

The School of Liberal Arts

Political Economy

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Program Administrators

Richard F. Teichgraeber III, History (Director)

John Howard, Philosophy (Associate Director)

Core Teaching Faculty

Eric Mack, Philosophy

Douglas R. Nelson, Economics

Mary Olson, Economics

Jonathan M. Riley, Philosophy

Jeffrey Stacey, Political Science

Martyn P. Thompson, Political Science

MAJOR

The political economy major aims to promote sustained reflection on the interrelations of political and economic activities and institutions. It provides undergraduate students with the basic skills of economic analysis. The major is also based firmly on the view that the study of the interrelations of politics and economics has a rich humanistic tradition and that its pursuit can encourage sustained reflection on fundamental values. Political economy is an interdisciplinary major built on a core of eight required courses and five additional courses drawn from economics, political science, history and philosophy.

This major is designed to avoid the sometimes excessive specialization that characterizes more traditional undergraduate majors. While providing students basic skills of economic analysis, the political economy major at Tulane is distinctively based on the view that technical economic analysis should not be divorced from

a broader concern for understanding the moral and historical foundations of economic institutions and political structures.

The requirements of the political economy major include the following core of eight courses:

ECON 101 Introductory Microeconomics

ECON 102 Introductory Macroeconomics

ECON 301 Intermediate Microeconomics

PECN 301 Introduction to Political Economy

PECN 302 Political Economy: An Historical Overview

PECN 303 Individual, Society, and State

PECN 304 Comparative and International Political Economy

PECN 600 Majors Seminar

The total number of required credits in the core is 24. The major also requires five electives chosen from an interdepartmental list of courses grouped according to the following four alternative concentrations. The required Political Economy 301-304 sequence has been designed to introduce students to the prominent and common concerns of the three tracks. Studies along one of these concentrations provides a focus within the major. Each major's selection of a concentration is made in consultation with the Associate Director, who serves as the faculty adviser for all majors.

POLITICAL ECONOMY CONCENTRATIONS

Law, Economics, and Policy Track

Two of the following eight:

ECON 332 Urban Economics

ECON 333 Environment and Natural Resources

ECON 334 Government in the Economy

ECON 335 Law and Economics

ECON 397/398 Special Studies in Economics

ECON 422 Industrial Organization

ECON 452 Economics of Public Expenditures

ECON 453 Economics of Taxation

Three of the following sixteen:

HISE 627 Intellectual History of Capitalism
HISU 360 History of Early American Law
PHIL 356 Social and Political Ethics
PHIL 364 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 654 Global Justice
PECN 404 Democracy, Capitalism, and Free Speech
PECN 414 Theories of Distributive Justice
PECN 419 Philosophy of Social Justice
POLA 324 Public Policy
POLA 421 Law and Administration
POLA 424 Budgets and Deficits
POLA 425 Power and Poverty in America
POLA 427 Constitutional Law
POLA 480 Science, Technology, and Public Policy
POLA 629 Judicial Process
SOCI 680 Society and Economy

Moral and Historical Perspectives Track

Two of the following five:

ECON 335 Law and Economics
ECON 341 Economic History of Europe since 1750
ECON 342 Economic History of the United States
ECON 345 Development of Economic Thought
ECON 397/398 Special Studies in Economics

Three of the following eighteen:

HISE 323 The Chernobyl Catastrophe
HISE 627 Intellectual History of Capitalism
HISL 673 Economic History of Latin America
HISU 360 History of Early American Law

HISU 648 Industrial America
PHIL 356 Political Philosophy
PHIL 364 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 604 Philosophy of Law
PHIL 651 Theories of Economic Justice
PHIL 654 Global Justice
PECN 404 Democracy, Capitalism, and Free Speech
PECN 414 Theories of Distributive Justice
POLT 382 Contemporary Political Ideas
POLA 418 American Political Culture
POLA 427 Constitutional Law
POLT 486 American Political Thought
SOCI 611 Sociology of Work
SOCI 652 Environmental Struggles in the Americas

International Perspectives Track

Two of the following six:

ECON 334 Government in the Economy
ECON 357 Macroeconomic Policy in Latin America
ECON 372 Contemporary Japanese Economy
ECON 374 Asia-Pacific Rim Economic Development
ECON 433 International Trading Relations
ECON 435 Analytical International Political Economy

Three of the following thirteen:

ECON 333 Environment and Natural Resources
ECON 359 Economic Development of Latin America
ECON 365 Agricultural and Rural Development in Latin America
PHIL 651 Theories of Economic Justice
PHIL 654 Global Justice
POLC 341 Politics and Nationalism

POLI 351 Power, Morality, and International Relations

POLI 354 International Political Economy

POLC 444 Autocracy

POLI 462 Global Environmental Politics

POLI 654 Research in International Political Economy

SOCI 652 Environmental Struggles in the Americas

SOCI 690 Sociology of Development in Latin America

Additional Political Economy Courses

PECN 456, 457 Internship Studies

PECN 497, 498 Special Topics

INTERSHIPS AND HONORS PROGRAM

In the summer between junior and senior years, a political economy major may elect to participate in a summer internship. The Murphy Institute offers a limited number of grants in an open competition for political economy majors only.

With consent of the Director, a student may pursue a degree with honors in political economy. A senior honors thesis is required.

Finally, it should be noted that undergraduate majors in political economy are invited to participate in various activities sponsored by the Murphy Institute. The Murphy Institute hosts prominent scholars and public figures in a series of annual lectures. Student majors are invited to all of these occasions, as well as to more informal meetings with our visitors.

The Murphy Institute sponsors semester and summer abroad programs in London and Cambridge. Further information on the political economy major may be obtained from the Associate Director.

PECN 456, 457 Internship Studies (1-3, 1-3)

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of instructor and Program Director. An experiential learning process coupled with pertinent academic course work. Open only to juniors and seniors in good standing. Registration is completed in the academic department sponsoring the internship on TUTOR. Only one internship may be completed per semester. Certain internships may satisfy the public service graduation requirement with prior approval of the department and

the Center for Public Service. (Note: A maximum of six credits may be earned in one or two courses.)

PECN H491, H492 Independent Studies (3, 3)

Staff. Prerequisite: departmental approval. Qualified students are allowed to arrange for independent study with approval of instructor and their faculty adviser.

PECN H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. For senior honors candidates. Intensive reading, research and writing in a selected field of political economy. Students should discuss their honors thesis with a prospective director during the second semester of their junior year.

PECN H601 Honors Seminar (3)

Staff. A seminar for junior and senior honors students in political economy. Specific themes will be announced each semester.

CORE COURSES

PECN 301 Introduction to Political Economy (3)

Prof. Olson. This course introduces undergraduate majors to some of the chief intellectual concerns associated with the term political economy including international political economy, economics and philosophy, and law and economics.

PECN 302 Political Economy: An Historical Overview (3)

Prof. Teichgraber. This course introduces students to the question of how different modern Western societies and thinkers have defined the relationships between political and economic activities. Beginning with the experience of Europe in the 15th century, it examines what the unprecedented wealth of modern Western societies has meant for the understanding and practice of politics. It also explains what caused the economic abundance of Western nations to come into being in the first place, and how that abundance has been sustained over time.

PECN 303 The Individual, Society, and State (3)

Prof. Riley. This course presents an integrated study of the main alternatives in political ideology (liberalism, socialism, fascism, Marxism) advocated in the modern world and the exemplifications of these ideologies in practice in the modern world (post-war West Germany, 20th-century Britain, Mussolini's Italy, the former Soviet Union).

PECN 304 Comparative and International Political Economy

(3)

Prof. Nelson. Virtually all contemporary economies are characterized by extensive relations between the economic and political systems. Furthermore, these relations seem to involve often complex relations between the global, national, and sub-national political economies. This fact is currently referred to as “globalization”. However, it is clear that globalization, whatever it is, has different effect on national (and sub-national) political economies. In this course, we will: 1) attempt to develop an understanding of globalization; 2) develop a comparative analysis of the links between globalization and national outcomes; and 3) examine the international institutions that attempt to manage globalization. Because time is finite, and there are other courses, we will focus primarily on advanced democracies.

OTHER POLITICAL ECONOMY COURSES

PECN 401 Constitutionalism: Ancient Athens to Present (3)

Prof. Riley. This course discusses the historical development of constitutionalism, with a view to understanding what is common to the various forms of constitutional government which have appeared in different societies from classical Athens to modern America.

PECN 404 Democracy, Capitalism, and Free Speech (3)

Prof. Riley. This course discusses freedom of expression in the context of advanced capitalist democracies such as the U.S. Topics include justifications for free speech, its proper scope, tensions between democratic self-government and capitalist mass media, and Supreme Court decisions relating to freedom of expression.

PECN 497, 498 Special Topics in Political Economy (3, 3)

PECN 600 Majors Seminar (3)

Staff. The political economy majors’ seminar focuses on a large theme or question that no single discipline in the program uniquely claims for its own and no one approach exhausts. Example of such issues: the rise of the nation state, capitalism and democracy, the foundations of economic behavior, the organization and meaning of work, and industrialization, economic growth, and social change. In designing a majors seminar, faculty define the issues that most engage them as teachers and scholars and that sustain a coherent cross-disciplinary course offering.

PECN 675 Utilitarianism: From Bentham to Harsanyi (3)

Prof. Riley. This course introduces students to the utilitarian tradition and to the modern debate over whether some version of utilitarianism is likely to serve as the most adequate moral and political philosophy. Same as PHIL 675.