a point-counterpoint format, paired with a fellow student. In this way, the course hopes to refine the student's capacity to write a worthy policy paper within at least hailing distance of publishable quality.

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

[James Prieger](#)

**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: International Trade and Finance (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Merim Baitimbetova](#)

***Economics or International Relations***

**In-Person**

Students examine the theories, policies, and instruments (e.g., tariffs, quotas, V.E.R.'s) of international trade and consider trade integration and different regional trading agreements. Course content also focuses on the foreign exchange market and balance of payments in international trade. Macropolicies in open economies, such as flexible exchange rates and the nature of world money, are examined. Theories and policies of foreign direct investment are considered.

**MPP 627.02 Seminar in Economic Policies: Economics of Education Policy (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Hattie Mitchell](#)

***Economics, American Politics, or State and Local Policy***

**In-Person**

This seminar will examine K-12 and postsecondary education policy debates and issues from the powerful lens of applied economic theory. Concepts including human capital, labor and workforce development, technological innovation and public finance all play out in the rich tapestry of the nation's schools, school districts, and universities. Since these issues unfold most often at the local and state levels, much of the emphasis will be on understanding the implications of actual education policies as they unfold across the nation. Because it is a seminar, students will take a leading role in making the content of the class current, real, and relevant. Topics will include curriculum design, testing, workforce training and development, access to postsecondary education, the role of research universities in the economy, and the supply and demand for skilled workers.

**MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: European Union Economic and Policy Framework (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Marlon Graf](#)

*International Relations or Economics*

**Online Only**

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 668.02 Seminar in International Relations: Cyber Security and US Foreign Policy (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Alma Keshavarz](#)

*International Relations*

**Online Only**

This course is an overview of the foremost cybersecurity challenges US policy makers face. Malicious cyber actors use cyberspace as a tool to target state actors, individuals, and entities, and use targeted approaches to inflict damage against their perceived adversaries by identifying vulnerabilities. The overarching objective of this course is to understand the beginnings of cyber related legislation and how they are applied to major themes in cybersecurity through the lens of foreign policy. Students will learn about cyberterrorism, state-based cyber actors, and cyber threats through illicit finance, while other topics will cover laws and ethics, cyber strategy, and cyber deterrence.

**MPP 668.03 Seminar in International Relations: America's Role in the World: The Enduring Debate (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Kiron Skinner](#)

*International Relations or American Politics*

**In-Person**

Starting with Washington's Farewell Address, US presidents have carved out approaches to engaging with the world that are rooted in one or another philosophical tradition found in writings, speeches, political organizing, and legislation by American thinkers, politicians, and activists. Taken together this prodigious body of work has created a distinctive American way of thinking about international relations. An enduring debate has emerged: America must save the world versus America must save itself. What is quite remarkable is that the debate never

stops. What is consistent is that each new generation refines and sharpens the questions at hand. What is reassuring is that for all of its faults and missteps at home and abroad, Americans never stop trying to shape the world and forge a common destiny for all. We will join that project in this course.

**MPP 668.04 Seminar in International Relations: Past is Prologue: US International Politics (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Kiron Skinner](#)

*International Relations*

**In-Person**

This course investigates the proposition that past policy decisions are among the most important factors influencing contemporary US foreign policy. Through readings, documentaries, guest speakers, and class discussion, this course examines key foreign policy decisions and international engagements in the past 70 years to gain clarity about America's role in the world in the 21st century.

**MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Data Analysis and Public Policy (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

[Brian Goebel](#)

*State/Local Policy or American Politics*

**In-Person**

Across all levels of government, data analysis techniques are increasingly relied upon to support or drive the formulation or execution of public policy. The early results of this ongoing evolution are decidedly mixed. Government analytical efforts are often undermined by poor design, limited data, methodological errors, cultural resistance, and political interference. They also suffer from an inability to translate analytics results into appropriate government operations and policies. Even when they are successful, analytical efforts are often misunderstood and mired in controversy. Nevertheless, analytical methods ranging from trend analysis to supervised machine learning to modeling are likely to play an increasingly large role in the development, execution, and performance measurement of public policies at all levels of government in the years ahead. This survey course is designed to provide public policy students with a practical understanding of a variety of data analysis techniques, their public policy applications, and the legal, policy, and operational issues raised by their use. At its core, this is an applied critical reasoning course. It is not a statistics, machine learning, or computer science course, although it will discuss and illustrate certain principles from each of these disciplines throughout the course. Students completing the course will have the knowledge and skills required to: (1) pursue more advanced coursework in applied analytics; (2) evaluate or oversee actionable public sector analytics projects; (3) serve as valuable domain experts on interdisciplinary teams executing public sector analytics projects; and (4) translate analytical efforts into operational actions or practicable policy measures.

**MPP 687.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: The Constitution for Future Mayors and State Legislatures (3 units)** (see catalog for full description)

**Tim Sandefur** (see bio below)

**State/Local Policy**

**Online Only**

While understood as an organizing document of a federal government, the United States Constitution outlines important responsibilities for states, local governments and free citizens as well - ones that are regularly tested and modified in courts, ballot initiative, and legislatures. Through reading and discussing a variety of materials from political philosophy and the American founding, to state constitutions and recent Supreme Court cases, students will gain a new appreciation for the policy implications of American federalism and local government. Recent crises from COVID-19 to election administration have highlighted the complexities of our policymaking system. Students with particular interests in state/local government service will benefit greatly from understanding the challenges and opportunities presented by this structure.

## **New Faculty/Lecturer Biographies**

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

### **Tim Sandefur – Biography**



Tim Sandefur is vice president for legal affairs at the Goldwater Institute's Scharf-Norton Center for Constitutional Litigation and holds the Duncan Chair in Constitutional Government. Besides litigating important cases for economic liberty, private property rights, free speech, and race-neutral law, he is also the author of several books, including *The Ascent of Jacob Bronowski*, *Frederick Douglass: Self-Made Man*, *Cornerstone of Liberty: Property Rights in 21st Century America* coauthored with Christina Sandefur, and *The Conscience of The Constitution: The Declaration of Independence and the Right to Liberty*, as well as dozens of scholarly articles on subjects ranging from Indian law to antitrust, slavery and the Civil War, and political issues in Shakespeare, ancient Greek drama, and Star Trek. He is an adjunct scholar with the Cato Institute, a graduate of Hillsdale College and Chapman University School of Law.