

Public Policy

Minor

The undergraduate minor in Public Policy introduces students from other departments and colleges to the field and practice of policy analysis. Employers and graduate schools recognize a completed minor as indicative of broader preparation than a single degree, not to mention curiosity and willingness to do extra work. The Public Policy minor also certifies interest and background in public affairs.

Over the years, the department has realized that the underlying model of policy analysis enriches and complements a variety of undergraduate specializations and that public policy training can be valuable not only as a "pre-MPP" experience but also to students whose graduate training won't include the Masters in Public Policy degree. Lawyers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, and others need to understand government choices as citizens, as participants in government, and on behalf of their organizations, many of which are profoundly affected by public policy.

Registration for the minor (which does not obligate one to complete it) makes students eligible for various Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) undergraduate programs and activities and gets them on a mailing list for GSPP events of interest to anyone concerned with public affairs.

Course of Study Overview

The undergraduate courses in public policy deal with the substance of public policy, how it is made, how its effects can be gauged, and what the purposes of policy should be. The courses consider both the policy process and particular policy issues. By examining different policy problems in their political and social contexts, students gain a greater sensitivity to the forces which shape and carry out public policies and to the impact of social, political, economic, and legal power.

Courses are designed for students in diverse disciplines and professional schools. There are no prerequisites for enrollment in the undergraduate courses unless specifically noted otherwise in the course descriptions. The training provided by the courses is useful to those interested in combining the substantive perspectives of the social sciences with the immediacy of contemporary problems, to those considering professional study, and to the informed and politically aware citizen.

Declaring the Minor

All UC Berkeley undergraduate students are eligible for enrollment in the Public Policy minor. Students should complete the Minor Enrollment Form (<https://gsppstudentservices.wufoo.com/forms/declaration-to-pursue-the-public-policy-minor/>) as early in their academic career as possible. Declaration of the Public Policy minor is possible even before enrolling in public policy courses.

Please note that early declaration of the minor does not obligate students to this program should it become unfeasible later in their academic pursuits.

All Public Policy minor students must complete a Completion of Public Policy Minor (https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/page/Public_PolicyMinorCompletionForm23.pdf) form the semester they are scheduled to graduate in order to receive credit for the minor. The minor will not be listed on the diploma. Students who complete the requirements for the Public Policy Minor will receive a certificate of

completion. Within six weeks after receiving the certificate, a notation will appear at the bottom of the transcript that will state "Minor Program in Public Policy Completed" with the semester and year.

Students who have a strong interest in an area of study outside their major often decide to complete a minor program. These programs have set requirements.

General Guidelines

1. All courses used to fulfill minor requirements must be completed with a grade of C- or higher, and must be at least 3 units each.
2. All courses must be taken for a letter grade, except PUB POL 199, and PUB POL 98/PUB POL 198, both of which are offered on a *Pass/No Pass* basis only.
3. A limit of two, PP 98/198 (DeCal) courses equaling a total of 3 or 4 units may count as one course towards the minor; only one of these can be PP 98. Exception: If a PP 198 is offered for 3 or 4 units, it will count as one full course.
4. Students may count graduate level public policy electives to complete their minor requirements. Generally, undergraduates require an (https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/page/2016_ISRC_Approval_Form.pdf) instructor consent form (https://gspp.berkeley.edu/assets/uploads/page/2023_ISRC_Approval_Form.pdf) to enroll in graduate courses.
5. No more than two non-public policy courses may be used to fulfill minor requirements.

Requirements

PUB POL 101 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis 4
Select four from the following (of which two must be PUB POL courses):

- ECON 130 Using Economics for Public Policy [4]
- ECON 131 Public Economics [4]
- HISTORY 130 American Foreign Policy [4]
- LEGALST 138 The Supreme Court and Public Policy [4]
- MEDIAST 104A Freedom of Speech and the Press [3]
- NWMEDIA 133 Tech Wars: Security, Geopolitics, and Resilience of Digital Infrastructures [3]
- PB HLTH 126 Health Economics and Public Policy [3]
- PB HLTH 150D Introduction to Health Policy and Management [3]
- PB HLTH 181 Poverty and Population [3]
- POL SCI 109A Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109B Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109G Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109H Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109L Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109M Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109R Special Topics in American Politics [4]
- POL SCI 109W Selected Topics in American Politics-UCDC [4]
- POL SCI 145A South Asian Politics [4]
- POL SCI 150 The American Legal System [4]
- POL SCI 181 Public Organization and Administration [4]
- POL SCI 186 Public Problems [4]
- PUB POL C20/THE 2020 ELECTION [4]
- PUB POL C103 Wealth and Poverty [4]
- PUB POL 105 Negotiations [3]

PUB POL 117A Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy [4]
 PUB POL 141 Behavioral Economics for Public Policy [3]
 PUB POL/ Applied Econometrics and Public Policy [4]
 ECON C142/
 POL SCI C131A
 PUB POL 155 Introduction to Security Policy [4]
 PUB POL 156 Program and Policy Design [4]
 PUB POL 157 Arts and Cultural Policy [4]
 PUB POL C157 Arts and Cultural Policy [4]
 PUB POL 160A Work, Justice and the Labor Movement [4]
 PUB POL 162A Field Study in Labor Organizing [3]
 POL SCI 164A Political Psychology and Involvement [4]
 PUB POL/ Impact of Government Policies on Poor Children
 DEMOG C164 and Families [4]
 PUB POL 165 Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy [4]
 PUB POL 179 Course Not Available [4]
 PUB POL 182 Course Not Available [4]
 PUB POL C184 Energy and Society [4]
 PUB POL W18 Energy and Society [4]
 PUB POL C189 Social Science & Crime Prevention Policy [3]
 PUB POL 190 Special Topics in Public Policy [1-4] ¹
 PUB POL 192A Social Movements, Organizing & Policy Change
 [3]
 PUB POL 198 Directed Group Study [1-4]
 PUB POL 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research [1-4]
 SOC WEL 112 Social Welfare Policy [3]
 PUB POL 187 Energy Regulation and Public Policy [3]
 PUB POL 132 Global Challenges [3]
 PUB POL C199 Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for
 Action and Policy (L-RAP) [1]
 PUB POL 103 Wealth and Poverty [4]
 PUB POL C164 Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for
 Action and Policy (L-RAP) [4]
 ECON 172 Case Studies in Economic Development [4]
 CHICANO 175 LATINX AND THE ENVIRONMENT [4]

¹ Students may count an unlimited number of PUB POL 190 courses toward the minor, provided that the topic is not repeated.

Public Policy

PUB POL C20AC THE 2020 ELECTION 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020

During the fall 2020 semester we will have the quadrennial opportunity to study American politics during a presidential campaign. Combining real-time analysis of the election, an in-depth study of the relevant historical and sociological trends that are shaping this moment, and a lively roster of guest speakers from across the Berkeley campus and community, this class will provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary introduction to American politics in a time of unprecedented crisis and possibility.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Cohen, Jayaraman

Also listed as: AFRICAM C20AC

PUB POL 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PUB POL 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower-division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester. Enrollment limits are set by the faculty, but the suggested limit is 25.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 10 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PUB POL 98 Group Study in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Group study on selected public policy topics. Open to freshmen and sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 101 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025

A systematic and critical approach to evaluating and designing public policies. Combines theory and application to particular cases and problems. Diverse policy topics, including environmental, health, education, communications, safety, and arts policy issues, among others.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8-10 hours of lecture and 2-0 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 103 Wealth and Poverty 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2008

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding both of the structure of political economy and of why the distribution of earnings, wealth, and opportunity have been diverging in the United States and in other nations. It is also intended to provide insight into the political and public policy debates that have arisen in light of the divergence as well as possible means of reversing it.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Reich

PUB POL C103 Wealth and Poverty 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding both of the organization of the political economy in the United States and of other advanced economies, and of why the distribution of earnings, wealth, and opportunity have been diverging in the United States and in other nations. It also is intended to provide insights into the political and public-policy debates that have arisen in light of this divergence, as well as possible means of reversing it.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for C103 after taking 103.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Reich

Also listed as: L & S C180U

PUB POL 105 Negotiations 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The objective of this course is to improve negotiation skills and to increase the ability to resolve conflicts in a multitude of situations, including public policy disputes. Topics will include: distributive and integrative bargaining; preparation strategies; defense to ploys; power and perceptions; team and multi-party negotiations; political, legislative and regulatory negotiations; emotions and gender, email negotiations, handling difficult negotiators, impact of personality traits and public policy mediation. Simulated negotiation exercises and role-plays will be used extensively.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Dayonot

PUB POL 117AC Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The objective of this course is to use the tools and insights of public policy analysis as a means of understanding the ways in which policies are shaped by and respond to issues of race, ethnicity, and cultural difference. The course is organized around a series of discrete policy problems involving issues of race and ethnicity. It is designed to allow for comparative analysis within and across cases to explore the variety of ways in which policy intersects with different racial and ethnic groups.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PUB POL 132 Global Challenges 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This course will survey societal challenges that are fundamentally global in nature, in contrast to challenges that are more effectively addressed by domestic policies. The goal of the course is to understand the cause and structure of a broad set of global challenges, with an eye towards eventually participating in their management or resolution. The first part provides foundations for understanding the governance context in which global challenges emerge. The second part of the course examines individual topic areas, building students' knowledge of modern issues and policy debates. Topics may include, but not limited to the governance of oceans; poverty and development; scientific research and technology transfer; international aid.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hsiang

PUB POL 138 Game Changer? An Introduction to A.I. and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course examines the public policy challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI). This class offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the policy implications of AI. You will engage in key debates surrounding AI ethics and explore regulatory frameworks for AI, comparing national and international approaches to governance. The course assesses AI's role in exacerbating or mitigating inequalities. You will be challenged to consider how public policy can balance innovation with public safety, democratic values, and human rights. By the end of the course, you will be equipped to analyze the public policy implications of AI technologies and develop informed, actionable strategies for governing their societal impact.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Reddie

PUB POL 141 Behavioral Economics for Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course introduces a range of economic phenomena that cannot be explained by standard, fully rational economic models, and explores implications for public policy. Why do we vote for social security despite the fact that it reduces our freedom to choose how we spend our money? What would happen to job seeking behavior if we cut off unemployment benefits in multiple steps? Why do fines work better than bonuses (except when they don't)? What kinds of policies should the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau implement? Behavioral Economics provides answers to these questions that standard economics does not.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Acland

PUB POL C142 Applied Econometrics and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

This course focuses on the sensible application of econometric methods to empirical problems in economics and public policy analysis. It provides background on issues that arise when analyzing non-experimental social science data and a guide for tools that are useful for empirical research. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of the types of research designs that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with large scale data sets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 140 or 141 or consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students who completed Econ C142 receive no credit for Econ N142.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 2-0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Also listed as: ECON C142/POL SCI C131A

PUB POL 147 Progress? An Introduction to Technology and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course examines the intersection between politics, security, and technology in the U.S. and across the globe. The course is divided into four parts: 1) Technology in Theory 2) Technology and War: A History; 3) Today's "Emerging" Technologies; and 4) Tomorrow's Technologies. The seminar considers work from international relations, economics, science and technology studies, law, as well as policy writing. Topics include: offset strategies, offense-defense balance theory, grey-zone competition, escalation, the economics of industrial policy, and innovation policy. Technologies considered include: robotics, autonomous platforms (UAVs, UUVs), machine learning, hypersonic missiles, missile defense technologies, and nuclear modernization.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Reddie

PUB POL C151 The Final Frontier? Space Technology and National Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

This course explores the intersection of space and national security policy, focusing on the impacts of the evolving strategic environment in space. Students examine the key actors, technologies, and policy frameworks that shape the role of space in the global economy and in modern defense. Topics include: satellite technologies, the militarization of space, the role of private industry in the domain, and governance challenges posed by emerging technologies. The course engages with case studies on U.S., Russian, and Chinese space policies, and international efforts to govern space. By the end of the course, students will understand how space capabilities influence international security and are prepared to take part in policy debates.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Instructor: Reddie

Also listed as: AERO ENG C193P

PUB POL 155 Introduction to Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course introduces students to the arena of security policy. Students will learn the origins and evolution of the governing framework for security policy in the United States, including the post-9/11 creation of Homeland Security, and key methodologies of security policy, including risk assessment. The course will evaluate the variety of scales at which security policy is enacted, from state/local to federal and even international. The course delves into defining security dilemmas of the present: the challenge of securing democracy against both internal and external threats; the challenge of cybersecurity in a networked world; and global climate change. The course concludes with a required one-day crisis simulation exercise.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Sargent, Napolitano

PUB POL 156 Program and Policy Design 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2016, Fall 2011

Studio/laboratory in the design of nonphysical environments. Complements courses in policy analysis, public management, economics, and political science; especially intended to integrate elements of professional programs in public policy and related areas. Students will design, in groups and individually, programs and policies that create value in the public sector, including statutes, regulations, and implementation projects. Comparative reviews will feature invited guests. Undergraduate level of 256.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: O'Hare

PUB POL 157 Arts and Cultural Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Survey of government policy toward the arts (especially direct subsidy, copyright and regulation, and indirect assistance) and its effects on artists, audiences, and institutions. Emphasizes "highbrow" arts, U.S. policy, and the social and economic roles of participants in the arts. Readings, field trips, and case discussion. One paper in two drafts required for undergraduate credit; graduate credit awarded for an additional short paper to be arranged and attendance at four advanced colloquia throughout the term. Undergraduate level of 257.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: O'Hare

Formerly known as: 108

PUB POL C157 Arts and Cultural Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Survey of government policy toward the arts (especially direct subsidy, copyright and regulation, and indirect assistance) and its effects on artists, audiences, and institutions. Emphasizes "highbrow" arts, U.S. policy, and the social and economic roles of participants in the arts. Readings, field trips, and case discussion. One paper in two drafts required for undergraduate credit; graduate credit awarded for an additional short paper to be arranged and attendance at four advanced colloquia throughout the term. Undergraduate level of 257.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Public Policy C157/Letters and Science C180x after taking Public Policy 108 or 157.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: O'Hare

Also listed as: L & S C180X

PUB POL 160AC Work, Justice and the Labor Movement 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020

This course provides a broad, inter-disciplinary overview of the U.S. labor movement in the fight for social and economic justice. It will introduce students to critiques of racial capitalism and the power dynamics inherent in paid work, while considering why and how workers form unions in response. One of the primary objectives of this course is to develop a theoretical and analytical understanding of contemporary workers' experiences of work in the U.S. shaped by race, class, gender, sexuality, immigration status, language, religion, and other social constructs. There will be a special comparative focus on the role of structures and the space for agency and mobilization in the Latinx, Black and Asian American communities.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Co-enrollment in PUB POL 199C or ETH STD 199C

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD 160AC

PUB POL 162AC Field Study in Labor Organizing 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2021

This fieldstudy course is designed for undergraduates/graduates who have an interest in social/economic justice, and seek to earn academic credit while gaining exp in organizing. Building upon the Labor Center's Summer program, it allows students to apply existing organizing skills/ acquire new knowledge in community and labor organizations. Students will be matched with our community partners that promote the interests of Bay area working families. Classroom-based guided reflection, skills development, career information, and engagement with current debates will complement the fieldwork. This exp can open the door to life-long careers as organizers, researchers, policy analysts, political lobbyists, communication specialists and leaders.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 6 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD 197AC

PUB POL C164 Impact of Government Policies on Poor Children and Families 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2007

Examination of the impact of policies of state intervention and public benefit programs on poor children and families. Introduction to child and family policy, and study of specific issue areas, such as income transfer programs, housing, health care, and child abuse.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: This course may be applied to the Demography major.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Mauldon

Also listed as: DEMOG C164

PUB POL C164A Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for Action and Policy (L-RAP) 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

This course is an introduction to social science research methods that center principles of equity and justice connecting the Berkeley Changemaker L&S 12 to the discipline of public policy in the field of work and employment relations. It is based on the premise that the COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to reshape the economy for a fair, inclusive, and democratic society with the participation of people typically excluded from policy development. Currently, young workers are at the helm of transforming the labor market by leading union organizing at workplaces. This course examines the position, attitudes, and interests of young workers through the lens of critical race theory, feminist and queer theory, and disability justice.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD C164A

PUB POL 165 Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course will examine the nature and extent of poverty in the U.S., its causes and consequences, and the antipoverty effects of existing and proposed

government programs and policies. The first ten weeks of this course focuses on social science theory and evidence about the causes, consequences and costs of poverty. The last four weeks of the course examines child poverty policies, employment policies, and setting an overall agenda for poverty policy.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 165 after completing PUB POL 165. A deficient grade in PUB POL 165 may be removed by taking PUB POL 165.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Johnson

PUB POL C184 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Energy sources, uses, and impacts: an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy in international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week
10 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES C100

PUB POL W184 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

Energy sources, uses, and impacts: an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy in international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 1 hour of web-based discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 1.5 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES W100

PUB POL 187 Energy Regulation and Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The class focuses on the economic regulation of electricity and natural gas and its role in public policy innovation. We will explore the regulatory rationale in the context of microeconomic principles, the nature and evolution of energy technology and regulation in the United States, and the ways to advance public policy objectives. The class covers the alternatives to traditional cost-of-service rate regulation, the electricity deregulation experiment, the resulting energy crisis in California, and current efforts to reconsider the utility business model. We will delve into how the economic regulatory framework creates opportunities to implement public policy, and the enhanced role climate change now plays in decision making worldwide.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Weissman

PUB POL C189 Social Science & Crime Prevention Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

In this interdisciplinary course students examine the relationships among social science, law, and crime prevention policy. Emphasis is placed on how psychological science (clinical, developmental, social) can inform decisions about individuals at high risk for repeated involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Topics of focus include risk assessment, adolescent development and juvenile justice, and prevention/intervention/correctional psychology. Students will have an opportunity to master a specific problem area. Broadly, goals are for students to a) become comfortable in translating crime prevention problems into social scientific questions, and b) specifically understand how research findings can inform law and policy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Skeem

Also listed as: SOC WEL C181

PUB POL 190 Special Topics in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public policy. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester. Open to students from other departments.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

7 weeks - 2-8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 2-4 hours of lecture per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

PUB POL 192AC Social Movements, Organizing & Policy Change 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

This class will provide students with a grounding in the literature of social movement theory and history, with a special emphasis on social movements led by African American, Latinx, indigenous, and Asian Pacific Islander communities for equity. The class will also introduce students to the basics of social movement organizing, including mobilizing unlikely voters through organizing technique, and the theory of nonviolent direct action, all with a focus on race and gender equity.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Instructor: Jayaraman

PUB POL 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Group study of a selected topic or topics in Public Policy. Meetings to be arranged.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2020

For upper division students wishing to pursue special study and directed research under direction of a member of the staff. Enrollment restrictions apply; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL C199C Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for Action and Policy (L-RAP) 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This practicum is an applied research training course that accompanies PUBPOL 160AC Work, Justice, and the Labor Movement and connects the Berkeley Changemaker L&S 12 to the discipline of public policy. It is designed to provide a robust training in research methods and community engagement with worker organizations to inform policies for a fair, inclusive, and democratic society. The practicum integrates elements of quantitative and qualitative research methods in a semester-long service-learning project in partnership with a worker organization. Students will work in teams to collect and analyze data thematically, and learn to use digital tools to disseminate the research findings to various audiences.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Co-enrollment in PUB POL 160AC, ETH STD 160AC, or SOCIOL 116AC

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture and 2 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD C199C