

**Course Offering: From Financial Crisis to COVID-19: California Policy Responses to the Financial Fallout**

Fridays

10:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

**Apply:** [bit.ly/Fall2020Fellows](https://bit.ly/Fall2020Fellows)

In 2007 and 2008, The Financial Crisis hit California hard and policymakers across the country were tested. Today, with the coronavirus acting as a drag on the economy, policymakers once again face a crisis that will push their tools to the edge. In between both of these major events, issues like homelessness and climate change have grown more challenging and state leaders have faced these issues with everything at their disposal. In this course, students will learn about each and every one of these events from a former California state official.

This course examines California's economy and state finances from the Financial Crisis of 2008-09 to the COVID-19 pandemic. An intensive focus on how state policymakers addressed major policy areas from the downturn to recovery to dive will be highlighted. The course will be discussion-based featuring guest speakers who are subject matter experts. Student-designed lesson reinforcement will be assigned.

**Meet the Instructor: California State Treasurer John Chiang**



From 2015 until 2019, John Chiang served as California's 33rd State Treasurer. As the state's banker, he oversaw trillions of dollars in annual transactions, managed a \$75 billion investment portfolio, and was the nation's largest issuer of municipal bonds.

Prior to being elected Treasurer, Chiang served as State Controller from 2007 through 2014. During the Great Recession, he took steps to preserve cash to meet obligations to education and bond holders. His cash management decisions were instrumental in keeping the state's credit rating from plunging into junk status, and his actions saved taxpayers millions of dollars. Additionally, Chiang aggressively used his audit programs to identify more than \$9.5 billion of fraud, waste and abuse in government programs, the most by any Controller in California's history. In 1998, he was elected to California's Board of Equalization and served two terms, including three years as chair. John also served as an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow and Hunt-Kean Fellow.

