

## **POLITICAL ECONOMY (Div II)**

**Chair: Professor Darel E. Paul**

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Political Economy at Williams is the study of political and economic forces as they combine to produce public policy. These outputs of the political system are shaped by social forces, nongovernmental organizations, state institutions, markets, knowledge structures, political ideologies, normative goals, and moral values. Policy analysis seeks to both understand and evaluate public policies in their formulation, implementation, and effectiveness. The study of public policy is inherently interdisciplinary, and the Political Economy Program self-consciously incorporates the central analytical approaches of both Political Science and Economics, seeking to surmount the sometimes artificial barriers of specialization that may characterize a single discipline.

The Political Economy major takes students from introductory courses in Economics and Political Science all the way to a senior year group project of independent student research and concrete policy proposals. Three introductory courses and four electives in these two fields complement four courses peculiar to the Political Economy major. Three of these four — POEC 250, POEC 401 and POEC 402 — are taught jointly by a political scientist and an economist, and the major's culmination is a public presentation of student senior policy projects. As part of these projects, the major includes (within POEC 402) a class trip to Washington, DC during the first Sunday through Wednesday of spring break. All majors are required to participate in this trip. Given the program's public policy orientation, majors must also have an active learning experience (such as an internship or a public policy-related winter study course) to fulfill an experiential education requirement.

### **MAJOR**

The Political Economy major requires students to complete eleven (11) courses: three introductory courses in Economics and Political Science; one empirical methods course; three courses specific to the Political Economy Program; and four electives. The electives are organized into two categories — 'skills' courses and 'depth' courses — and must be completed across the major's two foundational departments. Finally, all majors are required to fulfill an experiential education requirement, the purpose of which is to get students out into the world interacting with people in cases where the stakes are real. This often involves some element of community service, participation in the political process, or taking part in the making of or analysis of public policy beyond a purely academic engagement. This requirement is usually fulfilled through an internship or a winter study course, and must be approved by the chair prior to the student taking POEC 402 in the spring of senior year.

### **Three Introductory Courses**

1. ECON 110: Principles of Microeconomics
2. ECON 120: Principles of Macroeconomics
3. PSCI 110: Introduction to American Politics

### **One Empirical Methods Course**

4. POEC 253: Empirical Methods in Political Economy or ECON 255: Econometrics

### Three Political Economy Program Courses

5. POEC 250: Economic Liberalism and Its Critics
6. POEC 401: Contemporary Problems in Political Economy
7. POEC 402: Political Economy of Public Policy Issues

### Four Elective Courses

8. One ECON skills elective
9. One PSCI skills elective
10. One PSCI depth elective
11. One PSCI or ECON depth elective

Majors are required to take four electives, two each in two different categories across the two foundational departments of Economics and Political Science.

The first category is "skills" electives. Students are required to take two such electives. One must be a course in Economics that develops the econometric analytic skills of the student. The other must be a course in Political Science that develops the social science research skills of the student.

The second category is "depth" electives. Students are required to take two such electives on topics related to public policy in courses that are neither survey nor introductory. One must be a course in Political Science. The other may be taken in either Political Science or Economics.

Below are the courses that currently fulfill the "skills" and "depth" elective requirements. Note that all "skills" electives are simultaneously "depth" electives, but obviously students may not 'double count' a single course as fulfilling two distinct major requirements.

#### SKILLS ELECTIVES

##### [ECON 230\(S\) LEC The Economics of Health and Health Care](#)

Taught by: [Shyam Raman](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 233\(S\) LEC Behavioral Economics and Public Policy](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Chao](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 257\(F\) LEC Economic Perspectives on Racial Inequality](#)

Taught by: [Owen Thompson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 348 / ECON 548 LEC Human Capital and Development](#)

Taught by: [Owen Ozier](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 350\(S\) SEM Household Finance](#)

Taught by: [David Love](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 355 LEC Financial Crises, Credit Cycles, and Macroeconomic Policies](#)

Taught by: Andrew Hessler

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 357 TUT The Economics of Higher Education](#)

Taught by: [David Zimmerman](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 360 LEC Monetary Economics](#)

Taught by: [Kenneth Kuttner](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 367\(S\) LEC The Political Economy of Social Insurance](#)

Taught by: [Shyam Raman](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 368 LEC Public Economics and Fiscal Policies](#)

Taught by: Asa Hansson

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 377 LEC Inspiration/Perspiration: The Economics of Innovation](#)

Taught by: [Steven Nafziger](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 378 LEC Long-Run Comparative Development](#)

Taught by: [Quamrul Ashraf](#)

[Catalog details](#)

##### [ECON 381 / ECON 571\(S\) LEC Global Health Policy Challenges](#)

Taught by: [Susan Godlonton](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 382 TUT Gentrification and Neighborhood Change](#)

Taught by: [Stephen Sheppard](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 453 SEM Research and Methods in Applied Microeconomics](#)

Taught by: [Owen Thompson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 456 SEM Income Distribution](#)

Taught by: [Sara LaLumia](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 465 SEM Pollution and Labor Markets](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Gibson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 477 / ENVI 376 / CAOS 477\(F\) SEM Economics of Environmental Behavior](#)

Taught by: [Sarah Jacobson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 504\(F\) SEM Public Economics in Developing Countries](#)

Taught by: [Jon Bakija](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 508 / ECON 308 TUT Skills for a Modern Economy and How to Pay for Them](#)

Taught by: [David Evans](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 510 / ECON 352\(S\) LEC Financial Development and Regulation](#)

Taught by: [Burak Uras](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 514 / ECON 389\(S\) SEM Tax Policy in Global Perspective](#)

Taught by: [Jon Bakija](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 523 / ECON 379\(S\) SEM Program Evaluation for International Development](#)

Taught by: [Pamela Jakiela](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 538 TUT Resilience and Macroeconomic Policy](#)

Taught by: [Ralph Chami](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[LEAD 425 / PSCI 357\(S\) SEM Senior Seminar: Leadership and the Anxieties of Democracy](#)

Taught by: [Mason Williams](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 310 / LEAD 332 SEM New York City Politics: The Urban Crisis to the Pandemic](#)

Taught by: [Mason Williams](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 311 / LEAD 311 SEM Congress](#)

Taught by: [Cathy Johnson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 315 / LEAD 315\(S\) SEM Parties in American Politics](#)

Taught by: [Nicole Mellow](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 316\(F\) SEM Policy Making Process](#)

Taught by: [Cathy Johnson](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 321 SEM Immigration Politics in the U.S.](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Tokeshi](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 353\(S\) SEM What is Democracy?](#)

Taught by: [Michael MacDonald](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 380 / SOC 390\(S\) SEM Sex Marriage Family](#)

Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)

[Catalog details](#)

[PSCI 381 SEM The Conservative Welfare State](#)

Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)

[Catalog details](#)

DEPTH ELECTIVES

[CAOS 351 / PSCI 319 / ENVI 351\(F, S\) SEM Marine Policy](#)

Taught by: TBA

[Catalog details](#)

[ECON 204 / ENVI 234 / ECON 507 LEC Global Poverty and Economic Development](#)

Taught by: [Pamela Jakiela](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 205 SEM Public Economics](#)

Taught by: [William Gentry](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 213 / CAOS 213 / ENVI 213\(S\) LEC Introduction to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics](#)

Taught by: [Sarah Jacobson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 214 / ENVI 212 TUT The Economics and Ethics of CO2 Offsets](#)

Taught by: [Ralph Bradburd](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 215 / CAOS 216 / GBST 315\(F\) LEC Globalization](#)

Taught by: [Will Olney](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 216 TUT Global Crises and Socio-Economic Policies](#)

Taught by: [Michael Samson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 220 LEC We Hold These Truths: Growth, Change, and Struggle in American Economic History](#)

Taught by: [Steven Nafziger](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 229\(F\) SEM Law and Economics](#)

Taught by: [William Gentry](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 230\(S\) LEC The Economics of Health and Health Care](#)

Taught by: [Shyam Raman](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 231 LEC The Economics of Inequality](#)

Taught by: [Katie Gutierrez](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 232\(S\) LEC Financial Markets, Institutions and Policies](#)

Taught by: [TBA](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 233\(S\) LEC Behavioral Economics and Public Policy](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Chao](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 240 / ASIA 241 TUT Colonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia](#)

Taught by: [Anand Swamy](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 257\(F\) LEC Economic Perspectives on Racial Inequality](#)

Taught by: [Owen Thompson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 348 / ECON 548 LEC Human Capital and Development](#)

Taught by: [Owen Ozier](#)  
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[ECON 360 LEC Monetary Economics](#)

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[ECON 368 LEC Public Economics and Fiscal Policies](#)

Taught by: [Asa Hansson](#)  
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[ECON 504\(F\) SEM Public Economics in Developing Countries](#)

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[ECON 516 / ECON 366\(S\) SEM International Trade and Development](#)

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Taught by: [Pamela Jakiela](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ECON 538 TUT Resilience and Macroeconomic Policy](#)

Taught by: [Ralph Chami](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ENVI 269 / CAOS 269\(F\) LEC Environmental Law and Policy](#)

Taught by: Lindi von Mutius  
[Catalog details](#)  
[ENVI 387 / CAOS 387 / ECON 522 Economics of Climate Change](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Gibson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[GBST 218 / CAOS 218 Capital and Coercion](#)

Taught by: [Ashok Rai](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[LEAD 425 / PSCI 357\(S\) SEM Senior Seminar: Leadership and the Anxieties of Democracy](#)

Taught by: [Mason Williams](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 208\(F\) SEM Wealth in America](#)

Taught by: [Cathy Johnson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 209 / WGSS 209 SEM Poverty in America](#)

Taught by: [Cathy Johnson](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 215 / LEAD 215\(S\) SEM Race and Inequality in the American City](#)

Taught by: [Mason Williams](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 216 / LEAD 216 LEC American Constitutionalism I: Structures of Power](#)

Taught by: [Justin Crowe](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 217 / LEAD 217\(S\) LEC American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties](#)

Taught by: [Justin Crowe](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 224\(F\) SEM Neo-liberalism: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?](#)

Taught by: [Michael MacDonald](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 228 LEC International Organization](#)

Taught by: [Cheryl Shanks](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 229 LEC Global Political Economy](#)

Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 241 / SOC 241 SEM Meritocracy](#)

Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 246 SEM Introduction to Capitalism](#)

Taught by: [Sidney Rothstein](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 247 / ASIA 249 LEC Political Power in Contemporary China](#)

Taught by: [George Crane](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 252 LEC Campaigns and Elections](#)

Taught by: [Matthew Tokeshi](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 253 LEC The Tragedy of Venezuela](#)

Taught by: [James Mahon](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 280 TUT Silicon Valley: Digital Transformation and Democracy](#)

Taught by: [Sidney Rothstein](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 290 / LEAD 290\(F\) TUT How Change Happens in American Politics](#)

Taught by: [Nicole Mellow](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 310 / LEAD 332 SEM New York City Politics: The Urban Crisis to the Pandemic](#)

Taught by: [Mason Williams](#)  
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Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 381 SEM The Conservative Welfare State](#)

Taught by: [Darel Paul](#)  
[Catalog details](#)  
[PSCI 387 SEM The Firm](#)

Taught by: [Sidney Rothstein](#)  
[Catalog details](#)

## **CREDIT FOR COURSEWORK DONE ELSEWHERE**

The three core Political Economy Program courses (POEC 250, 401, and 402) must be completed at Williams without exception. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the empirical methods course (POEC 253 or ECON 255) and PSCI 110 at Williams, as versions of these courses offered elsewhere are usually highly imperfect substitutes that will not provide adequate preparation for the senior seminars; students may in rare cases be able to complete either of these requirements during study at another college or university (e.g. during study abroad), but only with prior permission from the chair.

The four electives may be completed during study at another college or university (e.g. during study abroad) with permission of the chair. In

general, it is much easier to satisfy the “depth” electives abroad than the “skills” electives as the “skills” electives are based on pedagogy as well as subject matter. The policy of the Program is to grant credit for one course per semester abroad and two courses per year abroad. In extraordinary circumstances, credit for three courses for an entire year abroad may be granted with permission of the chair. Credit for A levels and IB exams in Economics and for introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics classes taken at other colleges and universities (subject to approval by the Economics department study away coordinator) is given consistent with the current policy of the Economics Department.

Students who score a 5 on the AP exam in Microeconomics or Macroeconomics may receive credit towards the major for the cognate introductory economics course(s). Students whose Economics Department placement exam scores allow them to place out of ECON 110 and/or ECON 120 may also receive credit towards the major for the corresponding class. No substitute higher-level coursework is required for majors receiving credit in this way (thus effectively reducing the number of required courses from 11 to 10 or 9). Students may not substitute AP credit for PSCI 110.

## **RECOMMENDED PROGRESSION THROUGH THE REQUIRED MAJOR COURSES**

First-years who are considering a Political Economy major should take the three introductory classes in their first year at Williams: [1] ECON 110 Principles of Microeconomics; [2] ECON 120 Principles of Macroeconomics; and [3] PSCI 110 Introduction to American Politics. ECON 110 is a pre-requisite for POEC 253 and ECON 255 while ECON 110 & 120 are pre-requisites for POEC 250, POEC 401, POEC 402, and nearly all ECON electives in the major. PSCI 110 is a pre- or co-requisite for POEC 250, and is a pre-requisite for POEC 401 and POEC 402. PSCI 110 should ideally be taken in the first year and must be taken no later than sophomore year. Most importantly, upper class students are not admitted to the course. Please note that by College rule, students may take only their first course in the major pass/fail.

Prospective Political Economy majors should also ensure that their math coursework is sufficient. MATH 130 (Calculus I) or the equivalent is a prerequisite for the POEC methodology requirement (POEC 253 or ECON 255). Students might also consider taking STAT 161 or STAT 201 in their first year as that would give them the option of taking ECON 255 as sophomores or juniors.

Majors will ideally take POEC 250 in their sophomore year. POEC 401, taken fall of senior year, requires POEC 253 or ECON 255 as a prerequisite, so the methodology requirement must be completed in the sophomore or junior year. Note that both POEC 250 and POEC 253 are offered only once per year in the fall semester. Students should also get started on their electives during sophomore and junior years.

## **THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Due to the special demands of this interdisciplinary major, the only route to honors in Political Economy is the thesis. Seniors may pursue the honors thesis course (Political Economy 493-W31) during the fall semester and winter study period. The third course contributing to such an honors program would normally be an elective in Political Science or Economics taken during the junior year. This course, which may be one of the required electives, must be closely related, indeed must prepare the ground for the honors thesis.

Juniors in the Political Economy major with a minimum 3.5 GPA in the program may apply for the honors thesis program by means of a written proposal submitted to the chair by mid-April. Written guidelines for such proposals are available on the program website. The proposal should have been discussed with at least two faculty members, and at least one faculty advisor from each discipline must be solicited by the student prior to submission of the proposal.

Final decisions about admission to the honors program will be made in late May after spring grades become available.

To achieve the degree with honors in Political Economy, the thesis must be completed by the end of winter study period and be judged of honors quality by a committee consisting of the two advisors and a third reader. A thesis judged to be of particular distinction will qualify its author for the degree with highest honors.

## **STUDY ABROAD**

Despite the fact that Political Economy requires more courses than the typical major, many Political Economy majors go abroad. Typically the major credits obtained abroad are the electives. Since POEC 250 and POEC 253 are only offered in the fall, students considering spending only one semester abroad typically find spring to be the better choice. Nonetheless, many majors study away for the fall or the whole year. If you expect to be away during the fall of your junior year, it is critical that you either: (a) take POEC 253 fall of your sophomore year; or (b) complete MATH 130 as well as STAT 161 or 201 early enough that you can take ECON 255 (which is offered every semester) before the end of junior year. In addition, if you expect to be away fall of junior year, it is a good idea to take POEC 250 fall of sophomore year.

## **TRANSITIONING TO THE NEW MAJOR STRUCTURE**

Students in the graduating classes of 2025 and 2026 may receive major credit for courses taken under the old major structure that are no longer granted credit under the new major structure. This includes: the former PSCI 202, 203 and 204 which will be credited to majors as a “depth” elective; and any elective granted credit at the time of enrollment regardless of its current elective category status. All majors regardless of graduation year are required to complete two Political Science electives and one Economics elective, with the fourth elective coming from either department—i.e. they must abide by the departmental distribution of electives in the new major structure.

## **FAQ**

Students **MUST** contact departments/programs **BEFORE** assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

**Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?**

Yes, in some cases, if appropriate course information is available in advance (e.g. syllabi and/or course descriptions), though students should be sure to contact the program chair.

**What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?**

Course title and description for "depth" electives. A full syllabi is generally required for "skills" electives.

**Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?**

There is an effective limit of 2-3.

**Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?**

Yes. Only Economics or Political Science courses can be awarded credit, and they must satisfy one of the elective categories (or in rarer cases one of the ECON or PSCI intro requirements).

**Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?**

Yes.

**Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)**

Yes. The POEC major requires 3 specific POEC courses (250, 401, and 402), and one empirical methods course (POEC 253 or ECON 255). The POEC courses are only offered in a single semester (fall for 250, 253, and 401 and spring for 402), and 401 and 402 must be taken in the senior year. 253 can be replaced with ECON 255, which is offered in fall or spring, but ECON 255 has an additional prerequisite of STAT 161, STAT 201, or STAT 202. Studying abroad in POEC requires careful planning.

**POEC 250 (F) Economic Liberalism and Its Critics**

**Cross-listings:** PSCI 238 / ECON 299

**Primary Cross-listing**

Economic liberalism holds that society is better off if people enjoy economic freedom. Its critics point to what they believe this position ignores or what it wrongly assumes, and hence, how it would make bad policy. This course explores the relationship between politics and economics by surveying influential works of political economy. Its first part examines major thinkers in relation to the historical development of capitalism in Western Europe and the United States: the classical liberalism of Adam Smith, Karl Marx's revolutionary socialism, and the reformist ideas of John Maynard Keynes. The second part considers mid-20th-century writers who revise and critique economic liberalism from a variety of perspectives, including Joseph Schumpeter, Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, Ronald Coase, Arthur Okun, and Albert O. Hirschman. The third part surveys significant topics relevant to the themes of the course, with applications to current public policy issues, such as: power relations and autonomy in the workplace; asymmetric information and social insurance; economic inequality and distributive justice; equality of opportunity; the economics of health care; positional goods and the moral foundations of capitalism; social media and addiction; economic nationalism; behavioral economics; climate change and intergenerational equity; finance and financial crises; and rent-seeking. The combination of the historical focus of the early part of the course with discussion of modern policy issues and debates in the latter part of the course permits you to appreciate the ongoing dialogue between classical and contemporary views of political economy.

**Class Format:** This course uses a flipped classroom approach. Before each class meeting, students watch a lecture video, and (at least six times) write an essay relating to the assigned reading and video. In-person class time is devoted primarily to Socratic discussion.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** six short essays and a final exam

**Prerequisites:** ECON 110 and 120 or equivalent; PSCI 110 (formerly PSCI 201; may be taken concurrently with POEC 250); open to non-majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 30

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Economy majors and sophomores intending a Political Economy major

**Expected Class Size:** 25

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

**This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:**

POEC 250(D2) PSCI 238(D2) ECON 299(D2)

**Attributes:** AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives POEC Required Courses

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 MR 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm James E. Mahon, William M. Gentry

**POEC 253 (F) Empirical Methods in Political Economy (WS) (QFR)**

This course introduces students to common empirical tools used in policy analysis and implementation. Students will develop skills in statistical literacy to become critical consumers of public policy-relevant research. The emphasis in the course is split between an intuitive understanding of statistical foundations, and applications in data visualization and science communication. Through hands-on work with data and critical assessment of existing empirical social scientific research, students will develop the ability to choose and employ the appropriate tool for a particular research problem, and to understand the limitations of the techniques. Topics to be covered include basic principles of probability; effective data visualization; statistical inference and hypothesis testing; and multiple regression analysis. A particular focus will be placed on understanding causality, the challenges of estimating causal relationships, and the design of evidence-based policy. Throughout the course, the focus will be on public policy applications relevant to the fields of political science, sociology, and public health, as well as to economics.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** Problem sets, group project, midterm exam, final exam

**Prerequisites:** MATH 130 or its equivalent; one course in ECON; not open to students who have taken ECON 255

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Economy majors, Environmental Policy majors and sophomores

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** does not satisfy the econometrics requirement for the Economics major; POEC 253 cannot be substituted for ECON 255, or count as an elective towards the Economics major

**Distributions:** (D2) (WS) (QFR)

**Writing Skills Notes:** Students will write 3 coding-intensive data briefs over the course of the semester. Creation of original exhibits from publicly accessible data, use of citation management systems, and clarity in technical writing will be emphasized.

**Quantitative/Formal Reasoning Notes:** The course teaches econometrics, i.e. statistics as economists use it, with applications in economics, political science, and other fields.

**Attributes:** POEC Required Courses

Fall 2024

LEC Section: 01 TR 8:30 am - 9:45 am Shyam Raman

**POEC 397 (F) Independent Study: Political Economy**

Open to juniors or seniors majoring in Political Economy, with approval of a faculty supervisor and the chair.

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

Fall 2024

IND Section: 01 TBA Darel E. Paul

**POEC 398 (S) Independent Study: Political Economy**

Open to juniors or seniors majoring in Political Economy, with approval of a faculty supervisor and the chair.

**Grading:** yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

Spring 2025

IND Section: 01 TBA Darel E. Paul

**POEC 401 (F) Contemporary Problems in Political Economy**

This course examines contemporary problems in political economy at and across diverse spatial scales. Using both Economics and Political Science methods of analysis, students will study the way societies respond to the myriad risks facing its citizens. The goal of this course is both to build upon theoretical debates encountered in POEC 250 as well as to prepare students for the public policy analysis they will do in POEC 402.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** two 7-10 page papers; multiple in-class group presentations; class participation

**Prerequisites:** ECON 110 and 120; PSCI 110 (formerly 201); POEC 253 or ECON 255 or equivalent, or permission of instructor; open to non-majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** Political Economy majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** required for the Political Economy major

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC Required Courses

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Darel E. Paul, David J. Zimmerman

**POEC 402 (S) Political Economy of Public Policy Issues**

In this course, students form groups that conduct a political and economic analysis of a public policy issue of their choosing. They do extensive reading, conduct interviews in Washington, D.C. (during spring recess), write a major report on their findings and recommendations, and present and defend their findings in a public talk. Students visit Washington, D.C. Sunday night through Wednesday of the first week of spring vacation to conduct interviews relating to their group projects. This is a course requirement.

**Class Format:** student presentations

**Requirements/Evaluation:** group policy projects including an 80- to 100-page paper and 2-hour presentation

**Prerequisites:** POEC 250; POEC 253 or ECON 255; POEC 401; open only to Political Economy majors

**Enrollment Limit:** 20

**Enrollment Preferences:** open only to Political Economy majors

**Expected Class Size:** 15

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Unit Notes:** required for the Political Economy major

**Distributions:** (D2)

**Attributes:** POEC Required Courses

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TR 11:20 am - 12:35 pm Sidney A. Rothstein, Owen Thompson

**POEC 493 (F) Honors Thesis: Political Economy**

Due to the special demands of this interdisciplinary major, the only route to honors in Political Economy is the thesis, a substantial and original work of scholarship. Students pursue the honors thesis course (Political Economy 493-W31) during the fall semester and winter study period. They work closely with two faculty advisors -- one in Economics, one in Political Science -- throughout the thesis process.

**Grading:** no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

**Distributions:** (D2)

Fall 2024

HON Section: 01 TBA Darel E. Paul

**Winter Study -----**

**POEC 31 (W) Honors Thesis: Political Economy**

To be taken by students registered for Political Economy 493.

**Class Format:** thesis

**Grading:** pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year

**POEC 99 (W) Independent Study: Political Economy**

Open to upperclass students. Students interested in doing an independent project (99) during Winter Study must make prior arrangements with a faculty sponsor. The student and professor then complete the independent study proposal form available online. The deadline is typically in late September. Proposals are reviewed by the pertinent department and the Winter Study Committee. Students will be notified if their proposal is approved prior to the Winter Study registration period.

**Class Format:** independent study

**Grading:** pass/fail only

Not offered current academic year