

Mackenzie Gearin  
Class of 2020  
Interdisciplinary Studies Major Proposal

## Social Economics

### JUSTIFICATION

For my Interdisciplinary Studies major, I plan to explore the relationship between social structures and economics. By combining economics, politics, history, and anthropology, I'll investigate and connect individuals, communities, and societies to domestic and international economies and examining the impacts of these relationships. This major will allow me to study how individuals are influenced by economic policy, how belief systems and values shape economic policy, and how one's economic situation affects their social life.

This major is composed of classes in economics, history, politics, and anthropology/sociology. In economics classes, I will gain insight into models that explain individual and governmental decisions despite scarcity, forces of supply and demand, and macroeconomic policy. Politics, history, and anthropology/sociology courses will help me understand how human behavior is shaped by economic trends and policies. In politics classes, I will examine economic policy as understood by politicians, and the ways in which human values affect economic and political decisions and beliefs. In history classes, I will study how societies have changed, specifically focusing on how social structures have responded to changes in economic systems. Finally, anthropology and sociology classes will help me understand how economic policies and forces, as well as political institutions, affect individual lives.

I've decided to be an interdisciplinary major not only because I'm excited about this course of study, but because my experience as a student has often led to feeling as though I think differently than my peers. I have always found it hard to commit to viewing the world through the lens of one discipline. I like to think about how what I'm learning in a class extends to other parts of the world and interacts with ideas in other disciplines. For example, in anthropology classes, I want to know more about how an economic climate can incentivize behaviors or influence transnational movement; in economics classes, I want to know more about the individuals affected by macroeconomic policies, and how these policies develop and change over time to reflect the evolving cultural beliefs of a specific society.

Along with my minor in Mathematics, this major will prepare me for my career and graduate studies after Hendrix. I plan to attend graduate school for economics to attain expertise in economics, while retaining an understanding of the social institutions and cultural values wherein economic models and policies are implemented.

### REQUIREMENTS

Clear Title: Social Economics

Total Number of Classes: 12

More than 4 courses taken above 300-level

Capstone Experience: ECON 497 Research Seminar or ECON 499 Independent Study

If I choose ECON 499, the independent study will be taken the fall or spring of my senior year. I will produce a thesis that combines my interests in social structures and economic policy. It will be graded by my advisor and defended in front of the major committee.

Economics Courses

ECON 200 Microeconomics\*

ECON 210 Macroeconomics\*

ECON 400 Econometrics and Forecasting

*Choose 2 of the following:*

ECON 300 Advanced Microeconomics

ECON 310 Advanced Macroeconomics

ECON 360 International Economics

ECON 380 Public Finance

ECON 385 Labor Economics

Politics Courses

POLI 235 Public Policy\*

POLI 349 Normative Political Economy\*

History Courses

HIST 214 Poverty and Welfare in America\*

HIST 285 Aid, Humanitarianism and Development in Africa

OR HIST 251 Violence and Memory in Central Africa

OR POLI 376 Democracy, Development, and Violence

Anthropology/ Sociology Courses

ANTH 380 Globalization and Transnationalism\*

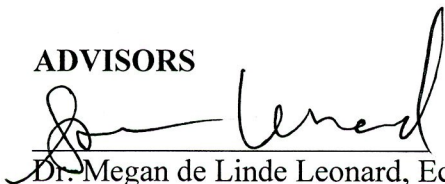
*Choose one of the following:*

ANTH 230 Cultures of the United States- Mexico Borderlands

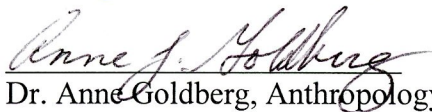
SOCI 390 Social Identity and Inequality

Capstone: ECON 497 Research Seminar or ECON 499 Independent Study

**ADVISORS**



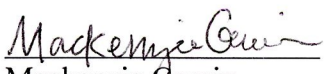
Dr. Megan de Linde Leonard, Economics, Committee Chair



Dr. Anne Goldberg, Anthropology, Committee Member



Dr. Kiril Kolev, Politics, Committee Member



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\*indicates a course already completed or currently in the process of completion