

Old Rubric (Class of 2019)

Rational Choice

EP&E 321 Development Economics – Focus on South Asia – Zack Barnett-Howell

Analysis of current problems of developing countries. Emphasis on the role of economic theory in informing public policies to achieve improvements in poverty and inequality, and on empirical analysis to understand markets and responses to poverty. Topics include microfinance, education, health, agriculture, intrahousehold allocations, gender, and corruption.

Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and introductory econometrics.

EP&E 326 Quantitative Policy Evaluation – Olle Folke

Policy evaluation is important across academic fields. In economics, policies may address levels and distributions of taxes and subsidies. In political science, policies may address the design of the electoral system, for example by the introduction of gender quotas. Students consider how to evaluate efficiency versus power when these may collide. This course teaches common econometric tools for evaluating policy impacts. A strong emphasis is placed on the logic of causal inference: How can we design our evaluation so that we can estimate actual causal effect of the policy?

Basic statistics; STATA experience helpful but not required.

EP&E 328 YData: Data Science for Political Campaigns– Joshua Kalla

Political campaigns have become increasingly data driven. Data science is used to inform where campaigns compete, which messages they use, how they deliver them, and among which voters. In this course, we explore how data science is being used to design winning campaigns. Students gain an understanding of what data is available to campaigns, how campaigns use this data to identify supporters, and the use of experiments in campaigns. This course provides students with an introduction to political campaigns, an introduction to data science tools necessary for studying politics, and opportunities to practice the data science skills presented in S&DS 123, YData.

Prerequisite: S&DS 123, which may be taken concurrently.

Please note: This is a ½ credit course. Students are required to also be enrolled in YData S&DS 123 in order to take this course. The course is an applied addition to S&DS 123.

S&DS 150 Data Science Ethics – Elisa Celis

In this course, we introduce, discuss, and analyze ethical issues, algorithmic challenges, and policy decisions that arise when addressing real-world problems via the lens of data science. We grapple with the normative questions of what constitutes bias, fairness, discrimination, or ethics when it comes to data science and machine learning in applications such as policing, health, journalism, and employment. We incorporate technical precision by introducing quantitative measures that allow us to study how algorithms codify, exacerbate and/or introduce biases of their own, and study analytic methods of correcting for or eliminating these biases. Lastly, we study the social implications of these decisions, and understand the legal, political and policy decisions that could be used to govern data-driven decision making by making them transparent and auditable. We read critical commentary by practitioners, state-of-the-art technical papers by data scientist and computer scientists, and samples of legal scholarship, moral and ethical philosophy, readings in sociology, and policy documents. We often ground our discussions around recent case studies, controversies, and current events.

Prerequisites: One from [S&DS 238](#), [S&DS 241](#), [S&DS 242](#), or the equivalent; and one from [S&DS 230](#), [ECON 131](#), or the equivalent.

Suggested courses: one from: [CPSC 470](#), [S&DS 365](#), [ECON 429](#), [CPSC 365](#), [CPSC 366](#), or equivalent; and one from: [EP&E 215](#), [PHIL 175](#), [PHIL 177](#), [SOCY 144](#), [PLSC 262](#), [PLSC 320](#), or equivalent.

EMD 582 Political Epidemiology – Gregg Gonsalves

Political epidemiology is the study of the impact of welfare regimes, political institutions, and specific policies on health and health equity. This course emphasizes the last among these—the effects of specific policies—on health outcomes in infectious diseases and other areas of human health and development. The course takes an issues- and methods-based approach, looking at how to evaluate the effects of political determinants of health (e.g., immigration, education, fiscal and environmental policies) through experimental and quasi-experimental methods, as well as various techniques associated with policy modeling (e.g., Markov models, systems dynamics, microsimulation, spatial models).

Prerequisites: EPH 505a or a similar introductory course in statistics. [STAT 541](#), [MATH 241](#), or a similar introductory course in probability is recommended but not required, and a review of probability is offered in the first discussion section.

Political Systems

EP&E 248 American Political Institutions – Michael Fotos

The origins and development of American political institutions, especially in relation to how institutions shape the policy process. Issues of temporality, policy feedback, and policy substance.

Advanced Seminar

EP&E 311 Business Ethics in a Global Economy – Elizabeth Acorn

The purpose of this course is to provide students with an introduction to and overview of business ethics in a globalized economy, with a particular focus on transnational corporations (“TNCs”) and the ethical and governance challenges that these cross-border actors can present. The course introduces students to common theories on the role of business in society, how business should be governed, and how business ethics can play a role. The course examines these theories in the context of transnational business, engaging pressing contemporary global issues, including corruption, corporate responsibility for human rights violations, and international investor protection.

EP&E 325 Business Ethics and Law – Robin Landis

This seminar is intended to provide frameworks for the analysis of ethical issues that may arise in the context of business decisions, including such aspects as the role of ethics, competing values and interests, and tools for making principled decisions. The course also covers, as appropriate, some aspects of law as they relate to business ethics.

Previous courses in philosophy and ethics may be helpful.

EP&E 338 Corruption, Governance, and Reform in the Twenty-first Century – Elaine Dezenski

Exploration of the various causes, enablers, and effects of large-scale corruption, to better understand its impact, the consequences, and reform efforts. Topics include the abuse of entrusted power for private gain as an evolving geopolitical risk; how corrupt actors use and exploit the global financial system across

both emerging and advanced economies; the impact of corruption across a diverse sample of industries and sectors including infrastructure, extractives, sport, and art; and efforts for reform and risk mitigation. Some foundational basics with economics and political science preferred.

EP&E 339 The Ethics of Journalism – Jacob Weisberg

An examination of key issues about the rights and responsibilities of the press. Topics include truth and verification, bias and objectivity, the handling of government secrets, the use of misrepresentation and deception, privacy, and the protection of sources. Case studies including WikiLeaks and the Pentagon Papers will supplement readings from critics such as Walter Lippmann, George Orwell, Janet Malcolm, and Neil Postman.

EP&E 421 Ethics, Law, and Current Issues - Karen Goodrow

Examination of how freedom of speech and bias influence the criminal justice system, focusing on wrongful convictions and administration of the death penalty. Understanding the role of potential bias at various levels and the competing interests of protecting speech, due process, and the innocent. Topics include limitations on speech, practical effects of speech, the efficacy of the death penalty, actual innocence, gender/race/economic bias and its effects on the justice system, as well as best practices for improving our sense of justice.

New Rubric (Class of 2020 or later)

Ethics

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Economics

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Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and introductory econometrics.

*While these courses don't have EP&E numbers, they will count for this core requirement.

**EP&E 310 Refugee Law and Policy has been cancelled.