Public policies—which may involve government, corporations, or non-profit agencies—affect the life of every citizen. For example, governmental tax collection has a major effect on the geography of metropolitan development, the quality of local schools, and patterns of social inequality. Recent trends in U.S. politics and governmental practice also have placed public policy issues at a decisive crossroad. In the United States and other economically advanced nations there is an influential group of commentators advocating a systematic rethinking of governmental, and as such, public policy practices. In place of public bureaucratic systems for delivering services and regulating economic relations, many analysts presently contend that nongovernmental, market arrangements offer decided advantages. Similarly, in the United States and elsewhere the decentralization of governmental action has, in the last generation, become a significant policy trend.

Public Policy Studies is an interdisciplinary program offering majors the option to pursue concentrated work in the areas of Environmental Studies and Urban Studies. Students take a common core of six courses dealing with public policy processes, methods of public policy analysis, and important environmental and urban policy issues. Beyond this core curriculum, students choose either the Environmental Studies or Urban Studies track, selecting a group of courses from a focused curriculum drawn primarily from the several disciplinary departments participating in the Public Policy Program. A capstone senior seminar reconvenes the students from each concentration.

**Faculty**

LARRY BENNETT, PH.D.,
Professor and Director
Rutgers University

SUSAN BENNETT
Associate Professor
Northwestern University

GABRIELLA BUCCI, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
Johns Hopkins University

FASSIL DEMISSIE, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
University of California-Los Angeles

LIAM HENEGHAN, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
University College Dublin

JAMES A. MONTGOMERY, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
Washington State University

THOMAS MURPHY, PH.D.,
Professor
Iowa State University

ALEXIS PAPADOPOULOS, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
University of Chicago

WILLIAM SAMSON, PH.D.,
Associate Professor
Johns Hopkins University

JOSEPH SCHWIETERMAN, PH.D.
Associate Professor
University of Chicago
In addition to the 32 quarter hours required in the liberal studies core, students are required to complete 52 quarter hours distributed through six learning domains as part of their Bachelor of Arts degree in public policy. The number and distribution of courses in each of the areas are as follows:

**Core:** 32 quarter hours required

**First Year Program:** (20 quarter hours required) Discover Chicago or Explore Chicago, Focal Point Seminar, Quantitative Reasoning, and Composition and Rhetoric I and II.

**Sophomore Seminar:** (4 quarter hours required) Sophomore Seminar on Multiculturalism in the United States

**Junior Year Experiential Learning:** (4 quarter hours required) If your junior year experiential learning requirement also fulfills a major field requirement, you may substitute a liberal studies domain elective (from outside your major field area) or the third course in the modern language option for this requirement.

**Senior Capstone:** (4 quarter hours required) Public Policy requires that all students majoring in Public Policy complete the senior capstone Public Policy. If you are double majoring and/or in the Honors program you must also follow the capstone guidelines for that area.

**Arts and Literature:** 12 quarter hours required; at most 2 courses from the same department or program.

**Philosophical Inquiry:** 8 quarter hours required.

**Religious Dimensions:** 8 quarter hours required; with 4 quarter hours in patterns and problems and 4 quarter hours in traditions in context.

**Scientific Inquiry:** 12 quarter hours required; including 4 quarter hours lab component and 4 quarter hours quantitative component.

**Self, Society, and Modern World:** 4 quarter hours.

**Understanding the Past:** 8 quarter hours required; including 4 quarter hours of pre-1800 history and 4 quarter hours primarily between 1800-1945. In addition, courses must be drawn from two categories: (1) Africa, (2) Asia, (3) Latin America, (4) North America, and (5) intercontinental or comparative.

Although study in public policy contributes to a student's liberal education, courses offered by the public policy studies program do not apply to majors' liberal studies requirements. There are two exceptions: the experiential learning and capstone requirements.

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

All Public Policy majors take the six courses constituting the core curriculum. Each student also takes six courses from either the Environmental Studies or Urban Studies track. Students should complete PPS 201, 202, and 203 before enrolling in their environmental Studies or Urban Studies “track” courses. Each student also enrolls in one “capstone” course.

**CORE REQUIREMENTS**


For concentrators in Environmental Studies, one course in Data Analysis (Mat 242, Psy 240 or Soc 279). For concentrators in Urban Studies, one course in Data Analysis (Mat 242, Psy 240 or Soc 279), or Cartography (Geo 241, Geo 242 or Geo 243).
THE CONCENTRATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Students taking the Environmental Studies concentration must take Public Policy 320 Public Policy in Production and Use of Energy and Pollution Control and 324 Public Policy and Natural Resources, as well as four additional courses:

- No more than two courses from the following group:
  - With the following courses also available for fulfilling the Environmental Studies concentration:
    - Economics: 335 Energy and Environmental Economics
    - Environmental Science: 340 Issues in Urban Forestry; 342 Natural History of Forests; 350 Environmental Impact Analysis
    - Geography: 310 Land Use Ethics
    - Physics: 201 The Atmosphere and the Oceans
    - Public Policy: 358 Internship in Environmental Studies; 359 Topics in Environmental Studies

URBAN STUDIES

Students pursuing the Urban Studies concentration must choose six courses. Three courses will come from the following 200-level courses:

- Geography: 230 Transportation Issues and Development; 233 Comparative Urbanism.
- Political Science: 223 Urban Politics.
- Public Policy: 250 Issues in Neighborhood Development; 251 Urban Poverty; 252 Urban Policy in Comparative and Historical Perspective; 253 The Cinematic City.
- Sociology: 214 Police and the Urban Community.

Three courses will come from the following 300-level courses:

- Economics: 310 Economics of the Urban Environment.
- Geography: 333 City Problems and Planning.
- Political Science: 322 Urban Policymaking.
- Sociology: 348 City of the Future.

CAPSTONE EXPERIENCES

Senior Public Policy majors will earn 4 credits through either a Senior Project or Senior Seminar.

SENIOR PROJECT

During their final year of study, students may conduct an independent research project or participate in a group research project. Students in the Environmental Studies concentration will enroll in Public Policy 395 Senior Project in Environmental Studies; those following the Urban Studies concentration will take Public Policy 396 Senior Project in Urban Studies.

SENIOR SEMINAR

Students from either concentration may participate in Public Policy 398 Senior Seminar which examines an emerging environmental or urban policy issue. The seminar’s topic and instructor will vary from year to year.
COURSES

All courses carry 4 quarter hours credit.

PPS 100 INTRODUCTION TO URBAN STUDIES In this course students explore alternative approaches to the study of cities, with particular emphasis placed on the foundational literature of Urban Studies.

PPS 201 PUBLIC POLICY AND URBAN ISSUES This course examines the development of cities as social and physical systems and relates these patterns to historical and contemporary public policy initiatives. Working from a baseline of the numerous public policy issues confronting cities and metropolitan regions, such as transportation, housing, sanitation, and social conditions, this course introduces students to some of the characteristic approaches to addressing these problems. PREREQUISITE(S): PPS 100.

PPS 202 PUBLIC POLICY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES Focusing on environmental topics such as land use, resource management, conservation, waste removal, air and water quality, and regulatory policy, this course introduces students to the features and implications of various environmental policy approaches. PREREQUISITE(S): ENV 102.

PPS 203 GOVERNMENTS, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, AND MARKETS This course examines how governments, non-profit organizations, and markets raise and distribute resources. Primarily introducing and using the tools of policy analysis, this course examines the role of the government, market, community, and individual in solving and contributing to urban and environmental problems. Students will learn to identify and evaluate who wins and who loses. PREREQUISITE(S): ECO 105.

PPS 250 ISSUES IN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT A major focus of urban policy and grassroots action is the condition of city neighborhoods. This course examines trends in urban policy as they have affected neighborhoods, neighborhood-grounded grassroots action, and local neighborhood development initiatives.

PPS 251 URBAN POVERTY This course examines the demographics of poverty and its concentration in central cities. In addition, definitions of poverty and public policies aimed at alleviating poverty are explored with the aim of understanding why poverty remains prevalent in the United States.

PPS 252 PUBLIC POLICY IN COMPARATIVE AND HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE This course examines the origins and evolution of urban public policy in the United States and other countries. Substantive emphases include city planning measures, urban redevelopment, health and environmental measures, as well as various social policies.

PPS 253 THE CINEMATIC CITY This course examines the relationship between the city and cinema and explores how the city both real and ideal is represented in film. Covering a diverse selection of films, genres, and historical periods, the course critically explores the relationship between urban forms and cinematic representations.
PPS 258 PUBLIC POLICY/SERVICE LEARNING Projects vary from quarter to quarter

PPS 301 PUBLIC POLICY AND THE POLITICAL PROCESS This course introduces students to the politics and routines of governmental decision making. Students examine the roles, institutional contexts, and aims structuring the activities of administrators, legislators, lobbyists, and grassroots activists.

PPS 302 IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN POLICY This course examines how organizational cultures affect decision making. The course focuses on bureaucratic decision making routines, the implementation of policy, and the factors which advance or constrain effectiveness in urban and environmental settings. The course also explores the utility of various communication strategies and techniques in executing policies. PREREQUISITE(S): ENV 200.

PPS 320 PUBLIC POLICY IN PRODUCTION AND USE OF ENERGY AND POLLUTION CONTROL This course examines present policies related to the exploration, siting, and development of fossil and nuclear energy resources; the production and consumption of these fuels; and the control and prevention of air, water, and refuse pollution. Students will discuss the need for policies in these areas and the evolution of present policies, as well as the strengths and limitations of these policies.

PPS 324 PUBLIC POLICY AND NATURAL RESOURCES This course considers the present policies underlying the designation and management of national parks, national forests, wetlands, and other public lands and regulating the use, conservation, and preservation of land, mineral, timber, and water resources. Students will discuss the need for and evolution of public policies to regulate mining, fishing, timbering, and the use of water for generating electricity, irrigation, and recreation, as well as the strengths and limitations of these policies.

PPS 328 INTERNSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Students earn academic credit by working outside the university for an organization whose agenda centers on environmental issues.

PPS 329 TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES The topic of this in-depth course varies.

PPS 350 CRITICAL ISSUES IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT The course examines the central issues in contemporary urban development: how urban restructuring, demographic shifts, new patterns of production and consumption, as well as technologically-grounded globalization processes, shape urban development. The course emphasizes the changing context of urban development policy and explores various critical approaches to interpreting urban development policy.

PPS 351 THE POLICY AND POLITICS OF URBAN HOUSING The course looks at housing as a social symbol and material commodity, with particular emphasis placed on the role of government in the direct provision of housing and the indirect support of home ownership, as well as housing policies indirect impact on neighborhood development, race relations, and metropolitan suburbanization.

PPS 352 ISSUES IN URBAN EDUCATIONAL POLICY This course examines the politics, history, and social context of urban education. Special attention is devoted to emerging policy alternatives such as the use of school vouchers and the formation of charter schools.

PPS 358 INTERNSHIP IN URBAN STUDIES Students earn credit by working in local public or non-profit agencies dealing with urban issues.
PPS 359 TOPICS IN URBAN STUDIES This course provides an in-depth examination of various urban studies issues.

PPS 395 SENIOR PROJECT IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES Working individually or in conjunction with a group research project, students research environmental problems and develop projects that explore modes of policy action directed at responding to these problems.

PPS 396 SENIOR PROJECT IN URBAN STUDIES Working individually or in conjunction with a group research project, students research urban problems and develop projects that explore modes of policy action directed at responding to these problems.

PPS 398 SENIOR SEMINAR In this capstone seminar, students from the Environmental Studies and Urban Studies tracks will explore topics that link their respective specialty areas.