

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal
(Revised September 2013)

International Political Economy

Jeremy Williams

Class of 2014

Rationale

I aim to be a civil servant, and the proposed interdisciplinary major prepares me to be an excellent one. Studying International Political Economy prepares me to effectively deal with public policy, whether as a diplomat or college professor.

Inspired by the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) degree, this proposed degree develops analytical ability with breadth and rigor. Different versions of the PPE degree have prepared civil servants with rigorous breadth since 1920, and I envision this proposal to be its twenty-first century counterpart. Whereas the PPE degree of decades past develops a base of knowledge and ability from which to draw incisive insights, the International Political Economy & Applied Mathematics builds on top of that base. It develops the ability to apply quantitative methods to the task of analyzing, evaluating, and implementing public policy within the framework of International Relations and Economics combined.

As such, each aspect of this proposal advances the pursuit of my primary career path, and its alternatives. My ideal route to becoming a diplomat follows through a Master in Public Affairs, with a concentration in Economic Analysis and Public Policy. The entirety of the proposed curriculum contributes to a firm foundation upon which to develop the skill set and knowledge developed during such a graduate program in further preparation to join the diplomatic corps. Similarly, the economics component prepares me for doctoral study and the subsequent pursuit of a professorship.

In addition to developing substantive knowledge in preparation for graduate coursework, studying International Political Economy also further develops effective communication skills. The proposed curriculum not only builds the ability to employ quantitative analysis, but also the ability to effectively interpret it. And veritably, the ability to effectively interpret information is a prerequisite for successful participation in each of my potential endeavors.


Requirements

The proposed program of study satisfies the requirements for an interdisciplinary major, including: a clear title; thematic coherence; greater than ten courses, with over four at or above the 300-level, over half of which will be taken in residence; and a capstone experience conducting research which applies combined aspects of each discipline. Although studying abroad is required of the IR major, financial constraints preclude my incorporating it into this proposal.

Supervisory Committee



Dr. Kiril Kolev



Dr. Tom Stanley

Dr. Duff Campbell

Courses

International Relations

POLI 251	Theories of International Relations
POLI 260	Political Economy
POLI 282	Foreign Policy Analysis
POLI 281	U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI 440	Politics of Development
POLI 400	Research Methods

Economics

ECON 200	Principles of Microeconomics
ECON 210	Principles of Macroeconomics
ECON 300	Intermediate Microeconomics
ECON 310	Intermediate Macroeconomics
ECON 395	History of Economic Thought
ECON 400	Econometrics and Forecasting

Capstone

POLI 497	Senior Research Seminar
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Course Schedule

2012-2013

	<u>Fall 2012</u>		<u>Spring 2013</u>
BUSI 200	Fundamentals of Accounting and Business	POLI 260	Political Economy
BUSI 250	Principles of Statistics	POLI 282	Foreign Policy Analysis
ECON 300	Intermediate Microeconomics	POLI 400	Research Methods
HIST 341	The Arab-Israeli Conflict	POLI 440	Politics of Development

2013-2014

	<u>Fall 2013</u>		<u>Spring 2014</u>
ECON 400	Econometrics and Forecasting	ECON 395	History of Economic Thought
POLI 400	Research Methods	POLI 281	U.S. Foreign Policy
POLI 497	Senior Research Seminar		