

MPP 628. Development of American Economic Institutions and Policies (4)

This course will give a sense of the interaction of economic behavior and other social institutions. The historical dynamics of how the present-day economy evolved will be examined. The course also will demonstrate how the main body of economics can be enriched by the study of history. Topics will include colonial economic policies, the institution of slavery, immigration policies, railroads and the transformation of the American economy, land distribution, and the role of government in transportation and technology.

MPP 629. Applied Methods (4)

The objective of this course is to train students in analytical methods that can be applied to a wide array of policy issues. This course will examine different approaches to policy analysis and discuss ways to account for uncertainty in the decision-making process. The student will study a variety of analytical tools such as cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, and simulation models that can be used to inform the understanding of policy problems and proposed interventions. This course will combine literature review with hands-on modeling. Students will learn to construct simulation models to understand emerging patterns such as the spread of infectious diseases and neighborhood segregation. Students are expected to complete a number of homework assignments to demonstrate mastery of the methods taught, but a large part of the course grade will be based on a student project where students develop their own models in an area of interest.

MPP 630. Criminal Justice (4)

This course is designed as a research and writing-oriented seminar that will prepare students for conducting criminal justice policy analysis. It will cover the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice policy and law enforcement, court processes, and corrections. Students will consider many interest groups and a diversity of perspectives. The course will include visits with activists, victims' groups, law-enforcement agencies, prosecutors and judges, and inmates in youth and adult facilities. Students will explore concepts associated with policy, policy making, and policy analysis and will examine current criminal justice policies in a framework that considers the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies. Students will be responsible for a research report, research progress reports, and a final presentation. In addition, students will assist the professor in preparing debate panels and managing off-campus projects and meetings.

MPP 631. International Aid (4)

This course considers both the United States and recipient country perspectives on international aid. The course will cover questions such as: What is poverty? Who are the poor? Why are they poor? What is to be done? By whom? These questions lead to the policy context within which poverty may be reduced—or worsened—by international efforts. Students may design their own research agendas (to be approved by the professor), but two major aid programs will be studied in class: The Millennium Challenge Account and The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.