

Public Policy Studies

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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; health care; education; or 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 administrator. Students planning to major in public policy should meet with the program administrator by Autumn Quarter of their third year.

Program Requirements

The suggested sequence described below is typical, but many other variations are possible. There is flexibility within the program regarding when required courses can be taken.

First Year. During their first or second year, students must choose one of the following two options: (1) one full year of calculus or (2) two quarters of calculus

plus one other quantitative course (e.g., STAT 22000 or another upper-level statistics class; computer science courses at the level of CMSC 10100 or above; or a social sciences quantitative or “methods” class, such as CHDV 21100 or PSYC 21100).

Second Year. Students typically take the following required three-quarter sequence in their second year. However, taking the courses in the same year is *not required*, and they may be taken in any order.

PBPL 22100. Politics and Policy

PBPL 22200. Public Policy Analysis

PBPL 22300. Problems of Policy Implementation

Students are also required to take PBPL 20000 (Economics for Public Policy) or ECON 20000 (The Elements of Economic Analysis I); either course satisfies the economics prerequisite for PBPL 22200. PBPL 20000 assumes no prior economics course, whereas ECON 19800 is required of all students taking ECON 20000 without a prior microeconomics course.

NOTE: Students who plan to study abroad in Winter or Spring Quarter of their third year are strongly urged to complete the required two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]) in their second year, although some students complete the practicum in their fourth year.

Third Year. Students typically complete the courses that follow 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 chair to select appropriate courses from the many statistics courses offered by the University.

Courses in an area of specialization. Students should identify their area of specialization and submit a proposal for their program of study to the program administrator by the end of Winter Quarter in their third year. 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). Students should take two of these courses in their third year.

Research practicum. In Winter and Spring Quarters, students must participate in a two-quarter practicum (PBPL 26200-26300 [Field Research Project]). The field research practicum is a two-quarter course designed to teach research methods in a hands-on way. Students in the practicum work collectively on a real-world policy problem, with a focus on Chicago. Recent projects have included developing and testing measures of the impact of cultural organizations on local communities for the city of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, examining the impact of welfare reform on former welfare recipients entering the labor market under Welfare-to-Work programs, and assessing economic development in the South Shore neighborhood. Each year, the class project results in a final report prepared for the client, and often a public presentation of the findings is made as well. The research practicum is generally taken by students in their second or third year. Students who plan to study abroad during Winter or Spring Quarter of their third year are strongly encouraged to complete the practicum in their second year.

Fourth Year. Students must write a B.A. paper in their fourth year. The B.A. paper typically is not an expansion of the third-year research study. Students wishing to be considered for honors should choose a faculty adviser for the project in Spring Quarter of their third year or early in their fourth year. The instructor of PBPL 29800, the public policy preceptor, serves as a reader for all other B.A. papers.

Further assistance is available in a seminar course (PBPL 29800) offered in Autumn Quarter and required of all public policy students. 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.

This program may accept a B.A. paper or project used to satisfy the same requirement in another major if certain conditions are met and with the consent of the other program chair. Approval from both program chairs is required. Students should consult with the chairs by the earliest B.A. proposal deadline (or by the end of their third year, when neither program publishes a deadline). A consent form, to be signed by both chairs, is available from the College adviser. It must be completed and returned to the College adviser by the end of Autumn Quarter of the student's year of graduation.

Courses. Many policy-related courses in political science, economics, sociology, education, and history count towards the major when used as "specialization" courses.

Summary of Requirements

<i>General Education</i>		MATH 13100-13200 or higher*
<i>Major</i>	1	MATH 13300 or equivalent*
	3	PBPL 22100-22200-22300
	1	ECON 20000 or PBPL 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
	12	

* *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 major must be taken for quality grades unless students have prior approval for *P/F* grading from the undergraduate program chair.

Honors. Fourth-year students are eligible for honors if their GPA is 3.0 or higher overall and 3.25 or higher in the major. Those students are recommended for honors if their B.A. papers are of substantial quality. Students wishing to be considered for honors must submit the final draft of their B.A. paper to the public policy preceptor and faculty readers by the beginning of sixth week of the quarter in which they wish to graduate.

Faculty

C. Broughton, E. Carter, D. Coursey, B. Farrell, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, S. Levitt, R. Lodato, R. H. Margolis, O. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. Padgett, H. Richman, S. Shaikh, D. Snidal, T. Steck, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend, Z. Usiskin

Courses: Public Policy Studies (PBPL)

20000. Economics for Public Policy. *PQ: Completion of two quarters of calculus required; prior knowledge of economics not required. PBPL 20000 or ECON 20000 is required of all students who are majoring in public policy. PBPL 20000 may be substituted for the ECON 20000 prerequisite for PBPL 22200 and in the Public Policy Studies degree program.* This course develops the microeconomic theories of consumer and producer choices, as well as demonstrates the application of these theoretical tools to policy problems. Supply, demand, and competitive markets are examined, along with the conditions under which government policy can increase efficiency. *S. Shaikh. Autumn.*

21800. Economics and Environmental Policy. (=ENST 21800, LLSO 26201) *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 change, 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. *S. Shaikh. Spring.*

22100. Politics and Policy. *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 17800) *PQ: PBPL 20000 or 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. Our 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. (=SOC 30302) *PQ: One prior 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. We explore how obstacles emerge because of problems of hierarchy, competing goals, and cultures of different groups. We then discuss how they may be overcome by groups, as well as by creators and by those responsible for implementing programs. We also look at varying responses of target populations. *C. Broughton. Spring.*

22600. U.S. Environmental Politics. (=ENST 24101, HIPS 28301) This course introduces the actors and processes that shape environmental policies in the United States. We examine the conflicts in values that underlie contemporary environmental debates. Case studies are used to examine the effectiveness of governmental institutions and procedures addressing environmental problems. We also use these cases to examine our own values and how we think about people living in different places and in the future. *Autumn.*

23000. Organizational Analysis. (=SOC 20101/30101) This course is a systematic introduction to theoretical and empirical work on organizations broadly conceived (e.g., public and private economic organizations, governmental

organizations, prisons, professional and voluntary associations, health-care organizations). 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, HIPS 28801, 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. *G. Davis. 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. Topics include the police, prisons, gang behavior, guns, drugs, capital punishment, labor markets and the macroeconomy, and income inequality. We emphasize the analysis of the optimal role for public policy. *S. Levitt. Spring.*

23600. Political Sociology. (=ENST 23500, 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.*

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. We deal extensively with analyses of minimum wage laws, trade agreements, affirmative action enforcement, and government education and training programs. In addition to focusing on changes in policy over time within the United States, we explore comparisons between U.S. policy and corresponding policies in other developed countries. *D. Neal. Spring.*

24301. Global Environmental Politics. (=ENST 249001, HMRT 24911) We examine the ways in which international society responds to global environmental problems. The aim is to develop a broad understanding of global environmental

politics over the past three decades and provide tools for the analysis of complex environmental issues. The course will review the history of international environmental cooperation and key theoretical frameworks as well as identify the roles, interests, and behaviors of political actors. We apply these ideas to a variety of contemporary environmental debates related to trade, conservation, pollution, security, biotechnology, and climate change under the rubric of “global sustainable development.” *S. Pieck. Spring.*

24400. Is Development Sustainable? (=BPRO 23400, ENST 24400, HIPS 23400) *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, social transformation, and the plight of developing nations through a consideration of economic, political, scientific, and cultural institutions and processes. *T. Steck, S. Pieck. Spring.*

24500. Economics of Urban Policies. (=ECON 26600/36500, GEOG 26600/36600, LLSO 26202) *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 (e.g., housing taxation, housing finance, landlord monitoring); models of commuting mode choice and congestion and transportation pricing and policy; urban growth; and Third World cities. *G. Tolley, J. Felkner. Spring.*

24600. Economic Development in the Inner City. (=SOC 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 early twenty-first century, as well as 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. Winter.*

24701. U.S. Environmental Policy. (=ENST 24701, LLSO 24701) Making environmental policy is a diverse and complex process. Environmental advocacy engages different governmental agencies, congressional committees, and courts, depending on the issue. This course examines how such differentiation has affected policy making over the last several decades. *R. Lodato. Winter.*

24800. Urban Policy Analysis. (=SOC 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. We also examine the New York fiscal crisis and taxpayer revolts, measuring citizen preferences, service delivery, and productivity. *T. Clark. Autumn.*

24900. Work, Trade, and Globalization. Using the United States and Mexico as case studies, this course explores the economic, ethical, and sociopolitical dimensions of globalization. In particular, we examine the changing nature of work in advanced and developed economies; the trade and immigration policy; and the cultural, social, and political implications of the rapid changes wrought by economic globalization. *C. Broughton. Winter.*

25200. Poverty in the United States. This course examines poverty and inequality in the United States from a sociological perspective, drawing upon the rich social history of Chicago as a case study. We explore race, class, gender, and other perspectives on poverty, drawing especially from ethnographic and historical accounts. *C. Broughton. Winter.*

25300. Social Welfare in the United States. (=SOSC 25300, SSAD 45001) 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. Topics include provisions for the poor, for children and families, and for the mentally ill. Comparisons are made with other industrialized countries. *H. Richman. Spring.*

25305. Anti-Poverty Policy in the United States. *PBPL 25200 helpful but not required.* This course uses a sociological perspective to examine the ways in which anti-poverty policy has been conceived, implemented, and reformed in the United States. We consider the current cash assistance program, in-kind benefits, health care for the poor, living wage initiatives, and other anti-poverty policies. *C. Broughton. Spring.*

26200-26300. Field Research Project in Public Policy I, II. *PQ: Open to nonmajors with consent of instructor. Must be taken in sequence for two separate grades, one for each quarter.* This is a group project that exposes students to real-world policy-making questions. Students work together on designing the research project, gathering information, and analyzing the data. 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. *E. Carter. Winter, Spring.*

27000. Introduction to International Economics. (=ECON 27000) *PQ: ECON 20300 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. *S. Kortum. Winter.*

27100. Economics 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, the role of the state). *This course is offered in alternate years. J. Leitzel. Winter.*

27300. Regulation of Vice. (=ECON 27300) *PQ: ECON 20000.* This course concerns government policy with respect to 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.*

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. D. Meltzer. Spring.*

28605. Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Law. (=ECON 28600) *PQ: ECON 20100.* This course examines the structure of law from an economic basis. Topics include property rights, contracts, torts, the Coase theorem, and criminal law. *J. Leitzel. Autumn.*

29600. Internship: Public Policy. *PQ: Consent of program chair. Open only to students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Must be taken for P/F grading. Students must make arrangements with the program chair before beginning the internship. Students write a paper about their experience working for a government agency or nonprofit organization. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29700. Reading and Research: Public Policy. *PQ: Open only to students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

29800. Senior Seminar. *PQ: Open only to fourth-year students who are majoring in public policy. Must be taken for a quality grade. Autumn.*

29900. B.A. Paper Preparation: Public Policy. *PQ: Open only to fourth-year students who are majoring in public policy. Students are required to submit the College Reading and Research Course Form. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*