

# Public Policy Studies

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*Web: [www.college.uchicago.edu/Programs/CollegePublicPolicy](http://www.college.uchicago.edu/Programs/CollegePublicPolicy)*

## Program of Study

Public Policy Studies offers College students an opportunity to pursue interdisciplinary study of domestic and international policy issues. The primary disciplines among the teaching faculty are economics, political science, and sociology. Course work emphasizes the application of these disciplines to real-world policy issues.

The program of study for the B.A. degree in public policy studies is designed to introduce students to policy analysis and implementation, equip them to use quantitative and economic techniques and methods, train them in policy research, and give them a command of at least one particular policy area.

Students may focus their interests on domestic policy concerns or on international or foreign matters. Those interested in domestic issues can assemble an outstanding selection of courses from offerings in political science, economics, and sociology. For example, students can specialize in urban problems, the influence of the labor market, the family, and social attitudes on the status of various income and racial groups. As a further example, students can specialize in policy implementation, taking courses in the economics of public management, organizational decision-making, and complex organizations, among others.

The program also encourages students to have an internship experience either during the academic year or during the summer. PBPL 29600 offers academic course credit for students completing an approved, policy-oriented internship. Students may inquire about internship opportunities and requirements through the program's administrative assistant.

## Program Requirements

**First Year.** During the first or second year, all students must take one full year of calculus.

**Second Year.** The following three-quarter sequence, which is usually taken in the second year, is required of all students in the program.

PBPL 22100. Politics and Policy

PBPL 22200. Public Policy Analysis

PBPL 22300. Problems of Policy Implementation

Students are also required to take ECON 20000 (The Elements of Economic Analysis I) no later than the Autumn Quarter of their second year. Students are encouraged to also take at least one additional economics course; appropriate courses include ECON 20100, 20200, 27000, and 27100.

**Third Year.** Most students complete the courses below in their third year:

*At least one course in statistics.* Students are strongly encouraged to take STAT 22000, especially if they anticipate taking several economics courses or the more analytical political science courses. STAT 20000 is an acceptable substitute for STAT 22000. A second statistics course is recommended. Students should consult with the undergraduate program director for help in selecting appropriate courses from the many statistics courses offered by the University.

*Courses in an area of specialization.* Students are required to complete three substantive policy courses that make up a specialization in a public policy field. Students may meet the specialization requirement in one of two ways: (1) by taking three courses that logically connect (e.g., courses in urban politics, urban economics, and urban society would count as an urban specialization; or courses in international relations, international finance, and history of the common market might be an international specialty); or (2) by taking three courses beyond the introductory course in one discipline other than public policy (e.g., economics, political science, sociology, statistics). Two of these courses should be taken in the third year.

*Research practicum.* In Winter and Spring Quarters, students must participate in a two-quarter practicum (Field Research Project, PBPL 26200-26300). This is a group project that exposes students to real-world policy-making questions. Students are given responsibility for particular aspects of the research project, and the final report integrates the findings. In previous years, practicums have dealt with the employment and housing conditions facing Latinos in metropolitan Chicago, juvenile recidivism, and patterns of racial integration and segregation in the suburbs of Chicago.

**Fourth Year.** Students must write a B.A. paper in the fourth year. Ordinarily, the B.A. paper should not be an expansion of the third-year research study. Students wishing to graduate with honors should seek two faculty advisers for the project in Spring Quarter of the third year or early in the fourth year. The instructor of PBPL 29800 serves as adviser for all other B.A. papers.

Further assistance is available in a seminar course (PBPL 29800) offered in Autumn Quarter and required of all concentrators. The seminar informs students about sources and methods of research. During the second half of the course, students offer preliminary statements about the mode of inquiry, sources, and treatment of evidence for their B.A. papers. Students work throughout winter and spring quarters with the Public Policy Senior Preceptors revising the B.A. paper. Students may take as many as two quarters of PBPL 29900 (B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy) for general elective credit.

**Courses.** Many policy-related courses in political science, economics, sociology, education, and history count towards the concentration requirements when used as “specialization” courses.

### Summary of Requirements

<b>General Education</b>		MATH 13100-13200 or equivalent†
<b>Concentration</b>	1	MATH 13300 or equivalent†
	3	PBPL 22100-22200-22300
	1	ECON 20000
	1	course in statistics†
	3	courses in an area of specialization
	2	PBPL 26200-26300 (research practicum)
	1	PBPL 29800 (Senior Seminar)
	—	B.A. paper
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† Credit may be granted by examination.

It is recommended that students take an additional course in economics (ECON 20100 or 20200) and an additional course in statistics.

**Grading.** All courses counting toward the public policy concentration must be taken for quality grades unless students have prior approval for *P/F* grading from the undergraduate program director.

**Honors.** All seniors are candidates for honors. Students are recommended for honors if their B.A. papers are of substantial quality and their GPA in the concentration is 3.25 or higher. Students wishing to graduate with honors must submit the final drafts of their B.A. papers to two faculty readers by the beginning of the sixth week of the quarter in which they wish to graduate.

### Faculty

C. Bidwell, D. Coursey, D. G. Johnson, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, H. Margolis, J. Padgett, H. Richman, D. Snidal, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend

### Courses: Public Policy Studies (PBPL)

**21800. Economics and Environmental Policy.** (=ENST 21800) *PQ: ECON 19800 or higher.* This course combines basic microeconomic theory and tools with contemporary environmental and resources issues and controversies to examine and analyze public policy decisions. Theoretical points include externalities, public goods, common-property resources, valuing resources, benefit/cost analysis, and risk assessment. Topics include pollution, global climate changes, energy use and conservation, recycling and waste management, endangered species and biodiversity, nonrenewable resources, congestion, economic growth and the environment, and equity impacts of public policies. *G. Tolley, S. Shaikh. Spring.*

**22100. Politics and Policy.** *PQ: PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* Public policy choices interact with politics in obvious ways (e.g., elections) but also in subtler ways, turning especially on how organizations work and what governs persuasion and belief. This course surveys some key aspects of these interactions. *H. Margolis. Autumn.*

**22200. Public Policy Analysis.** (=ECON 27800) *PQ: ECON 20000. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* This course reviews and augments the basic tools of microeconomics developed in ECON 20000, and applies these tools to policy problems. We examine situations in which private markets are likely to produce unsatisfactory results, suggesting a potential rationale for government intervention. The goal is to allow students to comprehend, develop, and respond to economics arguments when formulating or evaluating public policy. *J. Leitzel. Winter.*

**22300. Problems of Public Policy Implementation.** (=SOCI 30302) *PQ: One 20000-level social sciences course. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in sequence or individually.* Once a governmental policy or program is established, there is the challenge of getting it carried out in ways intended by the policy makers. Obstacles emerge because of problems of hierarchy, competing goals, and cultures of different groups, as well as because of difficulties in achieving complex new patterns of change. We explore how these obstacles emerge and may be overcome particularly between groups; and between creators and those responsible for implementing programs. We also look at varying responses of target populations. *R. Taub. Spring.*

**22500. Environmental Policy and Decision Making.** (=ENST 24700, LLSO 28900) This course considers theories concerning the origins of environmental problems and policy options for their resolution. It also analyzes public opinion concerning the environment, theories of the relationship of environmental knowledge and attitudes to environmental behavior, and how environmental education might increase the effectiveness of public participation programs and democratic capacity. *R. Meyers. Winter.*

**22600. The Environment in U.S. Politics.** (=ENST 24100, NCDV 24100) From genetically modified foods to fossil fuels, from environmental justice to nuclear waste storage, environmental issues pervade American politics. Guided by leading theories on political power and behavior, we examine how major actors influence environmental policy, including the scientific and business communities, social movements, the public, and policymakers themselves. *A. McCright. Autumn.*

**23000. Organizational Analysis.** (=SOCI 20101/30101) This course is a systematic introduction to theoretical and empirical work on organizations broadly conceived, such as public and private economic organizations, governmental organizations, prisons, health-care organizations, and professional and voluntary associations. Topics include intraorganizational questions about organizational goals and effectiveness, communication, authority, and decision-making. Using recent developments in market, political economy, and neoinstitutional theories, we explore organizational change and interorganizational relationships for their implications in understanding social change in modern societies. *E. Laumann. Autumn.*

**23100. Environmental Law.** (=ENST 23100, LLSO 23100) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing, or consent of instructor.* This lecture/discussion course examines the development of laws and legal institutions that address environmental problems and advance environmental policies. Topics include the common law background to traditional environmental regulation, the explosive growth and impact of federal environmental laws in the second half of the twentieth century, regulations and the urban environment, and the evolution of local and national legal structures in response to environmental challenges. *H. L. Henderson. Autumn.*

**23200. The Economics of Crime.** (=ECON 28700) *PQ: ECON 20100 required; ECON 21000 or STAT 22000 strongly recommended.* This course uses theoretical and empirical economic tools to analyze a wide range of issues related to criminal behavior. Among the topics discussed are the police, prisons, gang behavior, guns, drugs, capital punishment, labor markets and the macroeconomy, and income inequality. Special emphasis is devoted to analyzing the optimal role for public policy. *S. Levitt. Spring.*

**23600. Political Sociology.** (=ENST 23500, PPHA 33600, SOCI 20106/30106) *PQ: Completion of the general education requirement in social sciences.* This course provides analytical perspectives on citizen preference theory, public choice, group theory, bureaucrats and state-centered theory, coalition theory, elite theories, and political culture. These competing analytical perspectives are assessed in considering middle-range theories and empirical studies on central themes of political sociology. Local, national, and cross-national analyses are explored. *T. Clark. Spring.*

**24100. Public Policy and the Arts.** This course examines art in its social context from the perspectives of artists, patrons, experts, art institutions, the art market, and audiences. We address how public policy has shaped the arts in the United States in different eras, with a focus on the nature and significance of contemporary art controversies. *B. Farrell. Spring.*

**24101. Public Policy and Wage Inequality.** (=ECON 24101) *PQ: ECON 20100.* Over roughly the last two decades, the United States has seen a dramatic increase in wage inequality. This course explores potential explanations for this phenomenon and specifically examines the role that public policy may have played. The course deals extensively with analyses of minimum wage laws, trade agreements, affirmative action enforcement, and government education and training programs. The course also explores comparisons between U.S. policy and corresponding policies in other developed countries. *D. Neal. Spring.*

**24300. Global Environmental Politics.** (=ENST 24900, NCDV 21100) This course provides an introduction to global environmental politics. We examine several environmental issue areas to identify the roles, interests, and behavior of main actors such as states, international organizations, NGOs, and the business community. Students are introduced to major contemporary debates relating environmental issues to trade liberalization, security, social justice, and human rights. They are also provided with analytical tools for further exploration of environmental issues. *E. Tennant. Spring.*

**24400. Is Development Sustainable?** (=BPRO 23400, ENST 24400, HIPS 23400, NCDV 27300) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* This is a discussion course for students without a background in environmental issues. Its aim is to grapple with the “big problem” of sustainable development. We analyze problematical issues underlying population growth; resource use; environmental transformation; and the plight of developing nations through a consideration of economic, political, scientific, and cultural institutions and processes. *T. Steck, M. Arsel. Spring.*

**24500. Economics of Urban Policies.** (=ECON 26600/36500, GEOG 26600/36600) *PQ: ECON 20100.* This course covers tools needed to analyze urban economics and address urban policy problems. Topics include a basic model of residential location and rents; income, amenities, and neighborhoods; homelessness and urban poverty; decisions on housing purchase versus rental such as housing taxation, housing finance, and landlord monitoring; models of commuting mode choice and congestion and transportation pricing and policy; urban growth; and Third World cities. *G. Tolley, D. Barker. Winter.*

**24600. Inner City Economic Development.** (=SOCI 20129/30129) *PQ: At least one prior course in economics, political science, public policy, or sociology.* This course explores conceptually what the issues are around the economic position of cities in the late twentieth century, and how to think creatively about strategies to generate economic growth that would have positive consequences for low-income residents. We consider Community Development Corporations, empowerment zones, housing projects, and business development plans through credit and technical assistance. *R. Taub. Autumn. Not offered 2003-04; will be offered 2004-05.*

**24700. The Family and Public Policy.** (=HUDV 24700) In this course we investigate changes in family life in the United States in historical and contemporary perspective, with an emphasis on the ways in which policy has been shaped by (and, in turn, affects) family norms and practices. Topics include gender roles, work patterns, and welfare policy; reproductive choices, parenting, and child care; and current family politics. *B. Farrell. Autumn.*

**24800. Urban Policy Analysis.** (=SOCI 20120/30120) This course addresses the explanations available for varying patterns of policies that cities provide in terms of expenditures and service delivery. Topics include theoretical approaches and policy options, migration as a policy option, group theory, citizen preference theory, incrementalism, economic base influences, and an integrated model. Also examined are the New York fiscal crisis and taxpayer revolts, measuring citizen preferences, service delivery, and productivity. *T. Clark. Autumn.*

**25300. Social Welfare in the United States.** (=SOSC 25300) This course examines the evolution of social welfare provisions in American society. Special emphasis is placed on who is helped and who is not, in what forms, under what auspices, and with what goals. The changing nature of helping is analyzed with particular attention to the changing role of the state. Readings and discussion focus on provisions for the poor, for children and families, and for the mentally ill. Some comparisons are made with other industrialized countries. *H. Richman. Spring.*

**25800. Public Choice.** (=ECON 16900) *PQ: ECON 20100 or PBPL 22200, or consent of instructor.* This course is an introduction to major ideas in the literature that seeks to apply the economic notion of rational choice to the context of politics and social choice. Some of the authors covered are Samuelson, Arrow, Buchanan, Olson, and Downs. *H. Margolis. Winter.*

**26200-26300. Field Research Project in Public Policy I, II.** *PQ: Open to non-concentrators with consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence for two separate grades, one for each quarter.* Students work on a research team to prepare a report on an important public policy problem for a governmental agency, large public-interest group, or community-based organization. This project includes development and implementation of a research strategy designed to answer the policy questions. The objective is preparation of a publishable report. Projects in recent years have focused on refugee resettlement, welfare reform, and community development on the South Side of Chicago. *Winter, Spring.*

**27000. Introduction to International Economics.** (=ECON 27000) *PQ: ECON 20100 and 20200, or consent of instructor.* This course deals with the pure theory of international trade: the real side of international economics. Topics include the basis for and gains from trade; the theory of comparative advantage; and effects of international trade on the distribution of income, tariffs, and other barriers to trade. *L. Sjaastad. Autumn.*

**27100. Economies in Transition: China, Russia, and Beyond.** (=ECON 27900) *PQ: ECON 20000 or consent of instructor.* The ongoing postsocialist transitions are examined (particularly those of Russia and China). The basic tool of analysis is the emerging "economics of transition." Various programs of macroeconomic stabilization, price liberalization, and privatization are analyzed, and their effects on inflation, unemployment, and living standards are assessed. We cover issues highlighted in the "post-Washington consensus" (e.g., corporate governance, competition policy, and the role of the state). *J. Leitzel. Winter.*

**27200. Policy Reform.** *PQ: ECON 20000 or PBPL 22200.* Policy makers are rarely in a position to design policy on a tabula rasa; rather, there is a preexisting policy in place, and the job of policy makers is to consider amendments to this status quo. Policy reforms exhibit similarities, and these general features can be identified and analyzed. Questions addressed include: What policies are selected for reform? Why are necessary reforms often delayed? What is the basis for frequent claims about the futility of proposed policy reforms? What role does the evasion of existing policies have on policy reform? How, and in what manner, does crisis engender reform? *J. Leitzel. Spring.*

**27300. Regulation of Vice.** (=ECON 27300) *PQ: ECON 20000.* This course concerns government policy with respect to the traditional vices of drinking, smoking, gambling, illicit sex, and the recreational use of drugs. Among the policies considered are prohibition, taxation, treatment, decriminalization, and legalization. The intellectual framework employed to evaluate various policies is primarily economic, though other disciplines are also drawn upon. *J. Leitzel. Spring. Not offered 2003-04; will be offered 2004-05.*

**27900. Global-Local Politics.** (=SOCI 20116/30116) Globalizing and local forces are generating a new politics in the United States and around the world. This course explores this new politics by mapping its emerging elements: the rise of social issues, ethno-religious and regional attachments, environmentalism, gender and life-style identity issues, new social movements, transformed political parties and organized groups, and new efforts to mobilize individual citizens. *T. Clark. Winter.*

**28300. Health Economics and Public Policy.** (=ECON 27700, GSBC 85700, PPHA 38300, SSAD 47700) *PQ: ECON 20300 and 21000, and consent of instructor.* This course analyzes the economics of health care in the United States with particular attention paid to the role of government. *D. Meltzer. Spring.*

**28600. Problems of Economic Policy in Developing Countries.** (=ECON 25600, PPHA 37500) *PQ: ECON 20100 and 20200, or consent of instructor.* This course focuses on the application of economic analysis to economic policy issues frequently encountered in developing countries. Topics include sources of economic growth, commercial policy, regional economic integration, inflation and stabilization, fiscal deficits, the choice of an exchange rate regime, and the international debt problem. *L. Sjaastad. Spring.*

**29600. Internship: Public Policy.** *PQ: Consent of program director. Open only to concentrators. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for a P/F grade. Students must make arrangements with the program director before beginning the internship.* After working for a government agency or not-for-profit organization, students write a paper about the experience. *Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29700. Reading and Research: Public Policy.** *PQ: Open only to concentrators. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

**29800. Senior Seminar.** *PQ: Open only to concentrators with fourth-year standing. Must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn.*

**29900. B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy.** *PQ: Open only to concentrators with fourth-year standing. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*