

Public Policy and Political Economy Course Descriptions

POEC 5302 (PA 5302) Law and The Policy Process (3 semester hours) Provides the legal perspective on public policy and emphasizes the judicial system's role in the recent evolution of public policy in selected problem areas. (3-0) T

POEC 5303 (PA 5303 and PSCI 5303) Public Policymaking and Institutions (3 semester hours) Surveys the major institutions associated with policymaking, including Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, and interest groups. These institutions are studied by linking them to the decision-making theories of organizations, social choice and incrementalism. (3-0) Y

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 5306 (PA 5306) Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (3 semester hours) Studies various schools of macroeconomic theory, their political and economic implications and the policies that flow from them. Discusses the design and implementation of policies related to inflation, unemployment, business fluctuations and long-term economic growth. (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 5308 (PA 5308) Ethics, Culture and Public Responsibility (3 semester hours) This course provides a general consideration of traditions of ethical thought, the interactions between personal behavior and cultural groups/norms, and the implementation of public responsibility. Topics to be considered shall include tensions between personal and collective goals, the nature and limits of tolerance, and the role of institutions such as the family, government, business, churches and interest groups. (3-0) Y

POEC 5310 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

POEC 5319 Special Topics in Political Economy (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours.) (3-0) Y

POEC 5371 (PA 5371 and SOC 5371) Non-Profit Organizations (3 semester hours) This course examines issues related to the rise, scope, development and impact of non-profit organizations. The course explores both the unique missions of non-profit organizations and the management challenges posed by this expanding sector of the organizational environment. (3-0) T

POEC 5372 (PA 5372 and SOC 5372) Non-Profit Management and Leadership (3 semester hours) This course examines issues, strategies and techniques related to leadership and management in non-profit organizations. (3-0) R

POEC 6301 Political-Economic Theories (3 semester hours) A critical analysis of theories of politics and economy. Focuses on such thinkers as Smith, Marx, and Keynes, and on bodies of theory about political and economic systems. Explores the controversies that have shaped the development of political economy and their implications for interdisciplinary policy analysis. (3-0) Y

POEC 6304 Advanced Analytic Techniques (3 semester hours) This course prepares students to use advanced methods in economic and policy analysis. Topics include matrices and matrix operations, input-output analysis, the Cobb-Douglas production function and linear programming. (3-0) T

POEC 6312 (SOC 6312) Social-Economic Theories (3 semester hours) A critical analysis of theories of society and economy. These include class, culture, solidarity, rational choice, transaction cost theory, principal agent theory, ideology and hegemony, network theory, collective action, bureaucracy, and American exceptionalism. (3-0) Y

POEC 6318 (ECO 6314) Structural Equation and Multilevel (Hierarchical) Modeling (3 semester hours) An introduction to structural equation modeling (SEM) and multilevel modeling (MLM), sometimes called hierarchical linear or mixed modeling. SEM represents a general approach to the statistical examination of the fit of a theoretical model to empirical data. Topics include observed variable (path) analysis, latent variable models (e.g., confirmatory factor analysis), and latent variable SEM analyses. MLM represents a general approach to handling data that are nested within each other or have

random components. Topics include dealing with two-level data that may be cross-sectional, such as students within classes, or longitudinal, such as repeated observations on individuals, firms or countries. POEC 5316 or equivalent recommended. (3-0) R
POEC 6320 (PA 6320, PSCI 6320 and SOC 6320) Organizational Theory (3 semester hours) Focuses on bureaucracy and rationality, formal and informal structures, and the role of the environment. Organizational factors such as technology, power, information, and culture, as well as the implications of organizational theory for public policy are examined. (3-0) T

POEC 6331 (PSCI 6331) Executives, Legislatures, and Public Policy (3 semester hours) An investigation of the role played by executives and legislatures in shaping public policy in the United States. (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

POEC 6336 (PA 6336 and PSCI 6336) Bureaucracy and Public Policy (3 semester hours) Examination of processes involved in arriving at administrative decisions within the structure of the regime. Reciprocal ties of influence and control between official organizations and other public and private organizational actors, as well as organizational dynamics such as communication, power, and decision making in administrative agencies. (3-0) T

POEC 6338 (PA 6338) Program Design (3 semester hours) Concentrates on the parts of professional practice that begin where analysis ends. Explores wide array of ideas in linguistics, literature, psychology, theater, architecture, and the Social Sciences that encourage rigor and creativity in the design of public policies, programs, and projects. (3-0) T

POEC 6341 (ECO 6371, PA 6341 and SOC 6341) Urban Development (3 semester hours) Presents methods and models for understanding urban processes. Topics include analysis of urban growth, land use patterns, transportation and local public good delivery systems. Welfare consequences of various urban policy options are explored. (3-0) Y

POEC 6342 Research Design II (3 semester hours) This course is the second in a two-course sequence devoted to the study of data development strategies and techniques to facilitate effective statistical analysis. Topics generally covered include: the logic of causal inquiry and inference in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, the elaboration paradigm and model specification, anticipating and handling threats to internal validity, hierarchies of design structure (experimental, quasi-experimental and non-experimental): linking design structure to effect estimation strategies and analyzing design elements in published literature. Students will be required to select a research topic in consultation with the instructor and prepare a written comparative design analysis. POEC 5310, POEC 5311, POEC 5316 or equivalents recommended. (3-0) Y

POEC 6344 Categorical and Limited Dependent Variables (3 semester hours) This course examines several types of advanced regression models that are frequently used in policy analysis and social science research. The key similarity of these models is that they involve dependent variables that violate one or more of the assumptions of the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression model. The main models examined in the

course are binary logit and probit, multinomial logit, ordinal probit, tobit, and the family of Poisson regression models. All these models are estimated using maximum likelihood estimation (MLE). The Heckman correction for selection is also addressed. POEC 5316 or the equivalent recommended. (3-0) Y

POEC 6345 Survey Research (3 semester hours) This course exposes students to the use of survey methods in social science research. Emphasis is placed on interview and questionnaire techniques and the construction and sequencing of survey questions. Attention is also devoted to sampling theory, sampling and non-sampling errors, and the use of recent advances in fieldwork to reduce measurement error in surveys. POEC 5312 and POEC 5313 recommended. (3-0) R

POEC 6346 (SOC 6360) Qualitative Research Methods (3 semester hours) this course provides an overview of qualitative research in the Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Students will investigate the assumptions underlying qualitative research approaches and critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of such approaches. Possible topics may include participant observation, ethnographic interviewing, ethnomethodology, conversation analysis, case study, and the analysis of historical documents. (3-0) T

POEC 6350 (SOC 6350) Social Stratification (3 semester hours) This seminar will examine the major theories and lines of research on social stratification, defined as the hierarchical ranking of groups based on the unequal distribution of societal resources and positions. Focusing primarily on the U.S. class system, topics covered include: class reproduction and mobility, the educational system and policy, empirical definitions, the implications of race and gender for social class, and forms of legitimation. (3-0) Y

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 6353 (ECO 6362) Industry, Technology, and Science Policy (3 semester hours) Focuses on the impact of social, economic, and political factors on industry as critical units of production, and how these interact with technology and science. Topics include availability of skilled labor, research and development in industry, business-university relationships, innovation, and international competitiveness of the U.S. economy. (3-0) T

POEC 6354 Theories and Issues of Development (3 semester hours) In approaching development, there is an important interaction between theories and issues, each to some extent defining the other. This course will review a number of prominent instances in which we see this interaction-where theory has shaped the way people defined and approached practical problems and also where pressing practical problems have sometimes demanded new theoretical developments. Specific theories and issues discussed vary. Possible theories of interest include arguments for and against slavery, mercantilism, the idea of economic "takeoff," central planning versus pluralism, and the role of democracy and human rights. Issues include labor conditions, urban living conditions, population growth and population quality, environmental pollution and sustainability, and governmental ineffectiveness and corruption. (3-0) T

POEC 6360 (ECO 6352) 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. (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 6364 (ECO 6351) Development Economics (3 semester hours) An overview of theories of national economic growth and development, with emphasis on economy-wide modeling, application of micro-economic theories, and domestic sectoral policy. (3-0) R

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 6368 (SOC 6368 and ECO 6358) Population and Development (3 semester hours) Examines the relations among population, resources, economic development, and the environment in light of conflicting Malthusian and anti-Malthusian paradigms. Topics include fertility, mortality, public health, human capital, use of resources, and environmental impacts at local, regional, and global scales. (3-0) T

POEC 6374 (PA 6374) Financial Management for Non-profit Organizations (3 semester hours) This course introduces the basic concepts of third sector financial literacy. Curriculum includes financial planning and budgeting, monitoring of contracts and grants, and reporting mechanisms. (3-0) R

POEC 6375 (PA 6375) History and Theories of the American Philanthropic Sector (3 semester hours) This course examines the evolution of non-profit and philanthropic organization and their role in American society. (3-0) R.

POEC 6376 (PA 6376) Assessment and Outcomes for Non-profit Organizations (3 semester hours) Accountability is a pervasive theme for the third sector, especially considering its diverse sources of funding. This course examines qualitative and quantitative measurement tools as well as the sector's most successful practices. (3-0) R.

POEC 6379 Special Topics in Development Studies (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours. However, MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of their concentration requirement from POEC 6379 and POEC 6376.) (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

POEC 6V81 Special Topics in Political Economy (1-9 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit as topics vary. ([1-9]-0) S

POEC 6V91 Evaluation Research (3-6 semester hours) Individual or group project in evaluation research performed for a public or private community organization under

faculty supervision. Students will normally enroll in this course for two consecutive semesters. The first semester of enrollment will culminate in the completion of a formal evaluation research proposal; the second will end with a final research report based on conclusions of the proposed research. Permission of the program coordinator required. May be repeated for a total of six semester credit hours. ([3-6]-0). Y

POEC 7300 Advances in Criminology Theory (3 semester hours) This course examines the contemporary criminological theory literature and analyzes the degree to which research has provided empirical support and validation for explanations of crime and criminality. POEC 6303 and POEC 6324 recommended. (3-0) T

POEC 7301 Seminar in Criminology Research (3 semester hours) Students plan and execute an independent research project from research design through data collection and analysis of quantitative or qualitative data. POEC 5312, POEC 5313, POEC 5316, POEC 6307 and POEC 6324 recommended. (3-0) R

POEC 7304 (ECO 6325) Cost-Benefit Analysis (3 semester hours) Examines methods for measuring costs and benefits of public projects and policies, and the application of cost-benefit analysis to areas such as economic development, water resources, recreation, transportation, regulation, and the environment. (3-0) T

POEC 7319 (ECO 6336) Economics of Education (3 semester hours) This seminar examines a number of important educational policy questions. To provide a basis for the discussion of these questions, members of the seminar read a common set of theoretical and empirical writings relating to educational policy. The issues considered will include the link between educational achievement and earnings, the role of early childhood, assessments of head start and pre-school programs, the effectiveness of compensatory education and tutoring programs, the large and persistent achievement gap between children from minority and low-income families and those from middle-income Asian and white families, a critical examination of educational production functions, the extent and consequences of school segregation, bilingual education programs, special education programs, international comparisons of student achievement and schools, school finance and an examination of various school reform proposals. (3-0) T

POEC 7320 (PSCI 7320) International Negotiations (3 semester hours) This course examines both the substance and the process of international negotiations. Students study the theory and analysis of negotiations and identify issues, interests and positions of the parties. The course covers the substantive areas of arms control, trade, and environmental negotiations. The course moves from the analysis of simple, bilateral negotiations with only a few issues in contention to complex multilateral negotiations. (3-0) R

POEC 7321 Seminar on Business and Government (3 semester hours) Examines the interactions between markets and the state from a comparative and public policy perspective. Special emphasis will be placed on issues involving industry regulation/deregulation, antitrust/competition, innovation/industrial policy, infrastructure investment, intellectual property, social regulation, and global trade/investment. (3-0) Y

POEC 7323 (ECO 6343) Economic Regulation of Business (3 semester hours) Studies the rationale for, and the history and political-economic results of, government intervention in markets in the form of (1) direct regulation of prices, quantity, entry and exit, and product quality in industries (utility, communication, and transportation), and (2) indirect intervention through antitrust laws and the regulation of advertising. Government deregulation and changes in antitrust institutions also are explored. (3-0) T

POEC 7327 (ECO 6345) Innovation Dynamics and Economic Change (3 semester hours) Examines the convergence of the information technology and telecom industries. Explores the role of technological innovation together with economic, institutional, and legal-regulatory issues shaping the new IT-Telecom industry within both domestic and geopolitical contexts. (3-0) T

POEC 7329 (ECO 7331) Special Topics in Industry and Public Policy (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours. However, MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of their concentration requirement from POEC 7329 and POEC 7345.) (3-0) T

POEC 7330 Special Topics in Institutions and Processes (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours. However, MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of the concentration requirement from POEC 7330 and POEC 7326.) (3-0) T

POEC 7340 (PA 6340 and SOC 6340) Domestic Social Policy (3 semester hours) Overview of governmental and nongovernmental programs, policies, and institutions dealing with those who cannot function self-sufficiently within the American market economy, including low-income families, the elderly, the unemployed, and people with disabilities. Analyzes how social policy in the United States reflects the political economy and culture, as well as social and demographic trends. (3-0) Y

POEC 7341 (SOC 6357) Health Policy (3 semester hours) The history and political economy of the U.S. health care system and a review of major governmental programs to expand access to appropriate services, control rising costs, ensure the quality of care, and promote health through prevention. Analysis of current and recent proposals for reform of health care policy. (3-0) Y

POEC 7344 (PSCI 7344 and SOC 7344) Gender and Public Policy (3 semester hours) Explores issues of gender and public policy in the U.S. Topics include gender critiques of welfare state policy, gender and poverty, women in the military, the politics (and political economy) of sex and sexuality, anti-sexual harassment policies. (3-0) R

POEC 7359 Special Topics in Policy Methods (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours.) (3-0) R

POEC 7361 (GISC 7361) Spatial Econometrics (3 semester hours) The application of econometric techniques to the explicit treatment of space (geography) in social science models. Covers the specification of spatial regression models, estimation and specification testing. The emphasis is on the application of spatial econometric methods to an empirical data analysis project. Prerequisite: POEC 5331. (3-0) R

POEC 7368 (GISC 7368, PA 7368, SOC 7368) Spatial Epidemiology (3 semester hours) Examines the conceptual and analytic tools used to understand how spatial distributions of exposure impact on processes and patterns of disease. Emphasizes the special design, measurement, and analysis issues associated with spatial patterns of diseases. Contemporary diseases of public health importance are addressed, and the statistical and inferential skills are provided that can be used in understanding how spatial patterns arise and their implications for intervention. Prerequisite: descriptive and inferential statistics through regression analysis. (3-0) R

POEC 7370 (ECO 6315) Time Series Analysis (3 semester hours) The course considers several important topics in applied time series analysis including the specification and

testing Box-Jenkins transfer function/intervention models. Other topics include pooled cross-sectional time series models, VAR, the LSE Approach, unit-roots, cointegration, error correction models, encompassing and exogeneity tests, and ARFIMA models. Students also learn how to use programs such as Eviews and RATS. (3-0) R

POEC 7376 Special Topics in Social Policy (3 semester hours) Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 9 hours. MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of their concentration requirement from policy research workshops and POEC 7376.) (3-0) T

POEC 7V26 (PA 7V26) Policy Research Workshop in Institutions and Processes (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project on the political economy of public policy decisions in the context of institutional settings, such as legislatures, executive or administrative agencies, courts, or metropolitan systems. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 hours. ([3-9]-0) T

POEC 7V45 (PA 7V45) Policy Research Workshop in Industry and Public Policy (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project. Topics vary from semester to semester. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 hours. ([3-9]-0) T

POEC 7V47 (PA 7V47) Policy Research Workshop in Health Care Policy (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 12 hours. MPA or doctoral students may not take more than 3 hours of their concentration requirement from policy research workshops and POEC 7376.) ([3-9]-0) T

POEC 7V62 (PA 7V62) Policy Research Workshop in Social Policy (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 hours. ([3-9]-0) T

POEC 7V64 (PA 7V64) Policy Research Workshop in Poverty Research and Policy (3-9 semester hours) Students join a faculty member in a group research project. (May be repeated for credit to a maximum of 6 hours). ([3-9]-0) T

POEC 8398 Dissertation Seminar (3 semester hours) A seminar for students preparing proposals or writing dissertations. Prerequisite: Successful completion of qualifying examination or consent of instructor. (May be repeated for credit.) (3-0) S

POEC 8V01 Independent Study (1-9 semester hours) Provides faculty supervision for student's individual study of a topic agreed upon by the student and the faculty supervisor. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. (May be repeated for credit.) ([1-9]-0) R

POEC 8V97 Internship (1-9 semester hours) Provides faculty supervision for a student's internship. Internships must be related to the student's coursework. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. ([1-9] – 0) R

POEC 8V99 Dissertation (3-9 semester hours) Provides faculty supervision of a student's dissertation research. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. (May be repeated for credit.) ([3-9]-0) S