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; 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 224W 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