

## Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)

Student: Peter Butler

Advising Committee: Dr. Kiril Kolev, Chair. Dr. Ralph Scott.

Major: The PPE is a degree that combines an understanding of economic and political theory along with a strong background in the various philosophical arguments to adequately assess the challenges of modern society. The combination prepares me to take on the challenges of policymakers and leaders within institutions of governing.

- The study of Politics is important because it acquaints students with the institutions that govern society and help solve collective action problems. The courses to satisfy the Politics cluster provide a large sampling of topics in political theory, policy issues, and how to conduct effective research in the social sciences.
- The Philosophical component is necessary to expose me to concepts such as logic and ethics. Through the courses in the Philosophy cluster, critical thinking and logical reasoning will be developed in order to create legitimate arguments in the debate on what role government should play in society.
- The study of Economic theory is vital in the modern world since most political decisions are at least in part driven by economic conditions and are likely to have economic outcomes. The courses within the Economics cluster will provide a foundation of economic principles and expose me to different philosophies on the government's role in the economy.
- The final two courses, MATH 215 and POLI 497, each serve a different purpose. MATH 215 is necessary to better understand empirical data and distinguish what data is sound and what may be questionable. POLI 497, the senior capstone, is the opportunity to demonstrate what has been learned as a result of all the other courses encompassed in the major.

Degree Requirements: The degree will have class requirements from all three fields of study: Politics, Philosophy and Economics, along with additional requirements.

Politics Cluster:

- POLI 100 *Issues in Politics: The Politics of Education*

- POLI 235 *Public Policy*
- POLI 260 *Political Economy*
- POLI 285 *Topics in Political Theory: Ethics in Foreign Policy*
- POLI 400 *Research Methods*

Economics Cluster:

- ECON 200 *Microeconomics*
- ECON 210 *Macroeconomics*
- ECON 380 *Public Finance*

Philosophy Cluster:

- PHIL 205 *Critical Reasoning*
- PHIL 302 *17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy*
- PHIL 360 *Social and Political Philosophy*

Additional Components:

- MATH 215 *Statistical Analysis*
- Senior Capstone, POLI 497 *Senior Research Seminar*

Senior Capstone (POLI 497): I will pick a topic and become familiar with existing scholarly research on it. I will then form an original cause and effect argument and test it empirically. I believe that the conclusions I reach will allow me to make policy recommendations. I will be exposed to a variety of topics through the courses in the major, and will be well equipped to conduct scholarly research from the courses as well.

Student: Peter Butler

Date: 1/23/2015

Committee Chair: [Signature]

Date: 1/23/2015

Committee Member: Ralph Scott

Date: 1/26/2015