



HUMPHREY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

UPCOMING COURSES FOR UNDERGRADUATES

**Do you want to learn more about the worlds of public policy,
civic engagement, and public affairs?
Check out the Humphrey School Undergraduate Course Offerings
Spring 2024**

PA 1401 – Community Organizing Skills for Public Action (3 credits)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:45-11:00 a.m.

Instructor: [Dennis Donovan](#), National Organizer, Public Achievement

This is a hands-on introduction for students wanting to develop skills, confidence, and knowledge to become empowered citizens of change by examining key concepts of citizenship, politics, and democracy. Hands-on experiential learning in problem solving and team work within the framework of Civic Studies develop the skills to address the challenge of collective action in a world of often radically different ethical frameworks.

PA 3001 – Changing the World: Contemporary Public Policy (3 credits)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Instructor: [Brian Harrison](#) has taught at numerous universities and is a specialist in American politics, political communication, public opinion, political behavior and attitude change, and LGBT politics. Prior to graduate school, Brian was a White House appointee to the Department of Homeland Security.

A foundation for understanding the what, who, where, and how of public policy making. These components are explored from different perspectives while delving into questions such as: What is public policy good for? Who decides policy priorities? What effect does public policy actually have in solving public problems? How can we improve public policy making? After successfully completing this course, students will understand the process, structure, and context of policymaking; identify who, how, and what influences the policy process; and apply knowledge of public policy and the policymaking process to a specific policy issue. A strong understanding of the American political system is encouraged.

PA 4790 – Topics in STEP: Climate Action and Adaptation Planning (3 credits)

Thursdays 4:00-6:45 p.m.

Instructor: [Fred Rose](#) is an adjunct lecturer for the Humphrey School and the Institute on the Environment.

Global climate change poses the most significant environmental challenge of this generation. The response to the climate challenge spans grassroots movements to coordinated international policy. But ultimately the impact to people is local. As policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change continue to take shape, what do decision makers, advocates, and analysts need to know to take effective action? This course will investigate climate change policy as it pertains to the actions communities must take. Whether the community is a town, city, county or even state, this action takes the form of a Community Action Plan or Community Adaptation Plan. This course will explore existing and proposed approaches to mitigate and

adapt to climate change through policies that cross scales of governance (from the local to the global) and that impact a wide range of sectors (energy, transportation, manufacturing, water, agriculture, buildings, etc.). Students will have the opportunity to work with a MN city actively participating in climate work via the MN Green Step Cities program.

ONLINE-ONLY CLASSES – Election Administration

PA 3972 – Elections and the Law (2 credits)

Instructor: [Judd Choate](#) the Director of Elections at the Colorado Department of State.

A thorough examination of election laws at the federal, state, and local level and how they guide the conduct of elections by officials and voters alike. Theories and basic structure of the American legal system. Experience with basic tools and skills for using the law to understand and analyze issues facing election administrators across the nation. Use of election-related and non-election related materials to prepare election administrators for interacting with counsel, legislators and the courts in carrying out their responsibilities.

PA 3976 – Voter Participation (1 credit)

Instructor: [Regina Roberts](#)

Voter participation issues and challenges including historical survey of voter participation in US and methods to increase voter turnout.

PA 3984 – Elections Security: How to Protect America’s Elections (2 credits)

Instructor: [Maurice Turner](#)

Elections Security uses the Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election as a case study to identify the vulnerabilities of US elections (especially state voter registration databases) as well as catalogue new protections. Readings and discussion will focus on best practices and technology options available to the public (social media) and elections professionals (cybersecurity) in guarding against future influence efforts and assuring public confidence in election outcomes. Special focus will be given to describing how local election officials can protect their election technology, most notably those vulnerabilities associated with their voting system and voter registration database. “Elections Security” will draw heavily on concrete cases and challenges facing election professionals, using government and independent reports and an in-depth analysis of new resources created by the US Department of Homeland Security and its collaborations with election professionals.

For more information about the Election Administration classes, please contact Lea Chittenden at chit0018@umn.edu.

