As a distinguished professor of political science at Northeastern University and a visiting professor of public policy at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, Michael Dukakis brings four decades of experience as an attorney, state legislator, governor, and presidential candidate to the classroom. Born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, Gov. Dukakis graduated from Swarthmore College in 1955 and served two years in the Army in Korea before entering Harvard Law School. He was a practicing attorney with three years experience as a member of the Brookline Town Meeting when he was elected to the Massachusetts Legislature in 1962.

He went on to serve three terms as governor of Massachusetts (1975-78, 1983-1990), interrupting his last to run as Democratic nominee for president against Republican nominee George Bush in 1988. Gov. Dukakis has been a Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Northeastern University in Boston since 1991, and a visiting professor of public policy at UCLA since 1996. Formerly a lecturer and director of intergovernmental studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, he has also served as a visiting professor or guest lecturer at Rutgers University, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Hawaii. An ardent supporter of public and mass transportation, he has recently served as a member and vice-chairman of the Amtrak Board of Directors.

Among the courses Gov. Dukakis teaches at UCLA are an undergraduate class, "Public Policy and the California Economy", offered jointly with Daniel J.B. Mitchell, Ho-su Wu Professor of Management and Policy Studies, and a graduate course, "Bureaucracy and Public Management". At Northeastern, he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on the American presidency; public policy, with an emphasis on health policy and politics; state and local government; public management; and urban and community development.