

POLITICAL ECONOMY

Coordinator: Elizabeth Bennett

Administrative Coordinator: Tracy Robinette

The political economy minor investigates the nature and consequences of the dynamic interaction between political and economic forces. These forces are shaped and driven by a complex array of social relationships and interests, and are expressed through a diverse range of processes that operate at the local, national, and global levels. Courses in the minor explore the political-economic dynamic from multiple disciplinary perspectives and historical angles, using a variety of conceptual approaches.

To earn a minor in political economy, students must complete five courses: two required core courses and three electives. The core courses, located in the departments of economics, international affairs, and sociology-anthropology, introduce students to various theories of political economy and examine their application to significant national and international patterns and developments.

The elective courses are distributed into three concentrations. Students minoring in political economy must take one class from each. Courses in the first concentration, global dynamics, explore how living and working conditions throughout the world are shaped by the interrelationship between national and global political and economic processes. Courses in the second concentration, national structures and power, examine the ways in which the roots and exercise of power, as well as sociocultural dynamics, are structured by the political-economic relationship as it emerges in a unique national context. Courses in the third concentration, cultural forces and social movements, investigate theoretically and practically the importance and interplay of culture, power, resistance, and social change.

Potential employers and graduate programs seek liberal-arts graduates who have strong analytical skills and knowledge of contemporary events; a political economy minor offers evidence of such preparation. Reflecting the sponsoring faculty's broad array of training and interests, the minor highlights a wide range of potential applications and topics. Examples include the interplay between social relations and the organization of production; the relationship between governments and markets in determining national development, power, and political stability; the ways in which ideas, discourse, gender, race, and identity affect and interact with political and economic forces to structure social environments; the influence of state power on the global economy; and the role of social movements in promoting economic and political change.

Students may enhance any major through the addition of a minor in political economy. Those interested in pursuing a political economy minor should schedule a meeting with one of the sponsoring faculty to discuss program offerings and develop a curricular plan.

Minor Requirements

A minimum of 20 semester credits (five courses), distributed as follows:

- Two courses from the following:

ECON 250	Radical Political Economics
IA 340	International Political Economy
SOAN 300	Social Theory
- Three electives, one from each of the following three concentrations:

Global Dynamics

ECON 232	Economic Development
ECON 255	Technology, Institutions, and Economic Growth
IA 238	Political Economy of Development
IA 340	International Political Economy
IA 350	Social Justice in the Global Economy
SOAN 249	The Political Economy of Food
SOAN 265	Critical Perspectives on Development
SOAN 282	Pacific Rim Cities
SOAN 350	Global Inequality
SOAN 360	Decolonizing Anthropology
SOAN 366	Indebted Lives: Debt & Inequality in American Society

National Structures and Power

ECON 220	The Financial System and the Economy
ECON 250	Radical Political Economics
ECON 256	The Industrial Revolution
HIST 142	Modern Latin American History
HIST 243	African American History Since 1863
HIST 347	Modern Mexico: Culture, Politics, and Economic Crisis
POLS 307	Government and the Economy
RHMS 360	Digital Media and Society
SOAN 335	Political Economy of Housing

Cultural Forces and Social Movements

SOAN 214	Social Change
SOAN 221	Work, Leisure, and Consumption
SOAN 254	The Social Life of Money and Exchange
SOAN 285	Culture and Power in the Middle East
SOAN 300	Social Theory
SOAN 324	Anthropology of Violence
SOAN 342	Power and Resistance

Faculty

Sepideh Azarshahri Bajracharya. Assistant professor with term of anthropology. Political culture of violence, communal politics, memory, narrative, urban ethnography, anthropology of space, South Asia. PhD 2008 Harvard University. BA 1999 Wesleyan University.

Elizabeth A. Bennett. Joseph M. Ha Associate Professor of International Affairs, director of the Political Economy Program. International political economy, global social movements, voluntary social/environmental regulation, international development global governance. PhD 2014, AM 2010 Brown University. MALD 2008 Fletcher School, Tufts University. BA 2002 Hope College.

Jennifer Hubbert. Professor of anthropology. Chinese public culture, anthropology of the state, politics of popular culture and public protest, anthropology of policy, paradiplomacy. PhD 1999, MA 1994 Cornell University. MA 1987, BA 1986 Stanford University.

Oren Kosansky. Associate professor of anthropology, director of the Middle East and North African Studies Program. Political economy of religious experience, postcolonial nationalism and diaspora, textual

culture, Morocco. PhD 2003, MA 1994 University of Michigan. MAT 1990 Binghamton University. BA 1988 Brown University.

Bruce M. Podobnik. Associate professor of sociology. Environmental sociology, social theory, mixed methods, the sociocultural dimensions of activism, the social roots of happiness. PhD 2000, MA 1994 Johns Hopkins University. BA 1991 University of California at Santa Cruz.

Éric Tymoigne. Associate professor of economics. Macroeconomics, money and banking, monetary theory. PhD 2006 University of Missouri at Kansas City. MA 2000 Université Paris-Dauphine. BA 1999 Université de Bretagne Occidentale à Brest.

Elliott Young. Professor of history, director of the Latin American and Latino Studies program (spring). Latin American and U.S.-Mexico Borderlands history. PhD 1997, MA 1993 University of Texas at Austin. BA 1989 Princeton University.