## SOCIAL POLICY ANALYSIS (SOPA)

### SOPA 200 - APPROACHES TO SOCIAL POLICY

**Short Title:** APPROACHES TO SOCIAL POLICY  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** This course covers applications of statistics to policy analysis and evaluation. Topics include regression, limited dependent variable and selection models, and other estimation techniques appropriate for evaluation and causal inference.

### SOPA 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS

**Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study  
**Credit Hours:** 1-4  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Lower-Level  
**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

### SOPA 300 - SOPA FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Short Title:** SOPA FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Seminar  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** SOPA 200 and (SOSC 302 or STAT 310 or STAT 315)  
**Description:** Students work on approved field research projects, write a research report for publication and present finding from their field research project to Rice faculty and staff. Recommended Prerequisite(s): POLI 338 or SOSC 301. Repeatable for Credit.

### SOPA 309 - APPLIED ECONOMETRICS FOR POLICY EVALUATION

**Short Title:** APPLIED ECONOMETRICS: POL EVAL  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** SOSC 302 or STAT 310 or ECON 307 or STAT 315 or DSCI 301  
**Description:** This course covers applications of statistics to policy analysis and evaluation. Topics include regression, limited dependent variable and selection models, and other estimation techniques appropriate for evaluation and causal inference.

### SOPA 340 - INTRODUCTION TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE

**Short Title:** INTRO TO PANDEMIC RESPONSE  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Lecture  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** This course provides students with a broad, introductory-level overview of the knowledge and skills necessary for preparing a public health response to epidemics or pandemics of infectious diseases. The course will use the recent pandemic, COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019), and the subsequent response efforts in the United States to provide context to covered topics.

### SOPA 400 - SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH SEMINAR I

**Short Title:** SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH I  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Research  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** (ECON 209 or SOSC 302) and (POLI 338 or SOSC 301) and SOPA 200  
**Description:** Students work in teams under the guidance of a Rice faculty member, researcher, or community partner (government, nonprofit, advocacy Organization, etc.) to evaluate or design a social policy intervention. Teams write a research report of publication quality and present findings at the end of the year.

### SOPA 401 - SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH SEMINAR II

**Short Title:** SOPA CAPSTONE RESEARCH II  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Research  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Prerequisite(s):** (SOPA 400 and (POLI 338 or SOSC 301)  
**Description:** The capstone research seminar is a two-semester course taken in the final year of study. During the Spring Semester, the research teams will write up and present their final research report.

### SOPA 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS

**Short Title:** SPECIAL TOPICS  
**Department:** Social Policy Analysis  
**Grade Mode:** Standard Letter  
**Course Type:** Internship/Practicum, Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory  
**Credit Hours:** 1-4  
**Restrictions:** Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.  
**Course Level:** Undergraduate Upper-Level  
**Description:** Topics and credit hours may vary each semester. Contact department for current semester’s topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.