

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

(This major is also available on-line/onsite)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics program joins the analytic rigor of the social sciences and the enduring normative questions of philosophy to promote an integrative and critical understanding of the institutions, practices, and policies that shape the contemporary world. The degree integrates broad academic areas in the humanities and the social and behavioral sciences. In this program the disciplines of economics, philosophy, and political science form the intellectual foundation for exploring critical social problems, the development of social policy, and critical policy analysis.

The program applies an interdisciplinary approach to important societal problems, utilizing the contributions of all three disciplines. The strength of the program is that it looks at policy analysis not just as the economist thinks of it (efficiency) and not just as the political scientist thinks of it (political efficacy), but that it also includes the normative (“ought” or moral/ethical) dimensions that can be more rigorously addressed through philosophy.

The program provides the broad preparation that is recognized as essential if we are to adequately educate our students not just for a career but also for lives in which they can be expected to change careers three or four times. The program will prepare students for a variety of careers - and career changes - that require analytic skills and knowledge of institutional processes that drive social policy questions. Examples are teaching, banking and finance, journalism, resource management, social services, criminal justice, and other public service. The program will also provide excellent undergraduate preparation for students intending formal study of the law. Finally, the program is the major of choice for those students considering postgraduate study in economics, political science, and philosophy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Content Knowledge. Assess different theories, concepts, methods, and analytical approaches employed by the disciplines of Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics.

Inquiry. Evaluate problems of normative inquiry as well as those of empirical analysis, and synthesize the two approaches in the analysis of the ideas, values, and assumptions underlying public policy and ethical issues.

Applied Learning and Civic Engagement. Apply contextual knowledge and skills to the public policy process and ‘real-life’ political situations via the opportunity to observe and

participate as an informed citizen in a variety of on and off-campus settings.

Critical Thinking, Communication, and Integrated Learning. Produce effective interdisciplinary policy analysis via the ability to recognize arguments, test hypotheses and support via appropriate oral and written communications targeted for specific audiences.

MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

PPE majors are evaluated in a variety of ways. They complete, with a grade of C- or better, courses that reinforce their knowledge of the fundamental methodologies and models of the core disciplines. Quizzes, exams, papers, projects, group work, presentations, etc., are evaluated in terms of qualitative assessment of specified learning outcomes by means of stated criteria. By satisfactorily completing PPE 407: Capstone, in which majors are required to write a substantial research paper, students explore the tensions and connections between these three disciplines and how policy decisions reflect these interrelationships. Capstones further enhance students’ skills in research, writing, computer use, statistical methods, and public presentations. The writing intensive course work also prepares them to complete the University Writing Requirement.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BACHELOR OF ART OR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS

A grade of “C-” or better is required for all of the courses used to satisfy the program requirements and a cumulative 2.00 GPA or better is required overall. All students must complete a college level statistics course, with a minimum of 4 credits. Students taking the BA degree must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language through one of the options listed in the catalog.

A 50 credit core provides a shared interdisciplinary experience for all students in the program and offers a common knowledge base for additional upper division course work. Thirty credits of the common core area are at the lower division level; twenty credits are upper division.

The lower division core provides a basic understanding of the political, economic, and legal systems in the United States; an introduction to the normative questions that concern contemporary American society; and, an introduction to logical reasoning.

ECON 201 Principles of Microeconomics (5)

ECON 202 Principles of Macroeconomics (5)

PHIL 102 Ethics, Politics and Law (5)
POLS 101 American National Government (5) and
PHIL 101 Self, World and God (5) or
PHIL 203 Critical Thinking (5) and
POLS 200 Comparative Politics (5) or
POLS 221 International Relations (5)

The upper division core provides a common, advanced-level application of the analytic, empirical, and normative tools within each discipline.

POLS 350 Public Policy (5)
PHIL 420 Philosophy of Law (5)
ECON 334 U.S. Economic History (5)
POLS 340 Politics & Media (5)
ECON 407 or
PHIL 407 or
POLS 407 Capstone (5)

The upper division elective component offers students the opportunity to emphasize particular disciplines. All students will complete 20 additional upper division credit hours, of which a minimum of 5 credit hours must be completed in each discipline. No more than 5 credit hours of practicum 409 credit may be applied to the 20 upper-division elective credits. A number of these courses will be interdisciplinary, cross-listed, and team taught.

Course descriptions are located under the individual disciplines - Economics, Philosophy, and Political Science.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1. A minimum of 35 graded credits as follows:

ECON 201 Prin of Microeconomics (5)
ECON 435 Public Finance (5)
PHIL 490 Ethics & Public Affairs (5)
POLS 101 American National Govt (5)
POLS 314 State & Local Govt (5)
POLS 350 Public Policy (5)
POLS 351 Public Administration (5)

2. A minimum grade of "C-" required for each course with an average GPA of 2.00 or more for all courses counting toward the minor.

3. A minimum of 10 hours counting toward the minor must be completed at Eastern Oregon University.