

# PUBLIC POLICY

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Courses offered by the Public Policy Program have the subject code PUBLPOL, and are listed in the "Public Policy (PUBLPOL) Courses" section of this bulletin.

The undergraduate Public Policy curriculum is intended to expose students to the basic concepts and tools used in evaluating public policy options and outcomes, and to prepare students for entry-level positions in organizations concerned with such analysis. Although the concepts and tools are of wider applicability, the institutional context is chiefly American. Economics and quantitative analyses are central to but not sufficient for modern public policy

analysis; political science, law, philosophy, organizational behavior, and cognitive psychology are among other necessary disciplinary perspectives. Political philosophy and ethics form the foundations of public policy. Political science offers insights to the decision making process and information needs of a democracy. Organizational behavior focuses on the decisions made outside the market environment in hierarchies, bureaucracies, and teams. Nearly all public policy is formulated as law, and economic analysis of legal rules and institutions is key to effective implementation of policy decisions.

## UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC POLICY

The undergraduate Public Policy curriculum is intended to expose students to the basic concepts and tools used in evaluating public policy options and outcomes, and to prepare students for entry-level positions in organizations concerned with such analysis. Although the concepts and tools are of wider applicability, the institutional context is chiefly American. Economics and quantitative analyses are central to but not sufficient for modern public policy analysis; political science, law, philosophy, organizational behavior, and cognitive psychology are among other necessary disciplinary perspectives. Political philosophy and ethics form the foundations of public policy. Political science offers insights to the decision making process and information needs of a democracy. Organizational behavior focuses on the decisions made outside the market environment in hierarchies, bureaucracies, and teams. Nearly all public policy is formulated as law, and economic analysis of legal rules and institutions is key to effective implementation of policy decisions.

The Public Policy Program offers a Bachelor of Arts, an honors program, and a minor for undergraduates.

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PUBLIC POLICY

The core courses in the Public Policy Program develop the skills necessary to assess the performance of alternative approaches to policy implementation, evaluate the effectiveness of policies, understand the political constraints faced by policy makers, and appreciate the conflicts in fundamental human values that often animate the policy debate. After completing the core, students apply these skills by focusing their studies in one of several areas of concentration. The areas of concentration address specific fields of public policy, types of institutions, or a deeper development of the tools of policy analysis. Students design their own concentrations with the help of their faculty advisers and the approval of the program director. Students must submit a list of their proposed concentration course work and a brief written defense of its coherence in advance of taking concentration courses. Areas of concentration are not declared on Axess; they do not appear on the transcript or diploma.

Recent areas of concentration include:

- Advanced Methods of Policy Analysis
- Design of Public Institutions
- Development and Growth Policies
- Education
- Environment, Resources, and Population
- Health Care
- International Policies
- Law and the Legal System
- Social Policy: Discrimination, Crime, Poverty

Completion of the program in Public Policy requires 87 units of course work.

*Preparatory courses (44 units)*—POLISCI 2; ECON 1A, 1B, 50, 51, 102A, 102B; MATH 51; MS&E 180 or PSYCH 138. The U.S. Government and politics requirement can be fulfilled by taking POLISCI 2, receiving a score of at least 4 on the Advanced Placement exam in U.S. government and politics (which appears on your Stanford transcript), or passing a diagnostic exam administered by the Public Policy Program. ECON 50 and 51 must be taken for a letter grade. A maximum of 10 units of the other prerequisite courses may be taken as credit/no credit.

1. **Core courses**—A 25-unit sequence of 5-unit PUBLPOL courses (101, 102, 103A, B, or C, 104, and 106), which students should plan to complete by the end of junior year. All core courses must be completed for a letter grade.
2. **Concentration**—Majors must complete at least 15 units of course work in a concentration. The post-core course work must be approved by a faculty adviser and the director. Concentration course work must be completed for a letter grade.
3. Seniors are required to participate in one quarter (at least 3 units) of the Senior Seminar (PUBLPOL 200A, B, or C). Majors also must submit at least one research paper during the senior year and present it during the Senior Seminar. The senior paper may be a term paper or report for either the senior seminar or another course, or an honors thesis. PUBLPOL 200B (Winter Quarter) is organized as a practicum in which small student teams analyze real world policy problems faced by Bay Area agencies and produce a report for use by the client. The senior seminar must be completed for a letter grade.
4. Students must complete the Public Policy core, concentration area courses and the senior seminar with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.3 (C+) or higher.
5. It is recommended that the major be declared by the end of sophomore year but no later than the end of Autumn Quarter of the junior year. Application forms are available in the Public Policy Program office and on the web site.

The Public Policy Program encourages students to attend the Bing Stanford in Washington Program and to participate in appropriate Stanford internship programs, especially those available through the Haas Center for Public Service.

## HONORS PROGRAM

The Public Policy Program offers students the opportunity to pursue honors work during the senior year. To graduate with honors in Public Policy, a student must:

- Apply for admission to the honors program no later than the end of Spring Quarter of the junior year.
6. Complete the requirements for the B.A. in Public Policy and achieve an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 in the following courses: the Public Policy core; concentration area courses; the Senior Seminar; PUBLPOL 199, Senior Research; and PUBLPOL 105. Students are encouraged to complete PUBLPOL 105 by the end of Spring Quarter of the junior year and take PUBLPOL 200A during Autumn Quarter. Courses not taken at Stanford are not included in calculating the GPA.
7. During Senior year, enroll in at least 8 but no more than 15 units of PUBLPOL 199, Senior Research, with the thesis advisor. The honors thesis must demonstrate mastery of relevant analytical tools and address a policy issue. All PUBLPOL 199 units must receive a final grade of at least a 'B+.'
8. The honors thesis must be submitted to both the thesis adviser and the Public Policy Program office. In order to be considered for University and department awards, the final thesis must be submitted to the program office no later than the third Wednesday in May in both hard copy and electronic forms. All other theses must be submitted by the last Friday in May in both hard copy and electronic forms.

Students who intend to pursue honors work should plan their academic schedules so that most of the core courses are completed before the beginning of the senior year, and all of the core and concentration courses are completed by the end of Winter Quarter of senior year. This scheduling gives students both the time and the necessary course background to complete their honors thesis during Spring Quarter. In addition, honors students are encouraged to enroll in PUBLPOL 197, Junior Honors Seminar, during Winter or Spring Quarter; this course focuses on developing a research plan and the research skills necessary to complete a thesis.

To apply for honors, a student must submit a completed application to the Public Policy Program office with a brief description of the thesis. Applications are found online or in the program office. The student must obtain the sponsorship of a faculty member who approves of the thesis description and who agrees to

serve as a thesis adviser. Students intending to write a thesis involving more than one discipline may wish to have two advisers, at least one of whom is affiliated with the Public Policy Program.

Graduation with honors requires that the thesis be approved by both the adviser and the Director of the Public Policy Program. The role of the director is to assure that the thesis deals with an issue of public policy and satisfies the standards of excellence of the program. However, the grade for the honors thesis (PUBLPOL 199 units) is determined solely by the adviser.

Members of the core faculty in Public Policy are available to provide assistance in selecting a senior thesis topic and adviser.

## MINORS IN PUBLIC POLICY

The Public Policy Program offers a minor that is intended to provide students with interdisciplinary training in applied social sciences. Students who pursue the minor are required to take the courses listed below for a total of 35 units in Public Policy and its supporting disciplinary departments. Because University rules prohibit double-counting courses, the requirements for a minor differ according to the student's major requirements. Courses for the minor must be completed for a letter grade.

For students whose major department or program requires no courses in economics and political science, the requirements for a Public Policy minor are:

<i>Subject and Catalog Number</i>	<i>Units</i>
ECON 1A,B, 50, 51	20
POLISCI 2*	5
PUBLPOL 101	5
PUBLPOL 104	5

For students who are Economics majors or who satisfy a major requirement by taking ECON 50, but have taken no courses in political science, the requirements for a Public Policy minor are:

ECON 51	5
POLISCI 2*	5
PUBLPOL 101	5
PUBLPOL 102	5
PUBLPOL 103A or B or C	5
PUBLPOL 104	5
PUBLPOL 106	5

\* The U.S. government and politics requirement can be fulfilled by taking POLISCI 2, receiving a score of at least 4 on the Advanced Placement exam in U.S. government and politics (which appears on the Stanford transcript), or passing a diagnostic exam administered by the Public Policy Program.

For students who are Political Science majors or who satisfy a major requirement by taking POLISCI 2 but no courses in Economics, the requirements for a Public Policy minor are:

ECON 1A,B, 50, 51, 102A	25
PUBLPOL 104	5
PUBLPOL 106	5

For Sociology majors, the requirements for a Public Policy minor are:

ECON 1A,B, 50, 51, 102A	25
PUBLPOL 103A or B or C	5
PUBLPOL 104	5

For students who major in another interdepartmental program such as International Relations and who satisfy major requirements by taking ECON 50, POLISCI 2, and an introductory course in statistics such as ECON 102A or STATS 60, the requirements for a Public Policy minor are:

ECON 51, 102B	10
PUBLPOL 101	5
PUBLPOL 102	5
PUBLPOL 103A or B or C	5
PUBLPOL 104	5
PUBLPOL 106	5

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC POLICY

University requirements for the master's degree are described in the "Graduate Degrees" section of this Bulletin.

The Graduate Program in Public Policy offers two master's degrees: Master in Public Policy (M.P.P.), a two-year program leading to a professional degree, and Master of Arts (M.A.), a one-year program not intended as a professional degree. The following joint degree programs, permitting students to complete requirements for two degrees with a reduced number of total residency units, are

also offered: Juris Doctor with a Master in Public Policy (J.D./M.P.P.); Juris Doctor with an M.A. in Public Policy (J.D./M.A.); Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, Education, Psychology, or Sociology with a Master in Public Policy (Ph.D./M.P.P.); Master of Business Administration with a Master in Public Policy (M.B.A./M.P.P.); Master of Arts in International Policy Studies with a Master in Public Policy (M.A./M.P.P.). Requirements for the joint degrees differ from completing the two degrees separately; details are available from the program office and on the program web site.

Courses in the graduate program in Public Policy offer advanced skills necessary to assess the performance of alternative approaches to policy making and implementation, evaluating program effectiveness, understanding the political constraints faced by policy makers, and appreciating the conflicts in fundamental human values that often animate policy debate. After completing the graduate core curriculum, students apply these skills by focusing their studies in a 2-quarter practicum for the M.P.P., or a master's thesis for the M.A. Students in the M.P.P. program also complete at least one concentration tailored to the student's primary degree program or the student's interests and skills.

## ADMISSIONS

Applications for graduate study in Public Policy are accepted only from Stanford students currently enrolled in any graduate degree program or from external applicants seeking a joint degree. External applicants for joint degrees must apply to the department or school offering the other graduate degree (i.e., Ph.D., M.A., M.B.A., or J.D.), indicating an interest in the M.P.P. joint degree program; applicants admitted to the other degree program are then evaluated for admission to the M.P.P. program. Students currently enrolled in any Stanford graduate program may, with the consent of that program, apply either for the applicable joint degree program or for the M.P.P. or M.A. degree. Applications are reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis but must be received by the Public Policy Program office no later than May 1.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The graduate program in Public Policy consists of a common core set of courses requiring approximately one year of study, plus a 10-unit practicum and concentration course work for the M.P.P., or a master's thesis for the M.A. in Public Policy. All graduate degree candidates must submit an acceptable official Master's Degree Program Proposal to the Public Policy office by the end of Autumn Quarter and must amend this proposal formally if plans for meeting the degree requirements change. The M.P.P. requires 90 units of course work and requires approximately two years. The M.A. requires 42 units of course work plus a 5-unit master's thesis, and requires approximately one year. The joint M.P.P. degree programs require 90 units of which up to 45 units may also count toward the other degree. The joint M.A./J.D. program requires 47 units of which up to 45 units may be counted toward the J.D. degree. The joint M.P.P. degree programs add approximately one additional year to the time required for the other degree. Each joint degree program differs in its extended core and concentration course requirements; details on specific degrees are available at the program office and on the web site.

The graduate Public Policy core curriculum is required for all its graduate degree programs. Core courses must be taken for a letter grade and must be completed with an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) or better. Students are expected to devote one year full-time to the M.P.P. core; for joint-degree students, typically this is during the second year at Stanford. Students are required to participate in the weekly colloquia series. Students for whom any given core course would duplicate prior studies may petition to substitute a more advanced course in the related subject matter.

*Prerequisites*—Graduate students in Public Policy are expected to be literate in mathematics, statistics, and economics at the level of MATH 41, ECON 50, and STATS 60 or ECON 102B.

*Core curriculum consisting of the following courses*—PUBLPOL 201A,B, 202A,B, 203A,B,C, 204A,B, 205A,B, 206 (M.P.P. students only), 207. (46 units for M.P.P.; 42 units for M.A. in Public Policy)

*Practicum (M.P.P. students only)*—10 units of PUBLPOL 209.

*Concentration (M.P.P. students only)*—Course work in a specialized field or fields, chosen from existing Stanford courses with the prior approval of the student's faculty adviser and the program director.

*Master's Thesis (M.A. students only)*—Students complete a 5-unit thesis by enrolling in PUBLPOL 299 and submitting the thesis to the Public Policy Program office in both electronic and hard copy no later than the last Friday in May.

# PUBLIC POLICY (PUBLPOL) COURSES

For information on undergraduate and graduate programs in Public Policy, see the "Public Policy" section of this bulletin.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN PUBLIC POLICY

### PUBLPOL 101. Politics and Public Policy

(Same as POLISCI 123.) How policies come to be formed. How interests compete within public institutions to turn ideas into policies. Examples of this process from contemporary policy areas, including tax, social welfare, and environmental policy; results evaluated using equity and efficiency criteria. Prerequisite: POLISCI 2. GER:DB-SocSci

5 units, Spr (Frisby, T)

### PUBLPOL 102. Organizations and Public Policy

Analysis of organizational processes emphasizing organizations that operate in a non-market environment. Prerequisite: ECON 1A. GER:DB-SocSci

5 units, Win (Bendor, J)

### PUBLPOL 103A. Introduction to Political Philosophy

(Same as ETHICSOC 30, PHIL 30, POLISCI 3.) State authority, justice, liberty, and equality through major works in political philosophy. Topics include human nature and citizenship, the obligation to obey the law, democracy and economic inequality, equality of opportunity and affirmative action, religion, and politics. GER:DB-Hum, DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas

5 units, Spr (Hussain, N)

### PUBLPOL 103B. Ethics and Public Policy

(Same as MS&E 197, STS 110.) Ethical issues in science- and technology-related public policy conflicts. Focus is on complex, value-laden policy disputes. Topics: the nature of ethics and morality; rationales for liberty, justice, and human rights; and the use and abuse of these concepts in policy disputes. Case studies from biomedicine, environmental affairs, technical professions, communications, and international relations. GER:DB-Hum, EC-EthicReas

5 units, Win (McGinn, R)

### PUBLPOL 104. Economic Policy Analysis

(Same as ECON 150.) The relationship between microeconomic analysis and public policy making. How economic policy analysis is done and why political leaders regard it as useful but not definitive in making policy decisions. Economic rationales for policy interventions, methods of policy evaluation and the role of benefit-cost analysis, economic models of politics and their application to policy making, and the relationship of income distribution to policy choice. Theoretical foundations of policy making and analysis, and applications to program adoption and implementation. Prerequisite: ECON 50.

5 units, Spr (Staff)

**PUBLPOL 104W. Economic Policy Analysis**  
(Same as ECON 150W, SIW 123.) Taught in Washington, DC; offered via distance learning to Stanford students on campus. Economics of evaluating and implementing public policies. Focus is on cost-benefit analysis, regulation, efficiency and equity, externalities, subsidies, public good provision, opportunity costs, the role of economic analysis in policy making, and how political institutions affect policy outcomes. Topics: climate change, telecommunications, defense and homeland security, controversial aspects of cost-benefit-analysis.

*5 units, Aut (Wallsten, S)*

**PUBLPOL 105. Quantitative Methods and Their Applications to Public Policy**

Reviews material covered in prerequisites with applications of qualitative independent variable techniques to labor market data. Maximum likelihood estimation and qualitative dependent variable models with an application to voting models. Final papers estimate influence of quantitative and qualitative independent variables on Congressional voting probabilities. Prerequisites: ECON 102A,B. GER:DB-SocSci

*5 units, Spr (Rothwell, G)*

**PUBLPOL 106. Economics of Legal Rules and Institutions**

(Same as ECON 154.) Design and consequences of laws, given alternative policy objectives. Welfarist approach to legal policy; deontological perspectives including Kant, Locke, Mill, and Rawls. Economic efficiency and agent rationality, law as mitigation of market and cognitive failures, effects of law on expectations and incentives, balancing costs of type I and type II legal errors. Empirical studies of law's effects. Applications: property, tort, contract, antitrust, discrimination, crime, legal procedure. Examples chiefly from U.S. law, but analytical tools of general applicability. Prerequisite: ECON 50. WIM

*5 units, Aut (Owen, B)*

**PUBLPOL 117. Econometrics for Public Policy Majors**

Descriptive statistics, regression analysis, analysis of variance, heteroskedasticity, serial correlation, errors in variables, and simultaneous equations. Prerequisites: Public Policy major; ECON 50 and 102A.

*5 units, not given this year*

**PUBLPOL 121. Policy and Climate Change**

Science and economics, including recent findings. History and evolution of local, state, regional, national, and international policy. California's recent landmark climate change bill. Future policy prospects, emphasizing national and international levels.

*5 units, Aut (Nation, J)*

**PUBLPOL 125. Law and Public Policy**

How the U.S. federal government promotes, uses, and regulates new technologies; how it decides technology policies; and debates over how to use technology to advance national goals. Topics: American attitudes towards technology; technologies for defense, homeland security, energy, health, and economic competitiveness; and when and how to regulate nanotechnology, stem cell research, government surveillance, and digital copyright. Prerequisites: POLISCI 2. GER:DB-SocSci

*5 units, Spr (Greenberg, J)*

**PUBLPOL 126. Networking with Government to Achieve Social Change**

(Same as GSBGEN 593.) The role of government in the change process, the values and mindsets of government leaders, assets and resources that public agencies bring to the change initiative, limits of government action, and leadership strategies for promoting collaboration between sectors. Guest speakers, case studies, team projects, including a business plans for a social innovation project.

*2 units, not given this year*

**PUBLPOL 130. Path Dependence in Private Action and Public Policy: Decision Making in the Shadow of History**

(Same as ECON 151.) The historically contingent development of economic, social, and political behaviors at micro and macro levels. History's role in individual and organizational decision making. When can extraneous events have persisting effects upon public institutions, private organizations, and government agencies? Science and technology policy making; precedent-based judicial and administrative proceedings; and institutional reforms and regulatory initiatives illustrate positive feedback dynamics; self-organization and emergent properties in complex systems; conditions of lock-in to and escapes from sub-optimal equilibria in economic and social arrangements. Recommended: ECON 51.

*3-5 units, Win (David, P)*

**PUBLPOL 154. Politics and Policy in California**

State politics and policy making, including the role of the legislature, legislative leadership, the governor, special interests, campaign finance, the public, ballot initiatives, the state constitution, the media, and the role of research organizations. Case studies may include pension reform, health care, term limits and other political reform measures, open primaries, infrastructure improvements, and the budget. Changes in constitutional and in state statutes that can improve policy making in California.

*5 units, Win (Nation, J)*

**PUBLPOL 156. Health Care Policy and Reform**

Competing health care reform proposals at the state and local levels. Focus is on California including proposals for expanding coverage for children, a single payer system, employer and individual mandates. Recent proposals in other states including Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont; their relation to national efforts. Attention to local reform efforts, including in San Francisco. Prospects for future policy.

*5 units, Spr (Nation, J)*

**PUBLPOL 164. Comparative Public Policy**

Problems, answers, underlying political philosophies, and impacts of public policy choices in areas such as aging populations, health care costs, illegal immigration, terrorism, pollution, and competition from low-cost countries. Focus is on N. America and Europe. (Crombez) GER:DB-SocSci

*3 units, not given this year*

**PUBLPOL 168. Global Organizations: Managing Diversity**

Analytical tools derived from the social sciences to analyze global organizations and projects, and applied to the tradeoffs between different designs of teams and organizations. Focus is on tribal mentality and how to design effective organizations and projects for policy implementation within and across institutional settings. Recommended: 102. MS&E 180. or SOC 160. GER:DB-SocSci

*5 units, Win (Meyersson Milgrom, E)*

**PUBLPOL 172. Psychology and Public Policy**

(Same as PSYCH 119.) Applications of psychology to public and social policy. Topics include the influence of psychological research and individual psychology on the creation of policy, and the influence of policy on attitudes and behavior at the personal and societal levels. How psychological theory can be used to shape policies and policy making in areas such as environment, education, criminal justice, and health.

*5 units, Win (Tormala, T)*

**PUBLPOL 176. Urban Economics**

(Same as URBANST 173.) Application of the principles of economic analysis to urban issues and policy, including urban land use, housing, transportation, economic development, and the financing of public services. Fundamentals of microeconomic theory.

*4-5 units, Aut (Reilly, M)*

**PUBLPOL 180. Social Innovation**

The mechanisms and features of social innovation defined as the process of inventing, securing support for, and implementing novel solutions to social needs and problems. Focus is on the social, economic, technical, and organizational mechanisms underlying innovations. Sources include social science theory and research, and insights from the practical world. GER:DB-SocSci

*4 units, not given this year*

**PUBLPOL 183. Philanthropy and Social Innovation**

Philanthropy's role in modern society and the translation of its vision and capital into social action. Topics: individual giving; philanthropic history and industry; foundation models and infrastructure; philanthropic strategy and grantmaking; accountability and board governance; global and corporate philanthropy; and public policy engagement. Readings: business school cases and industry articles. Guest speakers include individual donors and foundation presidents. Final project: students evaluate grant proposals and make funding recommendations. Enrollment limited to 15. GER:DB-Hum

2 units, Spr (Arrillaga, L)

**PUBLPOL 184. Poverty and Policies in Developing Economies**

Economic models of growth and poverty, differences in growth rates among countries, and the persistence of poverty. Models of physical and human capital accumulation, and recent theories of the importance of institutions, social capital, and political factors. The effectiveness of social policies in developing countries, emphasizing India, in the light of theories of growth and poverty, and in terms of immediate goals and long-term consequences. Policies include schooling and health, anti-poverty, banking, and political decentralization. Prerequisites: ECON 1A,B. GER:DB-SocSci

5 units, Win (Kochar, A)

**PUBLPOL 187. The Unintended Consequences of Technology**

How human inventions impact other inventions, society, the individual, and history. Unintended social consequences of technologies such as railroads, telegraphs, telephones, automobiles, and jet travel. Group projects focus on the design of a national survey to gauge the social effects of Internet technology (IT) on how people spend their time, including the impact of Internet use on non-work activities such as sleep and time spent with friends and family. Practical and innovative techniques in statistical analysis. GER:DB-SocSci

3-4 units, not given this year

**PUBLPOL 194. Technology Policy**

How the U.S. federal government promotes, uses, and regulates new technologies; how it decides technology policies; and debates over how to use technology to advance national goals. Topics: American attitudes towards technology; technologies for defense, homeland security, energy, health, and economic competitiveness; and when and how to regulate nanotechnology, stem-cell research, government surveillance, and digital copyright. Recommended: POLISCI 2.

5 units, Win (Windham, P)

**PUBLPOL 197. Junior Honors Seminar**

(Same as ECON 198.) Primarily for students who expect to write an honors thesis. Weekly sessions discuss writing an honors thesis proposal (prospectus), submitting grant applications, and completing the honors thesis. Readings focus on writing skills and research design. Students select an adviser, outline a program of study for their senior year, and complete a prospectus by the end of the quarter. Enrollment limited to 25.

5 units, Win (Rothwell, G), Spr (Rothwell, G)

**PUBLPOL 198. Directed Readings in Public Policy**

1-5 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff)

**PUBLPOL 199. Senior Research**

May be repeated for credit.

1-15 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff)

**PUBLPOL 199B. Senior Honors Seminar**

Research, statistical, and writing support for Public Policy honors students.

1 unit, not given this year

**PUBLPOL 200A. Senior Seminar**

Students conduct original research for oral presentations and a paper on a policy-related topic. Topic and methods of analysis determined by student in consultation with instructor. Goal is to improve analytical, research, writing, and communication skills. Prerequisites: core courses in Public Policy or consent of instructor.

3 units, Aut (Lovenheim, M)

**PUBLPOL 200B. Senior Seminar: Conducting Policy Analysis for Local Agencies**

Students conduct original research for oral presentations and a paper on a policy-related topic. Topic and methods of analysis determined by student in consultation with instructor. Goal is to improve analytical, research, writing, and communication skills. Prerequisites: core courses in Public Policy or consent of instructor. GER:DB-SocSci

5 units, Win (Durbin, B)

**PUBLPOL 200C. Senior Seminar**

Students conduct original research for oral presentations and a paper on a policy-related topic. Topic and methods of analysis determined by student in consultation with instructor. Goal is to improve analytical, research, writing, and communication skills. Prerequisites: core courses in Public Policy or consent of instructor.

3 units, Spr (Durbin, B)

**GRADUATE COURSES IN PUBLIC POLICY**

Primarily for graduate students; undergraduates may enroll with consent of instructor.

**PUBLPOL 201A. Microeconomics**

(Same as IPS 204A.) Microeconomic concepts relevant to decision making. Topics include: competitive market clearing, price discrimination; general equilibrium; risk aversion and sharing, capital market theory, Nash equilibrium; welfare analysis; public choice; externalities and public goods; hidden information and market signaling; moral hazard and incentives; auction theory; game theory; oligopoly; reputation and credibility.

4 units, Aut (Bulow, J)

**PUBLPOL 201B. Cost-Benefit Analysis and Evaluation**

(Same as IPS 204B.) Ex ante and ex post evaluation of projects and policies, value of life calculations, and welfare evaluation of public and private decisions. Welfare measures; tradeoffs between efficiency and equity. Second best. Behavioral economics: psychological mechanisms behind static choice, intertemporal choice, choice under risk and uncertainty, choice in social situations, and hedonics. Statistical decision theory. Use of incentives in implementing policies. Relationship between microeconomic analysis and public policy making. Economic rationales for policy interventions. Economic models of politics and application to policy making. Relationship of income distribution to policy choice.

4 units, Spr (Kessler, D)

**PUBLPOL 202A. Introduction to Law**

Differences between common and civil law systems; judge-made law and judicial process; courts and litigation; legislation and its interpretation; administrative law and regulation. Separation of powers and federalism; constitutional law and civil liberties; criminal justice; empirical studies of the legal profession and legal behavior; social change and its impact on the legal order; law and economic development.

2 units, Aut (Friedman, L)

**PUBLPOL 202B. Economic Analysis of Law**

(Same as LAW 277.) How legal rules and institutions can correct market failures. The economic function of contracts; role of legal remedies to resolve disputes when contracts fail. The choice between encouraging private parties to initiate legal actions to correct externalities and governmental actors such as regulatory authorities. Economics of litigation; how private incentives to bring lawsuits differ from the social value of litigation. Economic motives to commit crimes; optimal governmental response to crime. Prerequisites: intermediate-level microeconomics; some calculus.

4 units, Win (Polinsky, M)

**PUBLPOL 203A. Principles of Research Design and Analysis: Methods**

(Same as IPS 205A.) Statistical background and introduction to regression. Topics include hypothesis testing, linear regression, nearest-neighbors regression, and other statistical concepts. Hands-on empirical analysis using popular statistical packages. Goal is to analyze empirical studies, conduct empirical research, and to cross-examine or work with statistical experts.

2 units, Aut (Hensler, D)

**PUBLPOL 203B. Principles of Research Design and Analysis: Tools**

(Same as IPS 205B, LAW 366.) Descriptive statistics. Regression analysis. Hypothesis testing. Analysis of variance. Heteroskedasticity, serial correlation, errors in variables, simultaneous equations. The construction and use of models for analyzing economic and social phenomena. Bayesian analysis. Univariate and bivariate analysis. Simple regression model. Multiple regression model. Inference and heteroskedasticity. Linear probability model. Instrumental variables. Maximum likelihood methods. Measurement of social and political attitudes and ideologies. Statistical analysis of large data sets.

*4 units, Win (Strnad, J)*

**PUBLPOL 203C. Foundations of Statistical Inference**

(Same as IPS 205C, LAW 362.) Statistical background and introduction to regression. Topics include hypothesis testing, linear regression, nearest-neighbors regression, and other statistical concepts. Hands-on empirical analysis via computer exercises using statistical packages; how to analyze empirical studies, conduct empirical research, and cross-examine or work with statistical experts.

*2 units, Aut (Strnad, J)*

**PUBLPOL 204A. Politics and Collective Action**

(Same as IPS 206A, POLISCI 331S.) Classic theories for why collective action problems occur and how they can be solved. Politics of aggregating individual decisions into collective action, including voting, social protest, and competing goals and tactics of officials, bureaucrats, interest groups, and other stakeholders. Economic, distributive, and moral frameworks for evaluating collective action processes and outcomes. Applicable to collective action problems in any realm, but focus is on practical examples from environmental management.

*4 units, Spr (Oleson, K)*

**PUBLPOL 204B. Organizations**

(Same as IPS 206B.) Policy reform and organizational resistance. Organizations include government and other bureaucracies such as not-for-profit schools, universities, hospitals, international organizations, political parties, and agencies. Hubris and policy making, including pathologies of decision making and planning, abuse of intelligence, biased information, overselling to publics, lack of knowledge about context, and unintended consequences.

*4 units, Spr (Stedman, S; Eden, L)*

**PUBLPOL 205A. Judgment and Decision Making**

(Same as IPS 207A. Same as LAW 333.) Theories and research on heuristics and biases in human inference, judgment, and decision making. Experimental and theoretical work in prospect theory emphasizing loss and risk aversion. Support theory. Challenges that psychology offers to the rationalist expected utility model; attempts to meet this challenge through integration with modern behavioral economics. Decision making biases and phenomena of special relevance to public policy such as group polarization, group think, and collective action.

*4 units, Win (Brest, P)*

**PUBLPOL 205B. Public Policy and Social Psychology: Implications and Applications**

(Same as IPS 207B, PSYCH 216.) Theories, insights, and concerns of social psychology relevant to how people perceive issues, events, and each other, and links between beliefs and individual and collective behavior. Topics include: situationist and subjectivist traditions of applied and theoretical social psychology; social comparison, dissonance, and attribution theories; social identity, stereotyping, racism, and sources of intergroup conflict and misunderstanding; challenges to universality assumptions regarding human motivation, emotion, and perception of self and others; the problem of producing individual and collective changes in norms and behavior.

*4 units, Spr (Ross, L)*

**PUBLPOL 206. Writing and Rhetoric for Policy Audiences**

Techniques of effective writing and argument for addressing decision makers, interest groups, and the public. The importance of apparent simplicity; uses and misuses of history and historical analogies; and incentives, cognitive limits, and biases of audiences. Why some arguments become traditional. Sources include historical briefing papers and oral arguments. Students write briefing papers and make oral arguments, individually and in teams. Enrollment limited. Prerequisite: consent of instructor.

*4 units, Win (Owen, B; Rosston, G)*

**PUBLPOL 207. Justice**

(Same as ETHICSOC 171, IPS 208, PHIL 171, PHIL 271, POLISCI 136S.) Focus is on the ideal of a just society, and the place of liberty and equality in it, in light of contemporary theories of justice and political controversies. Topics include protecting religious liberty, financing schools and elections, regulating markets, assuring access to health care, and providing affirmative action and group rights. Issues of global justice including human rights and global inequality.

*4-5 units, Aut (Cohen, J)*

**PUBLPOL 209. Practicum**

(Same as IPS 209.) Applied policy exercises in various fields. Multidisciplinary student teams apply skills to a contemporary problem in a major policy exercise with a public sector client such as a government agency. Problem analysis, interaction with the client and experts, and presentations. Emphasis is on effective written and oral communication to lay audiences of recommendations based on policy analysis.

*5 units, Aut, Win (Sprague, M; Oleson, K)*

**PUBLPOL 231. Political Economy of Health Care in the United States**

(Same as MGTECON 331, HRP 391.) The economic tools and institutional and legal background to understand how markets for health care products and services work. Moral hazard and adverse selection. Institutional organization of the health care sector. Hospital and physician services markets, integrated delivery systems, managed care, pharmaceutical and medical device industries. Public policy issues in health care, medical ethics, regulation of managed care, patients' bill of rights, regulation of pharmaceuticals, Medicare reform, universal health insurance, and coverage of the uninsured. International perspectives, how other countries' health care systems evolved, and what the U.S. can learn from their experiences.

*4 units, Spr (Kessler, D; Bundorf, M)*

**PUBLPOL 299. Master of Arts Thesis**

Restricted to students writing a master's thesis in Public Policy. May be repeated for credit.

*1-5 units, Aut (Staff), Win (Staff), Spr (Staff)*

**OVERSEAS STUDIES COURSES IN PUBLIC POLICY**

For course descriptions and additional offerings, see the respective "Overseas Studies" courses section of this bulletin or <http://bossp.stanford.edu>. Students should consult their program's student services office for applicability of Overseas Studies courses to a major or minor program.

**BEIJING PUBLIC POLICY COURSES**

**OSPBEIJ 24. China's Economic Development**

*5 units, Spr (Rozelle, S)*

**OSPBEIJ 47. Institutional Change in Reform China**

*5 units, Aut (Oi, J)*

**FLORENCE PUBLIC POLICY COURSES**

**OSPFLOR 46. International Monetary Economics**

*5 units, Spr (Cifarelli, G)*

**OSPFLOR 61. Europe and U.S. Foreign Policy**

*5 units, Aut (Schultz, K)*

**OSPFLOR 61. Europe and U.S. Foreign Policy**

*5 units, Aut (Schultz, K)*

**OSPFLOR 78. An Extraordinary Experiment: Politics and Policies of the New European Union**

*5 units, Aut (Morlino, L)*

**OXFORD PUBLIC POLICY COURSES**

**OSPOXFRD 18. Making Public Policy: An Introduction to Political Philosophy, Politics, and Economics**

*4-5 units, Win (McMahon, R)*

**PARIS PUBLIC POLICY COURSES**

**OSPPARIS 33. The Economics of Climate Change: Policies in Theory and Practice in the EU and the U.S.**

*5 units, Spr (de Perthuis, C; Keppeler, J; Leguet, B)*

**OSPPARIS 124X. Building the European Economy: Economic Policies and Challenges Ahead**

*5 units, Aut (Le Cacheux, J; Laurent, E)*

**OSPPARIS 153X. Health Systems and Health Insurance: France and the U.S., a Comparison across Space and Time**

*4-5 units, Win (Fessler, J)*

**SANTIAGO PUBLIC POLICY COURSES**

**OSPSANTG 119X. The Chilean Economy: History, International Relations, and Development Strategies**

*5 units, Spr (Munoz, O)*

**OSPSANTG 160X. Latin America in the International Economy**

*5 units, Win (Staff)*