

Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE)

College of Arts & Humanities
Department of Philosophy
227 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-2012

Director & Advisor for Philosophy: Craig Matarrese
Advisor for Political Science: Doran Hunter
Advisor for Economics: Ved Sharma

The PPE major integrates the historical, methodological, theoretical, and practical foci of Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics to form a single course of study. The focus of the major is on the dynamic relationships between the economic, political, and legal systems of our society, relationships that require the analytical methods of all three disciplines to be understood fully. For example, the best way to understand our competitive market economy, certainly a fundamental institution of our society, is to explore its empirical, historical, political, and ethical dimensions. Indeed, if one considers the most influential historical figures in each of the three fields, e.g., John Locke, Adam Smith, David Hume, John Stuart Mill, G.W.F. Hegel, and Karl Marx, it is immediately clear that they recognized no rigid disciplinary boundaries between philosophy, political science, and economics, and that the strength of their views lies precisely in their grasp of the dynamic relationships between the systems that these disciplines study. Admittedly, the coherence of the major is expressed at a fairly abstract and analytical level; the content of the major can be broad and diverse, but all students who work through the major's curriculum will develop an appreciation of the complexity of our society's central institutions and problems at the same time that they acquire the analytical facility to engage and critically evaluate them.

Students in the major take a number of required core courses in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics, followed by a concentration of courses, and a senior thesis, in one of the three participating departments. The structure of the major ensures that students have a solid grounding in each of the three disciplines, as well as a specific concentration in one area that draws on this interdisciplinary foundation.

Admission to Major is granted by the Director of the PPE Program. Minimum university admission requirements are:

- a minimum of 32 earned semester credit hours.
- a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C).

Contact the director of the program for application procedures.

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS BA, BS (60 credits)

Required for Major (Core, 27 credits):

PHIL	120W	Introduction to Ethics (3)
PHIL	240W	Law, Justice, and Society (3) OR
PHIL	224 W	Business Ethics (3)
PHIL	440	Philosophy of Law (3)
POL	111	United States Government (3)
POL	231	World Politics (3) OR
POL	241	Introduction to Comparative Politics (3)

Any ONE of the following:

POL	311	Ancient and Medieval Political Philosophy (3)
POL	312	Modern Political Philosophy (3)
POL	313	Contemporary Political Philosophy (3)
POL	410	Topics in Political Philosophy (1-4)
POL	414	Early U.S. Political Thought (3)
POL	415	Recent U.S. Political Thought (3)
POL	416	Nonwestern Political Philosophy (3)
ECON	201	Principles of Macroeconomics (3)
ECON	202	Principles of Microeconomics (3)
ECON	355	Intermediate Microeconomics (3)

Statistics (any statistics course in PSYC, SOC, MATH, ECON, or POL)

PHIL	495/496	Senior Thesis I & II OR
POL	492	Individual Study OR
ECON	482	Individual Study

PPE with Philosophy Concentration:

Students must take 5 courses from among the following (students with concentrations in Political Science or Economics may choose any two of these to satisfy their additional upper-level requirement).

PHIL	321	Social and Political Philosophy (3)
PHIL	322W	Ethical Theory (3)
PHIL	334W	History of Philosophy: Classical Philosophy (3)
PHIL	336W	History of philosophy: Renaissance and Modern Philosophy (3)
PHIL	337	19th Century Philosophy (3)
PHIL	338	American Philosophy (3)
PHIL	358W	Eastern Philosophy (3)
PHIL	437	Contemporary Philosophy (3)
PHIL	450	Special Topics (subject to approval by advisor) (3)
PHIL	455	Existentialism and Phenomenology (3)
PHIL	474	Philosophy of the Mind (3) OR
PHIL	480	Philosophy of Science (3)
PHIL	499	Individual Study 1(1-6)

PPE with Political Science Concentration:

Students must take 5 courses as follows. ONE additional political philosophy course from the options listed in the core (but no double dipping), ONE Public Law course, and any THREE other Political Science courses not used above, in any area, and at least two of which must be 300- or 400- level.

Public Law Courses:

POL	450	Topics in Public Law (1-4)
POL	451	Administrative Law (3)
POL	452	Jurisprudence (3)
POL	453	Constitutional Law (3)
POL	454	Civil Liberties (3)
POL	455	American Legal Philosophy (3)

PPE with Economics Concentration:

Students must take 5 courses from among any of the 300 or 400 level courses offered by the department

Note: All credits for the major come from existing courses in each of the three Departments. The core of the major consists of 3 courses in each department (30 credits). Majors must also complete 9 additional courses: 5 upper level courses from an approved list of courses in the department of concentration (15 credits), plus 2 upper level courses from the approved list of courses in each of the other two departments (12 credits). Finally, majors must take two Senior Thesis/Individual Study courses (total of 3 credits) to complete a thesis that serves as a culmination of the PPE curriculum. The total required number of credits then is 60, and 43 of them must be in upper-division courses. The PPE major, then, qualifies as a "broad major" that does not require a minor. The only difference between the BA degree and the BS degree is that former includes a foreign language requirement (8 credits).

POLICIES/INFORMATION

GPA Policy. None.

P/N Grading Policy. The P/N grading system applies to all courses, but majors and minors may take 300- or 400-level courses in philosophy for P/N credit only with the consent of the department.

Required Minor: None