

Interdisciplinary Major: Comparative Public Policy
How governments regulate and implement public policy as influenced by cultural and economic conditions

Justification:

It is through public policy that society addresses the major problems it faces. While government action is a necessary part of any public policy, its success is dependent on other factors, including the social context in which the policies are implemented. Thus it involves a combination of social sciences, drawing from political science, economics, history and sociology. It is this mixture of factors that makes public policy an interdisciplinary area of study.

The purpose of this major is to look at how governments formulate and implement public policy, and how these policies are affected by economic conditions and the social and historical context. This goal will be met by studying the political and economic foundations of policy making, and by exploring two specific areas of policy in depth to understand possible factors that contribute or detract from their success. The substantive public policy areas that will be explored are environmental and healthcare.

This major will consist of thirteen classes that have been divided into five sections. The first is the foundation, which includes public administration, public policy, and microeconomics. These classes provide a basic understanding of the political and economic context in which public policies are developed and their economic rationale.

The environmental policy section consists of environmental biology, environmental sociology, and environmental economics. Environmental biology provides a basic understanding for current and future environmental issues that will need to be addressed in policy. Environmental economics provides an understanding of how

economic analysis can help improve environmental policy. And environmental sociology covers human's relationship to nature, environmental policy and other factors that affect the future of the environment. The healthcare policy section consists of the healthcare policy course and a class focused on comparative policy study I plan to take while abroad: comparative approaches to mental health.

The social conditions section includes poverty and welfare in America and contemporary Europe. Poverty and welfare in America will look at poverty as relating to the American economic system and the welfare state. Contemporary Europe will discuss the development of the welfare state, European reaction to environmental problems and economic developments. These history classes will provide an understanding of the development of social thought in different contexts, which is essential to understanding comparative public policy.

Finally the capstone section includes statistics, research methods, and politics senior seminar. In my senior seminar I will combine the foundational areas of study to examine closely the social constructs that have led to poor health policy and explore possible economic consequences to such poor health policy. I will also try to find a way to improve the health policy while still breeding economic growth. This selection of classes and study aims to create a major that will develop the tools necessary to evaluate public policy.

Course requirements (13 courses):

Foundation:

- POLI 230 Public Administration
- POLI 235 Public Policy
- ECON 200 Microeconomics

Environmental Policy:

- BIOL 104 Environmental Biology
- SOCI 375 Environmental Sociology
- ECON 340 Environmental Economics

Healthcare Policy:

- PSYC 340 Comparative Approaches to Mental Health (study abroad course)
- POLI 335 Healthcare Policy

Social Conditions:

- HIST 214 Poverty and Welfare in America
- HIST 170 Contemporary Europe

Capstone:

- POLI --- Political Statistics
- POLI 400 Research Methods-Politics
- POLI 497 Senior Research Seminar

<i>K. Maslin-Wicks</i>	<i>3/22/07</i>
Dr. Maslin-Wicks	Date
<i>Ralph Scott</i>	<i>3/23/07</i>
Dr. Scott	Date
<i>Debra Skok</i>	<i>3/26/07</i>
Dr. Skok	Date
<i>Alex Graddy-Reed</i>	<i>3/26/07</i>
Alex Graddy-Reed 199070	