

PEPPERDINE | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

New Course Descriptions

Fall 2023

Note: MPP 617.01 Designing and Writing Research Proposals (3 units) with [Marlon Graf](#) is strongly recommended/required for those students desiring to pursue an individual capstone. Those that do not will be required to submit a detailed research proposal (such as the one to be prepared in MPP 617) to be allowed into the capstone (see [Capstone Notice](#)). MPP 617 can count for one of the four specializations: Economics, American Politics, International Relations, or State and Local Policy

MPP 647.01 Seminar in Political Issues: Roots of American Leadership in Peace and War (3 units)

[Victor Davis Hanson](#)

American Politics

In-Person and Online

This course will concentrate on famous generals and leaders that go often unstudied but who had large personas that transcended the battlefield. An emphasis will be on the timeless traits that allow success when success is deemed impossible, and how these qualities should be considered by today's policy leaders—even outside of the military sphere. Students may expect to study one leader per two classes and examples may include: 1) Themistocles, 2) Epaminondas the Theban, 3) Belisarius, 4) Matthew Ridgway, 5) William T Sherman, 6) George Patton, and 7) David Petraeus.

MPP 647.02 Seminar in Political Issues: Case Studies in Modern Leadership (3 units)

[Dan Schnur](#)

American Politics

In-Person

This course will explore the principles that are essential to successful leadership including the skills and approaches necessary to achieve success in the political, business, military, media, diplomatic, and athletic arenas. Students will explore a series of case studies of six modern leaders from the 20th and 21st centuries combined with an emphasis on six stages of the process of leadership development and application. Students will read biographies of each of the six leaders and participate in both lecture and discussion about those leaders' biographies, challenges, and accomplishments. The six stages of leadership examined throughout the semester are: 1) Getting Started/Early Influences, 2) Developing a System/Putting a Plan in Place, 3) Challenges of Leadership, 4) Building Support/Motivating Followers, 5) Adjusting to New Circumstances, and 6) Measuring Leadership. The course will be conducted in a participatory rather than traditional classroom atmosphere. While the first half of class is devoted to traditional lecture on the pre-assigned reading, students are expected to play an active and involved role in the form of questions, comments, or analysis on the topic at hand. The second half of each class requires even more involvement: it is devoted to a class discussion of the leader in which the students will be asked to prepare questions and analysis of the assigned reading and related materials. Small groups, presentations, and daily news developments will be all utilized.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: International Human Rights in Times of Armed Conflict and Terrorism (3 units)

Joshua Niyo

International Relations

In-Person

Are human rights obligations suspended during armed conflict or counterterrorism and other security operations? What about armed non-state actors and other “terrorist” groups; do they have any human rights obligations in these situations? What is the role of the United Nations and other monitoring bodies in tackling such challenging situations? This course explores these and other similar questions, addressing specific issues that arise for the respect, protection, and fulfillment of human rights in times of armed conflict, including on how human rights applies together with other branches of international law and policy. Key issues addressed are the possibilities to restrict human rights under systems of limitations and derogations; the extraterritorial application of human rights; obligations of armed non-state actors; and two particularly emblematic human rights issues in times of armed conflict, namely the right to life and the prohibition from arbitrary deprivation of personal liberty (detention). During the course, time will be dedicated to analyzing different situations in light of these considerations, including the war in Ukraine, the Syria conflict, conflicts in East and Central Africa, as well as the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MPP 668.02 Seminar in International Relations: Open Society and its Enemies: From Plato to Bin Laden (3 units)

[Robert Kaufman](#)

International Relations

In-Person

This course investigates the arguments for and against the open society, beginning with Plato’s Republic all the way to present day controversies, including China’s, Russia’s, and Radical Islam’s critique of Western notions of freedom. It will consider the implications of the perennial challenges freedom has encountered for navigating present and future challenges and dangers.

MPP 687.01 Seminar in Regional Policies: Building and Managing Smarter and Sustainable Cities (3 units)

[Jonathan Reichental](#)

State and Local Policy

Online Only

The world is rapidly becoming more urbanized. Our cities are growing by around three million people per week. We’re building the equivalent urban infrastructure of New York City every month across the planet. These trends support the notion that the future of humanity belongs to cities. This has significant implications for the human experience including work, living, and the environment. This course goes deep into the nature of cities in the 21st century and provides skills and tools for building and managing smarter cities, particularly from the perspective of technology and innovation.

MPP 687.02 Seminar in Regional Policies: Principles and Practice of Issue Advocacy (3 units)

Jonathan Kemp

State and Local Policy or American Politics

Online Only

This course will explore issue advocacy and develop students' skills as communicators with an emphasis on how to work in high performing advocacy teams. Virtually all players in the public policy landscape seek to persuade, mobilize key constituencies, and shape public perception, including elected officials, journalists, corporations, lobbyists, trade associations, not-for-profit advocacy organizations, foundations, and beyond. Many policy conversations, especially in academic settings, explore WHAT should be done. We will emphasize HOW to get things done through exploring both the "inside" and "outside" game. If the "inside game" is focused on policy development, drafting legislation, analysis, and direct discussions with decision makers, the "outside game" is often overlooked but includes how to help decision makers pay attention, feel a sense of urgency, change their minds, and take action. We will talk through the key concepts and a number of different examples and then build your own plans and related content around issues each student chooses. At the end of this course, students will have a working knowledge of how to frame policy issues with urgency and impact, how to develop an advocacy strategy and plan, and a portfolio of practical material to use as a part of their job search after graduation. We will work together across four areas of focus: 1) mapping the advocacy landscape at the federal and local level, 2) developing working definitions and examples of key concepts and methods, 3) meeting and learning from guest expert practitioners, and 4) developing a set of core work products that will be useful in practical advocacy and in job searches.

New Faculty Biographies

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

JON KEMP



Jon Kemp has built winning advocacy campaigns and organizations in some of the most challenging local, national, and international settings including large-scale legislative, regulatory, and litigation support efforts, rapid response operations, and ballot measures. As a trusted advisor to CEOs and executives, Kemp's advocacy experience includes building and winning campaigns on some of the most competitive issues including net neutrality and consumer privacy, the Durbin amendment on debit card swipe fees, environmental regulation and pipeline approval battles, and music policy debates on intellectual property, streaming fees, and labor legislation. Over the years, at Winner & Mandabach

and at DCI Group, Kemp developed experience helping competitors work together on shared priorities in challenging environments. Kemp has won more than a dozen ballot

measure campaigns across the country, most recently as paid media campaign manager for Prop 22 in California.

JOSHUA NIYO



Dr. Joshua Niyo is a public international lawyer with expertise in international criminal law, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law (laws of war). He holds a PhD in international law (magna cum laude) from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (Geneva Graduate Institute), an LLM-MAS (Master of Laws-Master of Advanced Studies) in international humanitarian law and human rights, from the University of Geneva and the Geneva Graduate Institute (Geneva Academy), and a Bachelor of Laws (with honours) from Uganda Christian University, Mukono, Uganda. Niyo's overall professional experience spanning about a decade and a half, includes work in private law firms in Africa (Uganda), teaching and research in Africa, Europe, and North America, as well as work in national and international human rights and humanitarian non-governmental organisations (Chapter Four Uganda; Human Rights Watch, Geneva; the International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva; and, International Justice Mission, in Uganda). He has also assisted members of United Nations (UN) treaty and charter-based bodies (UN Human Rights Committee, and the UN International Law Commission), and been involved in advocacy work within the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.