

SPA Elective Courses

Winter Intersession 2012

PAF 9699: Big History (Neil Sullivan)

Big History will focus on David Christian's book *Maps of Time* which takes the longest view of the human experience, starting with the Big Bang and ending with speculation about the fate of the universe. Christian emphasizes thresholds that mark distinct turning points in that experience. We'll be particularly interested in the history of our planet and its implications for environmental change, the development of life and what it means to be human, and various mega-extinction events that can really make a hash of one's day. If you took the summer course *Public Policy: A Very Very Broad Perspective* you can still take this one because we'll look more closely at a few items from that earlier course but not the material from quantum physics and the like.

PAF 9799: Healthcare and the Media (Trudy Lieberman)

Health policy is not shaped in a vacuum. The media, both advertising and press stories from a variety of news outlets, heavily influences the decisions of policy makers. This course takes an in-depth look at how these forces shape the country's health policies that affect us all. You will learn how different forms of media operate and how corporations, advocacy groups, and health professionals use the media to influence public policy to further their own agendas. You will also learn how to be skeptics of what you see and hear in the media and to detect misinformation, disinformation, and the lack of information that surround virtually every health policy issue. And you will learn how to be effective communicators yourselves, a skill that will be useful for any job you take.

For detailed information, please contact SPA Advisement Office, at spa.admissions@baruch.cuny.edu or 646-660-6750/6757

Spring 2012

PAF 9199: Selected Topics (Sonia Jarvis)

PAF 9199: Managing Disability in the Workplace (Jaclyn Okin-Barney)

PAF 9199: The Changing NYC Economy (Greg David)

This course examines the city's economy, its business sectors and the relation of both to politics and government. The course includes classes on thematic issues and sectors of the economy and will be based on today's headlines. The class will examine the city's economy as it recovers from the Great Recession with particular emphasis on Wall Street, manufacturing and tourism, emerging industries and real estate. A key component of the class will be city and state policies that influence the economy and the impact of the economy on all New Yorkers. The course can provide an economics foundation for public policy students and can be done independently or as a complement to courses on NYC government and social issues.

PAF 9199: Family and Work Life Balance (Caryn Medved)

This course will examine the shifting demographics, public sphere debates, and divergent experiences of managing work and family responsibilities the U.S. Particular focus will be paid to the intersections between (a) organizational-level policies, benefits and services (e.g., flextime, telecommuting, parental leave, on-site daycare) and (b) related federal/state laws (e.g., Family Medical Leave Act, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, Paid Sick Day Legislation). Specifically, students will read, discuss and write about issues such as: (a) organizational-level work-life policies in the U.S., (b) related national policy debates, (c) low-income work-life challenges, (d) concerns about policy inclusiveness, (e) creating supportive work-life organizational cultures, (f) managerial and co-worker communication about work-life policies, and (g) non-traditional work-life arrangements. Throughout the class, students will critically think about the impact of their work-life attitudes, choices, and interactions as employees, managers or potential managers, and family member

PAF 9199: Cultural Diversity in the Workplace (Ryan Smith)

This special topics capstone seminar culminates the two year MPA program. The chief goal of this course is for students to apply the knowledge and skills learned over their graduate experience toward the development and completion of a capstone thesis project that focuses on an issue of or related to workplace diversity either by way of an organizational analysis, a policy analysis, or a combination of both. Students are free to choose their own diversity related topic.

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