

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal

Political Economy

John Morse

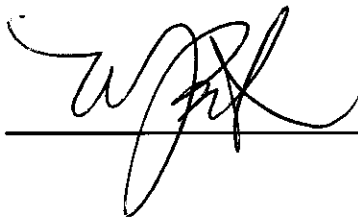
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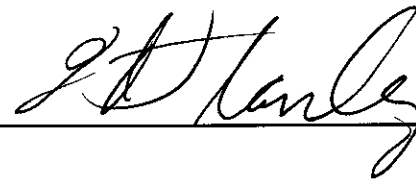
Junior

Sponsored By:

Dr. Jay Barth

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Why Political Economy?

- Reality is not neatly divided along the subject lines of “Politics” and “Economics.” In actuality, a substantive overlap exists between the two fields. By combining the two into one comprehensive major I am able to focus on the manner in which macro and micro economic factors interact with domestic and foreign political realities. This interaction is clearly manifested in income distribution and inequality, globalization, international development, and taxation. The natural blend of disciplines I have been and will continue to study will prepare me for a large number of post-undergraduate options, be they some form of graduate school or a position in the business world.

Studying Political Economy as opposed to solely Economics or Politics allows me to cross between the largely academic boundary that separates the two. It also allows for a specific tailoring of courses toward this end that would not be possible by majoring in one field and minoring in the other. It is for these reasons, and reasons to be elaborated upon, that I feel a major in Political Economy provides the best opportunity to prepare myself for the realities of the modern world.

Politics

Course Number	Course Title	Completed	Domains.
240	History of Western Political Thought	Yes	(VA)
250	Global Politics	Yes	(SB, CW, W2)
260	Political Economy	Yes	(SB, CW, W2)
321	American Constitutional Law: Federal System	Yes	
325	International Law and Organizations	Enrolled	
400	Research Methods	Yes	(SB)
	Total	6	

Politics Course Justification

- The aforementioned courses fit perfectly into the major I have developed. **History of Western Political Thought** focuses on the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of the political structure and organization of the western world. **Global Politics**, **Political Economy**, and **International Law and Organizations** all combine to provide a solid education in what our modern political world is based on. **American Constitutional Law** takes this idea into more depth by focusing on specific cases of how law effects commerce and taxes within the United States. By looking at the relationship between Constitutional law and interstate commerce (among other elements) this course serves as a crucial element of the major. **Research Methods** is important to include in the Political Economy major because it rigorously focuses on the methodology of political science research. The understanding garnered from this class would be critical should I choose the path of graduate school. When combined, these courses provide both the theoretical and specific background in Politics required for this major.

Economics

Course Number	Course Title	Completed	Domains.
100	Survey of Economic Issues	Yes	(CW, SB)
200	Microeconomics	Yes	(SB)
210	Macroeconomics	Yes	(SB)
350	History of Economic Thought	Yes	(HP, SB, W2)
400	Econometrics and Forecasting	Enrolled	(UR)
497	Economic Research	No	(W2)
	Total	6	

Economic Course Justification

- **Survey of Economic Issues, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics** all provide me with the appropriate grounding and theoretical footing in the field of Economics that further study necessitates. **History of Economic Thought** demonstrated the foundation and progression of economic ideas over time and developed my analytical ability in regard to economic concepts: an ability that will be critical in any graduate program or real world business situation. **Econometrics and Forecasting** is a crucial course for this major because it involves the testing of previously learned economic theories with actual data. It is the course that allows me to step from the theoretical to the applied, and in this regard it is irreplaceable. **Economic Research** allows me to take all that I have learned, from the basic to the advanced, and apply it to a research problem of my own choosing. The experience of designing my own research proposal and then actually testing it with data will be of immense value. These courses combine to provide both the theoretical and general background along with the specific skills needed for a true understanding of Political Economy.

Additional Course

Course Number	Course Title	Completed	Domains.
Hist 214	Poverty and Welfare in America	No	(HP)
<u>OR</u>			
Soc 390	Social Inequality and Identity	No	(CW, SB)
	Total	1	

Additional Course Justification

- I plan to take one of the two aforementioned courses (to allow for the probability that one will not be offered) in order to broaden my understating of the issues of Political Economy to the human aspect. Both **Poverty and Welfare in America** and **Social Inequality and Identity** would allow me to do just this. By focusing on the more personal side of the equation I hope to allow my understanding of Political Economy to take in the human realities of the issues being discussed, as well as their historical and sociological origins.

Political Economy

- By the time I fulfill my major requirements I will have taken thirteen classes that are specifically tailored to add to my understanding of the field of Political Economy. My major will be supported by a minor in the Spanish language. This, combined with the various electives I have taken, guarantees a well rounded education which contains a sharp focus. By majoring in the field of Political Economy I feel that I am giving myself the most post graduate options by best preparing myself for the real world.
- Thank you for you time.

Capstone Experience

- My Capstone Experience will be the completion of a research project for Economic Research (ECON 497) to be presented to advisors and invited guests.