

MS in IPEC Course Descriptions

Graduate courses [This is not a comprehensive list of all possible courses. It includes only those courses specifically noted in the Program Description. The program director maintains a current list of area and theme concentration classes.]

POEC 5305 (PA 5305) Microeconomics for Policy I (3 semester hours) Develops the tools of economic analysis and demonstrates their uses for decision making and the evaluation of public policies. ECO 3310, POEC 5300, or equivalent recommended. (3-0) Y

POEC 5307 (PA 5307) Economics for Public Policy (3 semester hours) Economics for Public Policy is a doctoral level course designed to introduce students to the use of economic methods of the analysis of public policy. While the primary theoretical framework for the course is microeconomics, the course also includes macroeconomics. A variety of public policy topics are covered in the course such as education and education reform, employment and the labor market, taxes and redistribution, health and health care, poverty and inequality, and public assistance programs. A central theme in the course is the role of the government. (3-0) Y

POEC 5310 (CRIM5310) Research Design I (3 semester hours) This course is the first in a two-course sequence devoted to the research enterprise and the study of data development strategies and techniques to facilitate effective statistical analysis. Topics generally covered include: (1) issues and techniques in social science research with emphasis on philosophy of science, theory testing, and hypothesis formulation; (2) measurement and data collection strategies, reliability and validity of measures and results, sampling, surveys; and (3) examination of qualitative versus quantitative research techniques, working with observational data, field research issues, and triangulation. (3-0) Y

POEC 5313 (CRIM 5313, PA 5313) Descriptive and Inferential Statistics for the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (3 semester hours) This course is an introduction to data analysis, statistics, and regression. The only prerequisite is a sound foundation in algebra. The heart of the course is a rigorous introduction to statistical inference: sampling theory, confidence intervals, and hypothesis tests. The final section of the course covers regression analysis, which is developed in a fairly non-technical way, with an emphasis on interpretation of regression results, using examples from recent research. SOCS 3305 or equivalent recommended. (3-0) Y

POEC 5316 (CRIM 5316) Advanced Regression Analysis for the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (3 semester hours) This course provides a detailed examination of the bivariate and multiple regression models estimated using Ordinary Least Squares (OLS), with an emphasis on using regression models to test social and economic hypotheses. Also covered are several special topics in regression analysis, including violations of OLS assumptions, the use of dummy variables, fixed effects models, and path analysis. Applications are demonstrated with examples drawn from economics, political science, public policy and sociology. POEC 5313 or equivalent recommended. (3-0) Y

PSCI 6309 International Political Economy and Organizations (3 semester hours) An overview of important developments in the study of conflict and cooperation among countries, especially in the economic arena. (3-0) T

POEC 6335 (PSCI 6335) Institutions and Development (3 semester hours) An overview of leading theories, institutional perspectives, issues and policy debates concerning urban, regional, national and global development. Topics may include economic growth, technology and innovation, shifts in industrial structure, spatially imbalanced change, and their welfare consequences. (3-0) T

PSCI 6337 Comparative Institutions (3 semester hours) A comparative analysis of political and economic institutions in different settings. Includes a consideration of different theoretical approaches to the comparative study and design of institutions in the United States and elsewhere. (3-0) T

POEC 6352 (SOC 6352 and PA 6352) Evaluation Research Methods in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences (3 semester hours) A review of research methods used in program evaluation, with an emphasis on public and nonprofit social programs. Issues to be addressed include research design, appropriate performance standards, measurement and selection of indicators, sampling, data collection, and data analysis. (3-0) T

POEC 6360 World Political Economy (3 semester hours) An overview of the major social, political, economic, and cultural forces that influence the nature of international political and economic relations. Same as ECO 6352 (3-0) T

POEC 6362 (PSCI 6362) Political Development (3 semester hours) This course will survey different perspectives and theories of political development. Topics covered include the role of the state, democratization, political stability, civil society and environmental concerns, among others. (3-0) T

POEC 6366 International Economics (3 semester hours) The course focuses on international trade theory and the ongoing process of regional integration in the Americas, with particular emphasis on the North American Free Trade Agreement. (3-0) T

POEC 6V76 Policy Research Workshop in Development Studies (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project. Topics vary from semester to semester. However, students may substitute an individual Field Research Project for this workshop; the project must be approved by the faculty of the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 12 hours. However, MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of their concentration requirement from POEC 6376 and POEC 6379.) Prerequisites: POEC 6341, POEC 6364, and an additional course in the concentration. ([3-9]-0) T