

Political Economy Major  
Leah Bishop

The issues of poverty, inequality, and human welfare facing the modern world result from a combination of economic, political, and social structures. With the intention of pursuing a career in social justice, my goal for my undergraduate experience is to gain an understanding of the ways in which government and legislation can alleviate both widespread poverty and individual suffering. Given the cyclical and interconnected nature of economic, political, and social behaviors, majoring in exclusively any one of those disciplines would not address all approaches to solving problems related to inequality. A major in Political Economy would involve the study of economics, politics, and anthropology in order to understand the way in which these fields work together and influence each other. My Political Economy major will have a particular focus on Latin American development, migration, and integration in U.S. society.

Through a set of introductory classes in economics, I will be exposed to models that can explain decision-making in the face of scarcity. I will study the microeconomic phenomena of supply and demand in the marketplace and desires and needs of individuals. Macroeconomics will give me an overview of factors influencing the wealth of states and the implementation of economic policy. With these courses, a foundation in statistical analysis, and the possibility of studying econometrics and forecasting, I will be equipped with the tools to analyze and interpret financial influences on social well-being and political decision-making.

A second cluster of classes will be in the politics department. In politics, it will be necessary to study a combination of political theory, domestic policy, and comparative politics. I will study historical and current political institutions and forms of government, international relations, and the theory behind each. Government has an influential hand in determining the stability of its economy and society, so a large portion of the Political Economy major will be dedicated to gaining an understanding of how and why governments work as they do.

Finally, a study of anthropology will give me insight into the effects of human behavior on the economy and composition of states. More specifically, I will take classes that will give me the skills to track and analyze patterns of human migration. Migration is both caused by economic and political situations and invokes economic and political reaction, and thus an anthropological study of the topic is imperative in creating a comprehensive picture of the relationship between global issues and legislation.

The Senior Capstone experience will be an independent research project regarding the study of some component of Latin-American migration in terms of its economic, political, and social causes and implications. This research will be done during a research seminar in one of the economics, politics, or anthropology departments, determined by which method of research is deemed to be most fitting for the project once a specific proposal is made.

In addition to my courses at Hendrix, I will spend a semester studying abroad. I will study abroad in Latin America, taking courses on local culture, language, and politics. Through this experiential education, I hope to gain perspective that would not be possible within the confines of Hendrix campus.

13 Courses distributed as following:

Courses in Economics

- ECON 200 Intro to Microeconomics
- ECON 210 Intro to Macroeconomics

- BUSI 250 Intro to Business Statistics
- ECON 360 International Economics  
OR POLI 260 Political Economy

Courses in Politics

- POLI 244 Latin American Politics
- POLI 281 U.S. Foreign Policy
- POLI 376 Democracy Development and Violence  
OR POLI 341 The World of Elections
- PHIL 360 Social and Political Philosophy

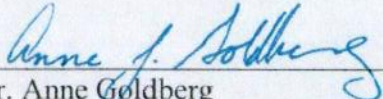
Courses in Anthropology


- ANTH 240 Applying Anthropology
- ANTH 230 Cultures of the US-Mexico Borderlands  
OR ANTH 235 People and Cultures of Latin America  
OR ANTH 360 Globalization and Transnationalism

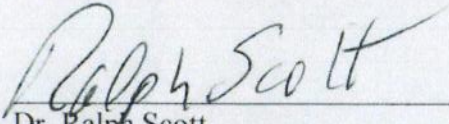
Research Courses

- ANTH 335 Geographic Information Science
- ECON 400 Econometrics  
OR POLI 400 Research Methods
- ECON 497 Research Seminar  
OR POLI 497 Research Seminar  
OR ANTH 498 Independent Study

Advisory Committee Consent:

  
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Dr. Kiril Kolev

  
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