

Public Policy Studies

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Program of Study

Public Policy Studies offers College students an opportunity to pursue the interdisciplinary analysis 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 BA 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. For more information about internship opportunities and requirements, students should consult the program administrator.

Students should contact the program director or the program administrator with questions about meeting requirements for the public policy studies degree.

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. PBPL 26400 is the preferred option, but the following are also acceptable: an 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. Another reason that some students take the practicum in their second year is to gain early exposure to hands-on policy work. Other students, however, 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 or 23400, especially if they anticipate taking several economics courses or the more analytical political science courses. STAT 20000 is an acceptable substitute for STAT 22000 or 23400.

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 European Union 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. Courses that satisfy the area of specialization requirement do not have to be listed or cross listed as public policy courses. However, these courses should involve a substantial policy component.

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 barriers to citizenship. 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.

Fourth Year. Students must write a BA paper in their fourth year. The BA 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. The instructor of PBPL 29800, the public policy preceptor, serves as a reader for all other BA 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 BA papers. Students work throughout Winter and Spring Quarters with the Public Policy Senior Preceptors revising the BA paper. Students may take as many as two quarters of PBPL 29900 (BA Paper Preparation: Public Policy) for general elective credit.

This program may accept a BA 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 BA 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 courses in related disciplines (e.g., Anthropology; Economics; History; Law, Letters, and Society; Political Science; Sociology) count toward 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)
	—	BA paper
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* Credit may be granted by examination. (STAT 20000 may not be taken by students who have received AP credit for Statistics.)

+ The third quarter of calculus may be replaced with a different quantitative course as previously described.

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 3.25 or higher overall and 3.5 or higher in the major. Those students are recommended for honors if their BA papers are of substantial quality. For additional information about qualifying for honors, visit the PBPL website. Students wishing to be considered for honors must submit the final draft of their BA 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, T. N. Clark, D. Coursey, B. Farrell, E. Laumann, J. Leitzel, S. Levitt, R. Lodato, J. Ludwig, O. McRoberts, D. Neal, J. Padgett, S. Shaikh, D. Snidal, R. Taub, G. Tolley, R. Townsend

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 to count toward the public policy major.* 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.*

21500. What Is Civic Knowledge? (=BPRO 21500, HUMA 24906, PHIL 21006) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing.* What is civic knowledge? Although civic rights and duties are supposedly universal to all citizens in a “democratic” nation, their implementation often depends on the strength of community connections and the circulation of knowledge across racial, class, and social boundaries. Focusing on the city of Chicago, we ask how citizens (in their roles as citizens) forge communities, make urban plans, and participate in civic affairs. How does the city construct the public spheres of its residents? Are the social practices of Chicagoans truly “democratic?” Could they be? What does “Chicago” stand for, as a political and cultural symbol? For both Chicagoans and their representatives, the circulation of knowledge depends not only on conventional media but also on how the city is constructed and managed through digital media. *R. Schultz, M. Browning. Spring.*

21800. Economics and Environmental Policy. (=ENST 21800, LLSO 26201) *PQ: ECON 19800 or higher, or PBPL 20000.* 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. Autumn.*

22100. Politics and Policy. *PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence.* 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. *Autumn.*

22200. Public Policy Analysis. (=ECON 17800) *PQ: PBPL 20000 or ECON 20000. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence. Not intended for students majoring in public policy who are planning to specialize in economics or to take advanced economics courses; those students should meet with the program director to arrange an alternative.* 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. (=CHDV 30302, SOCI 30302) *PQ: One prior 20000-level social sciences course. PBPL 22100-22200-22300 may be taken in or out of sequence.* 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. *R. Taub. Spring.*

23000. Organizational Analysis. (=SOCI 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. *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. *This course is offered only in even numbered year. S. Levitt. Winter.*

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. Spring.*

24400. Is Development Sustainable? (=BPRO 23400, ENST 24400, HIPS 23400, NCDV 27300) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing required; background in environmental issues not required.* This discussion course grapples 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. *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.*

24701. U.S. Environmental Policy. (=ENST 24701, LLSO 24901) 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. Autumn.*

24750. The Evolving Social Sector: The Business of Non-Profits. Led by an experienced practitioner, this course aims to provide both an intellectual and experiential understanding of the contemporary nonprofit sector. In addition to a seminar component examining the rapidly evolving social sector, students engage in a hands-on consulting project for an area nonprofit involving analysis, reporting and presentation. *D. Schwartz. Autumn, Winter, Spring.*

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.*

24901. Trade, Development and Poverty in Mexico. (=CRES 24901) Taking the past twenty years as its primary focus, this course examines the impact of economic globalization across Mexico with particular emphasis on the border region and the rural South. We explore the impact of NAFTA and the shift to neoliberal policies in Mexico. In particular, we examine the human dimension of these broad changes as related to social development, immigration, indigenous populations, and poverty. While primarily critical, the primary objective of the

course is to engage in an interdisciplinary exploration of the question: Is trade liberalization an effective development strategy for poor Mexicans? *This course is offered in alternate years. C. Broughton. Winter.*

25200. Poverty in the United States. (=CRES 25201) 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. *This course is offered in alternate years. C. Broughton. Winter.*

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.*

25405. Child Poverty and Chicago Schools. This discussion-based course begins with a sociological and historical examination of child poverty, focusing on its origin, experience, and perpetuation in disadvantaged Chicago communities. Class meetings involve debating recent reform efforts, such as Turnaround Schools, Renaissance 2010, and Promise Neighborhoods. Further, the barriers that have contributed to the failure of previous reform initiatives—barriers that include social isolation, violence, and criminality—are identified and analyzed in-depth. This course complements “Poverty in the U.S.” and “Anti-Poverty Policy in the U.S.” but can be taken independently of those courses. *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. *C. Broughton. Winter, Spring.*

26400. Quantitative Methods in Public Policy. This course involves a problem-by-problem investigation of how to apply the right statistics to contemporary public policy issues (in contrast to the method-by-method approach traditionally used to teach statistics). Quantitative public policy involves the use of four core methodologies: analysis of cross-tabulations, ordinary least squares regression, logistic regression, and analysis of variance. This course prepares students to understand scholarly articles using these four methods. We use a case analysis approach teaching specific decision algorithms in the application of the four methods. We also conduct analyses in SPSS using General Social Survey data and write up the results. *W. Carter. Autumn.*

26505. The Case Study as a Public Policy Research Method. This course presents contemporary approaches to completing such a project: deciding what flavor of case to select, selecting the specific cases to be investigated, planning and conducting the research, and writing up the findings. We explore the methodology's strengths and weaknesses by constructing a case study regarding the public policy roles of the *Chicago Tribune*. The primary case study methodologies (i.e., literature review, content analysis, key informant interviews, social observation) are used to explore quantitative and qualitative approaches to building this case. We also read published case studies to develop a list of “best practices” for the method. *W. Carter. Spring.*

26709. Public Policy: The Great Books and Articles. This course examines the great books and articles from the public policy literature. Our approach is to focus in-depth on digestible parts of each “great book,” rather than reading and superficially discussing the complete tome. The public policy canon consists of the books that define our field and that differentiate it from purely academic disciplines on the one hand and from journalism on the other hand. We focus on applying public policy perspectives, as found in these seminal sources, to contemporary policy issues of interest to the class. Class members who have selected a BA topic are encouraged to apply the theoretical lenses found in the great books to strengthen the literature review/theory section of their BA paper as the product of the quarter's work. Those with less defined programs of study write papers comparing, and critically assessing, the approaches from their preferred subset of the readings. *W. Carter. Winter.*

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. Autumn.*

27501. Regulating Speech. This course concerns private and public policy with respect to speech and expression. Varieties of speech considered include blasphemy, obscenity, and advertising. Policies considered include prohibition; taxation; licensing; and time, place, and manner controls. The intellectual Public Policy Studies framework employed for the evaluation of various policies is primarily economic and legal, though other disciplines also are drawn upon. *This course is offered in alternate years. 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. (=BUSF 85700, ECON 27700, PPHA 38300, SSAD 47700) *PQ: ECON 20300 and 21000, and consent of instructor. D. Meltzer. Spring.*

28501. Process and Policy in State and City Government. This course consists of three interrelated sub-sections: (1) process and policy in city and state government; (2) the role played by influential, key officials in determining policy outcomes; and (3) policymaking during and after a political crisis. Issues covered include isolating the core principles driving policy at city and state levels; understanding how high level elected officials can shape the course of policy; and determining how a political crisis affects policy processes and outcomes. Most of the specific cases are drawn from Chicago and the State of Illinois. *C. Harris. Autumn.*

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.*

29000. Energy and Energy Policy. (=BPRO 29000, CHSS 37502, ECON 26800, ENST 29000, PPHA 39201) *PQ: Third- or fourth-year standing. PQ for ECON 26800: ECON 26500 and consent of instructor.* This course shows how scientific constraints affect economic and other policy decisions regarding energy, what energy-based issues confront our society and how we may address them through both policy and scientific study, and how the policy and scientific aspects can and should interact. We address specific technologies and the policy questions associated with each, as well as with more overarching aspects of energy policy that may affect several, perhaps many, technologies. *S. Berry, G. Tolley. 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. BA 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.*