

**School of Public Policy
New Course Descriptions
Spring 2015**

MPP 607.01 Policy Seminar (Capstone): International Relations/National Security (See catalog for full description.)

James Coyle

Capstone – Group

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 607.02 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Major Issues in Public Policy (See catalog for full description.)

Robert Kaufman

Capstone – Individual

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 607.03 Policy Seminar (Capstone): Current Issues in Public Policy: Where Markets and Government Fail (See catalog for full description.)

Sean Jasso

Capstone – Individual

This capstone course is designed for the student to research a policy domain of their choice culminating with a rigorous policy analysis and presentation. The overarching aim is that the student's policy analysis becomes a high-valued document (much like a master's thesis) showcasing intellectual prowess for a wide audience, yet more directly, a future employer. The traditional rationale for public policy is upheld by the theoretical context of "market failure" and/or "government failure"—each a central pillar of study in this capstone course through key readings and case studies in the field. The learning outcomes include advanced practice in critical thinking, expository writing, and public policy analysis skills preparing the student nearing their commencement for success in the competitive market.

MPP 627.01 Seminar in Economic Policies: Energy Policy

Steven Hayward

Economics or American Politics

This course will equip students with the tools for advanced analysis of energy issues both nationally and globally. The course will emphasize four major aspects of energy: basic technical understanding of different sources and uses of energy; economic analysis of different kinds of energy and energy distribution systems; externalities, tradeoffs and limitations of various energy sources; and major energy policies both current and prospective. The course will be data intensive but not math intensive, and students will acquire a strong foundation in primary data sources and energy measurements necessary for analyzing energy issues. Course will include short in-class "clinic" exercises in which individual students or teams will conduct real-time analysis of problem sets.

MPP 651.01 Public Policy in Modern America Policy (See catalog for full description.)

Ted McAllister

American Politics

After World War II the relationship between the federal government and 1. states, 2. localities, and 3. individuals changed markedly. At the heart of this change was a new conception of federal policy that stressed large, national projects; increased role of expert knowledge at the expense of local knowledge; a change in the focus of national policies toward social reconstruction; and a transformation in the nature of democratic self-rule. This class will examine the political and policy history from 1945 until the present as well as challenge the policy-making matrix that has become dominant in our time.

MPP 665.01 Region Specific Studies: International Relations of Africa

Robert Lloyd

International Relations

This course focuses on three broad challenges to peace and prosperity in Africa. The first is the issue of security. Without security effective governance and economic development are impossible. Failing states, interstate wars, genocide, and ethnic/religious violence, and crime are all common threats to regional stability and human security. The second, and closely related challenge, relates to governance—the establishment of effective and legitimate governments that supply security. The study of governance includes examining state formation, institutions, authoritarianism and democracy, civil society and political participation, and the management of very diverse societies. The third challenge is development. Africa is the least developed economically of all the regions in the world, which requires careful attention to such issues as economic growth and development, poverty, inequality, HIV/AIDS, and the provision of basic services such as education and health.

MPP 665.02 Region Specific Studies: China in International Politics

International Relations

Shevchenko

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 seminar focuses on China's pursuit of "comprehensive power" in international politics and assesses 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, as well as China's interactions with Japan and Russia.

MPP 668.01 Seminar in International Relations: Islam and a Mideast in Crisis

Karen Elliot House

International Relations

This course explores Islam's rise and its impact on the major political, economic, social and security issues roiling the Middle East today. The course will examine forces that shape the modern Middle East with special emphasis on the role of Islam, the legacy of empires, Western colonialism, the culture of patriarchy and authoritarianism and the distortions of oil wealth on the political developments of the region. Students will secure an understanding of Islam and of the fundamental forces shaping a region whose geopolitical importance to the world is only increasing.

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

Robert Kaufman

American Politics or International Relations

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 680.01 Regional Policies: Southern California as World Microcosm (See catalog for full description.)

Wade Graham

State and Local Policy

This course investigates Southern California as a regional city, which has evolved new and distinctive forms of culture and society, economy, urban form, transportation, infrastructure, population dynamics, governance, and environmental impacts and regulatory systems. We will consider these questions in historical perspective, as current affairs, as contributors to broader US public policy debates, and as examples that are relevant to urban experiences in other parts of North America and the world.