The Political Economy major is designed to give students a grasp of the ways in which political and economic forces interact in shaping public policy. The major includes substantial study of the central analytical approaches in both Political Science and Economics and seeks to surmount the sometimes artificial barriers of specialization that may characterize either discipline taken by itself. Three of the required Political Economy courses undertake a conscious merging of the approaches in the two fields. These courses are designed by, and usually are taught jointly by, political scientists and economists. Political Economy 250 examines major theoretical texts in political economy and analyzes economic liberalism and critiques of economic liberalism in the context of current policy issues. Political Economy 401 examines contemporary issues in political economy in their domestic, comparative and international contexts. Political Economy 402 asks students to research and make proposals in policy areas of current importance. Background for the two senior courses is acquired through introductory courses in Economics and Political Science, a course in empirical methods, and elective courses in international, domestic and comparative economics, politics and policy.

Students in Political Economy 402 visit Washington, D.C. Sunday night through Wednesday of the first week of spring vacation to conduct interviews relating to their Political Economy 402 group projects. This is a course requirement and thus a requirement for the major.

MAJOR

The Political Economy major requires students to complete eleven (11) courses: two introductory courses each in Economics and Political Science; one empirical methods course; three core courses specific to the Political Economy Program; and three electives, one from each of three categories. In order to balance students’ educations, majors must take at least one elective in Economics and one elective in Political Science; the third elective may come from either Economics or Political Science. In light of the public policy orientation of the program, all majors are also required to complete one course with a substantial experiential education component which is related to the making or effect of public policy. The purpose of the experiential education requirement is for the student to get out into the world and interact with people in cases where the stakes are real, often involving some element of community service or participation in the political process or in the making of or analysis of public policy, in order to learn something about public policy that one cannot get from a purely academic experience. This requirement must be fulfilled prior to taking POEC 402. It can be fulfilled through a regular semester-length course (which might also serve as an elective in the major), a winter study course, a study abroad academic internship, a winter study internship, or a summer internship. The chair distributes a list of approved experiential courses to majors at the beginning of each academic year. For an internship to satisfy the requirement, its focus must be the making or effect of public policy. Approval of the chair is required to use an internship to fulfill this requirement.

Two Introductory Economics Courses

ECON 110 Principles of Microeconomics

ECON 120 Principles of Macroeconomics

Two Introductory Political Science Courses

PSCI 201 Power, Politics, and Democracy in America

PSCI 202 World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations

or PSCI 203 Introduction to Political Theory
One Empirical Methods Course

POEC 253 Empirical Methods in Political Economy

or ECON 255 Econometrics

Three Political Economy Program Courses

POEC 250/ECON 299/PSCI 238 Economic Liberalism and Its Critics

POEC 401 Contemporary Problems in Political Economy

POEC 402 Political Economy of Public Policy Issues

Three Elective Courses

Students must take at least one elective in Economics and at least one elective in Political Science; the third elective may come from either Economics or Political Science.

Please see the online catalog for up-to-date information on which courses are being offered in the current year.

One Comparative Political Economy/Public Policy Course

ECON 204 / ENVI 234(S)Economics of Developing Countries

Taught by: Michael Samson
Catalog details

ECON 213 / ENVI 213Introduction to Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

Taught by: Sarah Jacobson
Catalog details

ECON 214 T / ENVI 212 / POEC 214The Economics and Ethics of CO2 Offsets

Taught by: Ralph Bradburd
Catalog details

ECON 228 T / ENVI 228Water as a Scarce Resource

Taught by: Ralph Bradburd
Catalog details

ECON 232(F)Financial Markets, Institutions and Policies

Taught by: Neal Rappaport
Catalog details

ECON 233(S)Behavioral Economics and Public Policy

Taught by: Matthew Chao
Catalog details

ECON 238 / ENVI 238(F)Sustainable Economic Growth

Taught by: Gregory Casey
Catalog details

ECON 240 TColonialism and Underdevelopment in South Asia

Taught by: Anand Swamy
Catalog details

ECON 242Evaluating the Costs and Benefits of Public Policies

Taught by: Mikael Svensson
Catalog details

ECON 348 / ECON 548(S)Human Capital and Development

Taught by: Owen Ozier
Catalog details

ECON 377Inspiration/Perspiration: The Economics of Innovation

Taught by: Steven Nafziger
Catalog details

ECON 378(F)Long-Run Comparative Development

Taught by: Quamrul Ashraf
Catalog details

ECON 380 / ECON 519Population Economics

Taught by: Lucie Schmidt
Catalog details

ECON 381Global Health Policy Challenges

Taught by: Susan Godlonton
Catalog details

ECON 390 T / ECON 536Financial Crises: Causes and Cures
Taught by: Gerard Caprio
Catalog details
ECON 394European Economic History

Taught by: Steven Nafziger
Catalog details
ECON 453Research in Labor Economics and Policy

Taught by: Owen Thompson
Catalog details
ECON 455Research in Economic History

Taught by: Steven Nafziger
Catalog details
ECON 465(F)Pollution and Labor Markets

Taught by: Matthew Gibson
Catalog details
ECON 470(S)The Indian Economy: Development and Social Justice

Taught by: Anand Swamy
Catalog details
ECON 476(S)Behavioral Economics: Theory and Methods

Taught by: Matthew Chao
Catalog details
ECON 477 / ENVI 376Economics of Environmental Behavior

Taught by: Sarah Jacobson
Catalog details
ECON 501(F)Economic Growth and Development

Taught by: Quamrul Ashraf
Catalog details
ECON 504(F)Public Economics in Developing Countries

Taught by: Jon Bakija
Catalog details
ECON 505(F)Developing Country Macroeconomics I: Theory

Taught by: Peter Montiel
Catalog details
ECON 510 / ECON 352(S)Financial Development and Regulation

Taught by: Gerard Caprio
Catalog details
ECON 514 / ECON 389(S)Tax Policy in Global Perspective

Taught by: William Gentry
Catalog details
ECON 523 / ECON 379(S)Program Evaluation for International Development

Taught by: Pamela Jakiela
Catalog details
ECON 532 T / ECON 375(S)Inclusive Growth and Crisis Response: The Role of Social Protection Systems

Taught by: Michael Samson
Catalog details
ECON 534 T(S)Long Term Fiscal Challenges

Taught by: Ralph Chami
Catalog details
ENVI 387 / ECON 522(F)Economics of Climate Change

Taught by: Matthew Gibson
Catalog details
MAST 351 / PSCI 319 / ENVI 351(F, S)Marine Policy

Taught by: Catherine Robinson Hall
Catalog details
PSCI 224(F)Neo-liberalism: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?

Taught by: Michael MacDonald
Catalog details
PSCI 241 / SOC 241Meritocracy

Taught by: Darel Paul
Catalog details
PSCI 246The Politics of Capitalism

Taught by: Sidney Rothstein
Catalog details
PSCI 247 / ASIA 249Political Power in Contemporary China

Taught by: George Crane
Catalog details
PSCI 248 T(F)The USA in Comparative Perspective
Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details
PSCI 268Israeli Politics

Taught by: Michael MacDonald
Catalog details
PSCI 280 T / POEC 280 / STS 280(F)Silicon Valley: Digital Transformation and Democracy

Taught by: Sidney Rothstein
Catalog details
PSCI 287 / POEC 287(F)The Firm

Taught by: Sidney Rothstein
Catalog details
PSCI 288(S)The welfare state in comparative perspective

Taught by: Sidney Rothstein
Catalog details
PSCI 340(S)Why States Fail

Taught by: Ngonidzashe Munemo
Catalog details
PSCI 342Beyond the welfare state

Taught by: Sidney Rothstein
Catalog details
PSCI 351 / GBST 351(S)The New Left and Neoliberalism in Latin America

Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details
PSCI 352 / GBST 352Politics in Mexico

Taught by: James Mahon
Catalog details
PSCI 354 / ASIA 245 / HIST 318Nationalism in East Asia

Taught by: George Crane
Catalog details

One International Political Economy Course

ECON 215 / GBST 315(S)Globalization

Taught by: Will Olney
Catalog details
ECON 218 / GBST 218(S)Markets, Distrust, and History

Taught by: Ashok Rai
Catalog details
ECON 360(S)Monetary Economics

Taught by: Kenneth Kuttner
Catalog details
ECON 514 / ECON 389(S)Tax Policy in Global Perspective

Taught by: William Gentry
Catalog details
ECON 515 / ECON 359(S)Developing Country Macroeconomics II: Institutions and Policy Regimes

Taught by: Kenneth Kuttner
Catalog details
ECON 516 / ECON 366(S)International Trade and Development

Taught by: Will Olney
Catalog details
ECON 535 TInternational Financial Institutions

Taught by: Edwin Truman
Catalog details
PSCI 160 T(S)Refugees in International Politics

Taught by: Cheryl Shanks
Catalog details
PSCI 223International Law

Taught by: Cheryl Shanks
Catalog details
PSCI 228(S)International Organization

Taught by: Cheryl Shanks
Catalog details
PSCI 229Global Political Economy

Taught by: Darel Paul
Catalog details
PSCI 265The International Politics of East Asia
One U.S. Political Economy and Public Policy Course

**ECON 203 / WGSS 205** Gender and Economics
- Taught by: Lucie Schmidt
- Catalog details

**ECON 205(S)** Public Economics
- Taught by: TBA
- Catalog details

**ECON 209** Labor Economics and Policy
- Taught by: TBA
- Catalog details

**ECON 229** Law and Economics
- Taught by: Don Carlson
- Catalog details

**ECON 230(S)** The Economics of Health and Health Care
- Taught by: Lara Shore-Sheppard
- Catalog details

**ECON 257** The Economics of Race
- Taught by: Owen Thompson
- Catalog details

**ECON 374 T(F)** Poverty and Public Policy
- Taught by: Lara Shore-Sheppard
- Catalog details

**ECON 383** Cities, Regions and the Economy
- Taught by: Stephen Sheppard
- Catalog details

**ECON 456(F)** Income Distribution
- Taught by: Sara LaLumia
- Catalog details

**ECON 468(F)** Your Money or Your Life: Health Disparities in the United States
- Taught by: Tara Watson
- Catalog details

**ECON 538 T(S)** Resilience and Macroeconomic Policy
- Taught by: Peter Heller
- Catalog details

**ENVI 307 / PSCI 317(F)** Environmental Law
- Taught by: David Cassuto
- Catalog details

**PSCI 208(F)** Wealth in America
- Taught by: Cathy Johnson
- Catalog details

**PSCI 209 / WGSS 209** Poverty in America
- Taught by: Cathy Johnson
- Catalog details

**PSCI 211** Do the People Govern? U.S. Public Opinion and Mass Political Behavior
- Taught by: Matthew Tokeshi
- Catalog details

**PSCI 214(S)** Racial and Ethnic Politics in America
- Taught by: Matthew Tokeshi
- Catalog details

**PSCI 215 / LEAD 215** Race and Inequality in the American City
- Taught by: Mason Williams
- Catalog details

**PSCI 216 / LEAD 216(F)** American Constitutionalism I: Structures of Power
- Taught by: Justin Crowe
- Catalog details

**PSCI 217 / LEAD 217(S)** American Constitutionalism II: Rights and Liberties
- Taught by: Peter Heller
- Catalog details
CREDIT FOR COURSEWORK DONE ELSEWHERE

The three 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 201 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 three electives and other introductory courses in Political Science may be completed during study at another college or university (e.g. during study abroad) with permission of the chair. The general policy of the Program is to grant credit for one course per semester abroad and in extraordinary circumstances, credit for three courses for an entire year abroad. Students who score a 5 on the AP exam in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, or Comparative Government and Politics may receive credit towards the major for the cognate introductory economics or political science course(s). 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 whose economics department placement exam scores allow them to place out of ECON 110 and/or ECON 120 may receive credit towards the major for the corresponding class. No substitute higher-level coursework is required for majors receiving credit in this way, although it is certainly encouraged. Students cannot substitute AP credit for PSCI 201.

RECOMMENDED PROGRESSION THROUGH THE REQUIRED MAJOR COURSES

Students considering a major in Political Economy are encouraged to begin with ECON 110 and 120 and any one of PSCI 201, 202, 203, or 204 in their first year, as these courses are the prerequisites or co-requisites for POEC 250. Students should plan to complete both of their two required introductory PSCI courses during either the first or second year at Williams, as first- and second-year students get enrollment preference in these classes. Students should plan to take POEC 250 and POEC 253 (or ECON 255) during the sophomore and junior years, keeping in mind that both POEC 250 and POEC 253 are offered only in the fall, and that ECON 255 requires STAT 161, STAT 201, or STAT 202 as a prerequisite (STAT 101 will also serve as a prerequisite, but only if taken prior to the fall of 2018). POEC 401, taken fall of senior year, requires POEC 253 or ECON 255 as a prerequisite, so that prerequisite must be completed before the start of senior year. Students should also get started on their electives during sophomore and junior year.

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 at least a 3.5 GPA in the program may apply for the honors thesis program by means of a written proposal submitted to the chair by the end of the first week after spring vacation. Written guidelines for such proposals are available in the chair’s office and 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.
Despite the fact that Political Economy requires more courses than the typical major, many Political Economy majors go abroad. Since POEC 250 and POEC 253 are offered in the fall, students considering spending only one semester abroad often find spring to be the better choice. Nonetheless, many students study away for the fall or the whole year. Students planning to be abroad in the fall should take POEC 250 in their sophomore year if at all possible. Similarly, it is necessary to plan ahead to find the best way to satisfy the empirical methods requirement (POEC 253 or ECON 255) before the fall of the senior year. The easiest major credits to obtain abroad are the electives in Political Science and Economics.

**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 department.

**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.

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

No, although because so many of the classes in the program are Williams-specific, 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 (STAT 101 can also serve as a prerequisite, but only if taken prior to the fall of 2018). Studying abroad in POEC requires careful planning.

**Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn't:**

No, but students have discovered upon reaching their destination that the course is different than described so were forced to change or not count the course.

**POEC 214 (S) The Economics and Ethics of CO2 Offsets**

**Cross-listings:** ENV 212 POEC 214 ECON 214

**Secondary Cross-listing**

Some electric utilities and other CO2 emission polluters are allowed to purchase carbon offsets to achieve a portion of their mandated emissions cuts, in effect, to pay others to reduce carbon emissions in their stead. Some individuals, college and universities, and for-profit and non-profit institutions have chosen voluntarily to purchase carbon offsets as a way of reducing their carbon footprint. But do offsets actually succeed in reducing carbon emissions? What separates a legitimate offset from one that is not? How should we measure the true impact of an offset? How do carbon offsets compare to other policies for reducing carbon emissions in terms of efficiency, equity, and justice? Is there something inherently wrong about "commodifying" the atmosphere? Is there something inherently wrong about selling or buying the right to pollute? Should colleges and universities be using the purchase of offsets to achieve "carbon neutrality?"

**Class Format:** This tutorial will be taught remotely via Zoom meetings. Each student will be the tutorial partner of one other student, and each pair of tutorial partners will meet with the instructor for 75 minutes each week. Individual "office hour meetings" will also occur via Zoom meetings.

**Requirements/Evaluation:** a 5- to 7-page paper every other week; a 3-page written critique every other week; one re-write paper
Prerequisites: ECON 110 or the equivalent, permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: first-year students and sophomores intending to major in Economics and/or to major or concentrate in Environmental Studies

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

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

ENVI 212 (D2) POEC 214 (D2) ECON 214 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Each student will write five 5-7 page papers on which I will provide written feedback regarding grammar, style, and argument. Each student will write five 3-page critiques of their partner's papers. As the final assignment, each student will revise one of their five papers.

Attributes: ENVI Environmental Policy  POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses

Not offered current academic year

POEC 250 (F) Economic Liberalism and Its Critics

Cross-listings: ECON 299  PSCI 238  POEC 250

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 Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman, Ronald Coase, Arthur Okun, and Albert O. Hirschman. The third part surveys significant recent contributions relevant to the themes of the course, with applications to current public policy issues, including topics 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; economic nationalism and new trade theory; 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 class uses a flipped classroom approach, where before each class meeting, students watch a lecture video, and sometimes write an essay or solve some problems on relating to the assigned reading and video, and then in-person class is devoted primarily to discussion.

Requirements/Evaluation: six short essays, several short homework assignments, and a final exam

Prerequisites: ECON 110 and 120 or equivalent; PSCI 201, 202, 203, or 204 (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: 30

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

Distributions: (D2)

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

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

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives  POEC Required Courses

Fall 2021

SEM Section: 01  MR 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Jon M. Bakija,  James E. Mahon

POEC 253 (F) Empirical Methods in Political Economy (QFR)
This course introduces students to common empirical tools used in policy analysis and implementation. The broad aim is to train students to be discriminating consumers of public policy-relevant research. The emphasis in the course is on intuitive understanding of the central concepts. 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; random variables and distributions; statistical estimation, inference and hypothesis testing; and modeling using multiple regression, with a particular focus on understanding whether and how relationships between variables can be determined to be causal—an essential requirement for effective policy formation. 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) (QFR)

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: EVST Methods Courses PHLH Statistics Courses POEC Required Courses

Fall 2021

LEC Section: 01  TF 2:35 pm - 3:50 pm  Anand V. Swamy

POEC 280  (F)  Silicon Valley: Digital Transformation and Democracy  (WS)

Cross-listings: PSCI 280  STS 280  POEC 280

Secondary Cross-listing

Nearly every country in the world seeks to drive economic growth by promoting digital technologies. The universal model is Silicon Valley. In this tutorial, students will examine the origins of the Silicon Valley model and other countries’ attempts to emulate it. Departing from "just so" stories of technological determinism, we take up the lens of comparative political economy to investigate the politics that allowed US tech firms to shape economic policy to meet their interests. It is no accident that tech became a symbol for economic growth in the 1970s, precisely when it also began to build powerful alliances in Washington. After investigating the origins of the Silicon Valley model, we trace attempts to adopt it in Europe and Asia, which highlight the model’s political contingencies and some of the more salient conflicts over the tech sector. We focus on the ways in which the Silicon Valley model can threaten social welfare through economic inequality and precarious employment, and engage a variety of perspectives, including workplace ethnography, to examine these threats, as well as potential regulatory responses. The course concludes by considering what policies could be appropriate for supporting, while also regulating, the tech sector in the twenty-first century.

Requirements/Evaluation: Five 5-page papers; five 2-page responses; participation

Prerequisites: One introductory course in political science and/or permission of the instructor.

Enrollment Limit: 10

Enrollment Preferences: Preference will be given to sophomores or juniors majoring in a Division II field

Expected Class Size: 10

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

Distributions: (D2) (WS)

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

PSCI 280 (D2) STS 280 (D2) POEC 280 (D2)

Writing Skills Notes: Students will write essays each week. In addition, students will read each others' work and engage in structured critique.

Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses PSCI American Politics Courses PSCI Comparative Politics Courses PSCI Political
Theory Courses

Fall 2021
TUT Section: T1    W 7:00 pm - 9:40 pm     Sidney A. Rothstein

POEC 287  (F)  The Firm  (DPE)
Cross-listings:  PSCI 287  POEC 287
Secondary Cross-listing

The rise of gigantic tech firms--Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon--has sparked widespread worries about the role of business power in capitalist democracy. Are these firms monopolies? How can they be better regulated? Should they be? This course studies the politics of business by centering analysis on the firm. From the perspective of the workplace, we investigate the firm as an arena of power, where workers and managers meet each other in continuous contests for control. From the perspective of the public sphere, we investigate the firm as an actor whose power maps uneasily onto the channels of democratic representation. Approaching the firm as both arena and actor in a number of capitalist democracies, we will compare the politics of business across different sectors, but will focus especially on tech and finance.

Requirements/Evaluation:  Four short analysis briefs; four short response briefs; one presentation; one final paper; participation
Prerequisites: One introductory course in political science and/or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Preference will be given to sophomores or juniors majoring in a Division II field
Expected Class Size: 15
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)  (DPE)

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

PSCI 287 (D2) POEC 287 (D2)

Difference, Power, and Equity Notes: This course studies power through the lens of class, applying that lens to understand how power functions in the employment relationship, as well as the way that firms exercise power in society more generally.
Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Fall 2021
SEM Section: 01    TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am     Sidney A. Rothstein

POEC 289  (S)  The welfare state in comparative perspective
Cross-listings:  PSCI 289  POEC 289
Secondary Cross-listing

Modern life has, in some ways, become less risky. You are unlikely to be trampled by a mammoth. But social risk has not disappeared--you could lose your job, get into an accident, or find yourself plunged somehow into poverty. Most countries around the world have built elaborate institutions to ensure citizens' welfare by protecting some people from some risks, but not all people and not all risks. Moreover, these institutions vary considerably both over time and between countries. This course examines those institutions. Our goal is to explain how and why welfare states vary and why there is so much inequality in the distribution of risk. We will do so by investigating the different kinds of institutions that mediate risks throughout the lifecycle, from parental leave to old age pensions, and by comparing these institutions between different countries. While focusing primarily on the welfare states of Western Europe, we will also examine how the politics of social risk unfold around the world, extending our investigation to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. We will conclude by reflecting on what lessons the welfare state offers for managing this century's biggest social risk: climate change.

Requirements/Evaluation:  3 essays; 2 presentations; participation
Prerequisites: One introductory political science course and/or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 16
Enrollment Preferences: Political science majors, political economy concentrators
Expected Class Size: 16
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 289 (D2) POEC 289 (D2)

Attributes: POEC Comparative POEC/Public Policy Courses  PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Spring 2022

SEM Section: 01    MW 11:00 am - 12:15 pm     Sidney A. Rothstein

POEC 388 (S) Comparative Political Economy

Cross-listings: PSCI 388  POEC 388

Secondary Cross-listing
This course examines the relationships between broad economic structures and political institutions. We consider why and how the spread of capitalism led to the birth of democracy in some countries, but dictatorships in others? Here we look closely at whether it is economic development which leads to the spread of democracy. Or whether it is economic crises which make the movement to democracy possible. Finally, we examine whether the emergence of a neoliberal economic order has affected the organization of political society?

Requirements/Evaluation: class participation, 4 tutorial-style papers, 6 response papers, 1 revised paper
Prerequisites: PSCI 201-04 or permission of the instructor
Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: Political Science Majors, Political Economy Majors

Expected Class Size: 12
Grading: yes pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)

This course is cross-listed and the prefixes carry the following divisional credit:
PSCI 388 (D2) POEC 388 (D2)

Attributes: PSCI Comparative Politics Courses

Spring 2022

TUT Section: T1    MWF 10:00 am - 10:50 am     Ngonidzashe Munemo

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 2021

IND Section: 01    TBA     Sara LaLumia

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 2022
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: one 5-7 page paper; one 10-12 page final policy paper; multiple in-class group presentations; class participation
Prerequisites: ECON 110 and 120; PSCI 201; PSCI 202, 203, or 204, or equivalent; POEC 253 or ECON 255 or equivalent, or permission of instructor; open to non-majors
Enrollment Limit: 15
Enrollment Preferences: Political Economy majors
Expected Class Size: 13
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: required for the Political Economy major
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: GBST Economic Development Studies Electives POEC Required Courses

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, write a major report on their findings and recommendations, and present and defend their findings in a public talk.

Class Format: student presentations
Requirements/Evaluation: group policy projects including an 80- to 100-page paper and 2-hour presentation
Prerequisites: POEC 253 or ECON 255, POEC 250, POEC 401; open only to Political Economy majors
Enrollment Limit: 19
Enrollment Preferences: open only to Political Economy majors
Expected Class Size: 19
Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option
Unit Notes: required for the Political Economy major
Distributions: (D2)
Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses POEC Required Courses

POEC 493 (F) Honors Thesis: Political Economy
Political Economy independent study.
Grading: yes pass/fail option, yes fifth course option
Distributions: (D2)
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