

The Program in Political Philosophy, Policy and Law (PPL) at the University of Virginia

Student Handbook 2023-4

Hi everyone, and welcome to the Program in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law for the 2022-3 academic year. This year the program is being run by Director Vijay Phulwani and Assistant Director Sarita Zaffini. This is our second year working together, and we are looking forward to increasing the range of PPL activities and events this year. We are also excited to work with all of you.

The handbook has been trimmed down somewhat from last year, but it is still the first place you should go if you have a question about the program. We will be posting some materials that used to be in the handbook on the PPL website as separate documents, and we hope to have a full refresh of the website sometime this year. Until that happens, consider this the most up to date and authoritative source on program policies and requirements. That is a nice way of saying that a lot of information about PPL in other sources is out of date and unreliable.

If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, please don't hesitate to reach out to either Dr. Zaffini or me.

*Vijay Phulwani
Director, PPL*

I. What is PPL?

The major in Political Philosophy, Policy and Law (PPL) provides undergraduate students with an opportunity to pursue intensive study of the connections between political philosophy and legal theory, legal thought and historical change, law and public policy. The major is based firmly on the view that the study of law has a rich humanistic tradition and that its pursuit encourages sustained reflection on the fundamental values of political association. Because the domain of law, policy and political philosophy is huge, a principal objective of the major is the integration of diverse disciplinary perspectives. But interdisciplinary dialogue on political and legal ideas, processes, doctrine, and policies can be fruitful only if the participants engage one another from a position of disciplinary strength. As a major, PPL is grounded on this presumption.

II. Faculty and Staff

PPL Core Faculty

Director:
 Vijay Phulwani, vijayphulwani@virginia.edu
 Office: Gibson Hall 266
 Office Hours: Tu, We 2-3, or by appointment

Assistant Director:
 Sarita Zaffini, smx7fx@virginia.edu

Affiliated Faculty

Nate Adams, Department of Philosophy
 Tal Brewer, Department of Philosophy
 George Klosko, Department of Politics
 Loren Lomasky, Cory Professor of Political Philosophy, Policy and Law
 Jennifer Rubenstein, Department of Politics
 Becky Stangl, Department of Philosophy

Administrative Staff:

Sharon Marsh, Department of Politics, smm4g@virginia.edu

III. Major Requirements

1. General Requirements

In order to graduate, PPL students must complete

- a. Three required PPL courses
- b. Three co-requisite courses
- c. An eight-course interdisciplinary core

2. PPL Courses

- a. All PPL majors must take PPL 2010 in the Fall semester of their third year.
- b. All PPL majors must take the 1-credit PPL 4005 (thesis preparation) in the Fall semester of their final year. If study abroad or scheduling conflicts make this impossible, alternative arrangements will be made available in consultation with the director.
- c. All PPL majors must take PPL 4010 (Capstone research seminar) in their final semester.

These classes are restricted to PPL majors.

3. Co-Requisites

The co-requisites are (1) one course in the history of political thought, (2) one course in legal history and public policy, and (3) ECON 2010 (Microeconomics). Co-requisite courses must be completed by the end of students' third year.

The first two co-requisites must be selected from the following menus:

- a. History of Political Thought
 - PHIL 2560 Classical Political Philosophy
 - PHIL 2770 Political Philosophy
 - PHIL 1730 Introduction to Political Philosophy
 - PLPT 3010 Ancient and Medieval Political Theory
 - PLPT 3020 Modern Political Theory
 - PLPT 3030 Contemporary Political Theory
 - PLPT 4500 Islamic Political Thought

- b. Legal History and Public Policy
 - HIUS 3752 Early American Law
 - HIUS 3375 Modern American Law
 - HIUS 5559 Global Legal History
 - PLAP 3810 Constitutional Interpretation
 - COMM 3410 Commercial Law I

No more than one co-requisite course may count toward the fulfillment of the requirements for the Interdisciplinary Core. Please note that ECON 2010 may NOT count toward your core classes if you are minoring in Economics.

4. Interdisciplinary Core

In consultation with the director, each student will craft an interdisciplinary curriculum of eight courses. The requirements for the interdisciplinary course are as follows:

- a. At least three courses must deal with the theoretical foundations of PPL; these courses must be from at least two different departments
- b. At least three courses must deal with the policy implications of PPL; these courses must be from at least two different departments
- c. The other two courses may come from either category
- d. One course from the PPL co-requisites may be counted towards the interdisciplinary core

Please note that any PLPT course, and any PHIL course with significant ethical/political content will count as a theoretical foundations course. Graduate

level courses above the 5000 level are permitted, but only with the consent of the instructor. Students who take courses above the 5000-level must take them as Independent Studies.

For a non-comprehensive list of courses that count towards the interdisciplinary core, please see below.

5. Final Project

All PPL students are required to submit a research project/thesis in their final semester in the program. The PPL research project is shorter than the theses required by many other programs – we expect students to produce an article-length paper (35-40) pages, on some fairly focused topic.

The range of possible topics is enormous. To help get you started, please consult the list of core PPL topics and readings available on the program website. The one requirement is that the topic be genuinely interdisciplinary, blending (in some proportion) philosophical and empirical analysis, seeking to both evaluate and explain the political institutions, legal practices, or policies, under discussion.

Different topics, of course, require different approaches, so there is no one-size-fits-all template for a PPL thesis. The only things that are clearly excluded are: 1. Purely empirical studies purporting to explain institutions/events/texts/historical episodes with no reference to arguments about their philosophical significance; 2. Highly theoretical philosophical speculation with no connection to political, legal, moral practices.

Students complete their capstone projects in PPL 4010, which is offered only in the Spring semester. However, all 4th year students must also take the 1-credit PPL 4005 Thesis Preparation class in the prior Fall semester. This provides a formal mechanism by which students can start to identify topics, advisors and working bibliographies so that these are in place by the time they start their capstone class in January.

Final grades for your research project are agreed between your capstone instructor and your thesis advisor, subject to review by the director (to ensure consistency across the two sections). PPL is a distinguished major, and so students are eligible for honors. Please note, however, that you can receive honors only if your final UVA GPA is 3.4 or higher. (This is a College rule, not a PPL rule.) Levels of honors (distinction, high distinction, highest distinction) are determined by the director, in consultation with your capstone instructor.

IV. Timeline for Students

Third Year

1. Ensure that your major has been changed to PPL in SIS
2. Take PPL 2010 in the fall
3. It is never too early to be thinking about possibly topics for your final year research project. Don't delay until the last minute. Keep in mind that you will not only need a topic, but also an advisor, for your thesis. It is often easier to secure an advisor with relevant expertise if you have studied with them before – bear this in mind as you consider your classes. Don't hesitate to contact me if you need advice/inspiration about possible research topics, and how best to approach them.

Fourth Year

4. Ensure that your major has been changed to PPL in SIS
5. Take PPL 4005 in fall. In it, you will identify a thesis topic and faculty advisor
6. Meet with director or assistant director in the fall to fill out course checklist (see below)
7. Take PPL 4010 in the spring

V. Policies

1. Course Approval

You must obtain approval from the Director for any courses you wish to count toward your PPL major that are (a) neither required PPL courses nor (b) pre-approved PPL courses. Approval for other courses may be sought at any time (before, during or after the completion of a course). To seek approval for a course, please submit an email to the Director, explaining why you think the class ought to count toward your major, attaching a course syllabus if available.

Please note that the Director's approval won't be immediately reflected on SIS. The fact that an approved course is not listed as such on SIS is not a reason for concern. (See the section on SIS below)

2. Double Majors

PPL Students are permitted to double-major, subject to satisfying College rules and those of other Major concentrations (always be aware of the rules for your other major). The college permits only 2 courses to count simultaneously toward two majors, and some departments impose further restrictions. The College rules about double majoring can be found at: <https://college.as.virginia.edu/declaremajor>.

3. Minors

In general, the College prohibits courses from counting toward both a minor and a major simultaneously. They make some exceptions for students in Interdisciplinary majors like

PPL, but even then there are restrictions, so you should keep this in mind as you plan your classes. The College rules about minoring are discussed at the website above, and also at: <http://college.artsandsciences.virginia.edu/declareminor>.

Students may not minor in PPL.

4. Transfer Courses

PPL students may only count up to six credits of class work from non-UVA institutions without permission. You may petition the director to allow an additional 3 credits toward the major.

5. Study Abroad

PPL students are encouraged to pursue study abroad programs. The one restriction is that you cannot study abroad during either your first or last semester in the PPL program (normally the Fall of your third year and the Spring of your fourth year) because these are semesters when the mandatory PPL 2010 (gateway) and PPL 4010 (capstone) are offered.

Note that although PPL majors are all expected to take PPL 4005 (thesis preparation seminar) in their final Fall semester, an exception to this rule can be made for those who plan to study abroad during that semester. However, to qualify for that exception, students must make arrangements with the Director for some alternative form of thesis preparation during the Study Abroad period. You should consult the Director before departing for your Study Abroad program if possible, and in any case before the sign-up period for Spring classes.

6. Registration and SIS

SIS can be difficult, particularly with interdisciplinary majors. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the director. We will get your issues sorted out, but, in the meantime, don't worry too much. If you want to know where you are in terms of program requirements, please consult the course checklist.

PPL Course Checklist

Name:

Graduation Semester:

Required PPL Courses

Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grade
PPL 2010	Morality, Law & the State	Fall 1900	
PPL 4005	Thesis Preparation	Fall 1900	
PPL 4010	Research Seminar	Spring 1900	

3 Co-Requisite Courses

Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grade
ECON 2010	Microeconomics (required)		

8 Interdisciplinary Core Courses

* one co-requisite course may overlap

Theoretical Foundations (at least 3)

Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grade

Policy & Law (at least 3)

Course #	Course Title	Semester	Grade

Approved by:

* may require special permissions

Co-Requisites: History of Political Thought

PHIL 1000	Intro to Philosophy
PLPT 1010	Intro to Political Theory
PLPT 3020	Modern Political Thought

Interdisciplinary: Theoretical Foundations

ANTH 3290	Biopolitics & the Contemporary Situation
ANTH 3295	Moral Experience
COMM 4559	Finance & Society
ECON 2010	Microeconomics
ECON 2020	Macroeconomics
ECON 2559	Economics of Gender at Work
ECON 3030	Money & Banking
ECON 2060	American Economic History
ECON 4440	Economic Inequality
ENGL 4580	Feminist Theory
HIEU 3812	Marx
LPPS 3280	Lessons in Leadership: JFK
PHIL 1000	Intro to Philosophy
PHIL 1410	Forms of Reasoning
PHIL 2060	Philosophical Problems in Law
PHIL 2100	History of Philosophy: Ancient & Medieval
PHIL 2500	Philosophy of Race
PHIL 2660	Philosophy of Religion
PHIL 3010	Darwinian Philosophy
PHIL 3160	18th Century Philosophy
PHIL 3500	Philosophy of Economics
PHIL 3720	Contemporary Ethics
PHIL 3810	Sex, Sexuality & Gender
PLAN 3840	Ethics of City & Environment
PLAP 1010	Intro to American Politics
PLAP 2250	American Political Tradition

Co-Requisites: Legal History/Public Policy

COMM 3410	Commercial Law I
PLAP 3810	Constitutional Interpretation

PLAP 3270	Public Opinion & American Democracy
PLAP 3400	American Political Economy
PLAP 3500	The American Supreme Court
PLAP 3810	Constitutional Interpretation
PLAP 4500	Foundational Concepts in American Politics*
PLAP 4601	Democracy in America
PLCP 3120	Political Economy of the Welfare State
PLCP 3500	Representing Diverse Identities
PLCP 4130	Capitalisms Compared
PLCP 4200	Comparative Legislatures*
PLCP 4220	Comparative Budgeting & Economic Policy
PLCP 4250	Politics of Economic Reform
PLCP 4430	Politics of Corruption*
PLCP 4500	Democratic Erosion*
PLIR 3500	The Military & American Democracy
PLIR 4320	Religion & War
PLIR 4430	Empire, Hegemony, Leadership*
PLPT 1010	Intro to Political Theory
PLPT 3020	Modern Political Thought
PLPT 4200	Feminist Political Theory*
PLPT 4305	American Political Thought to 1865
PLPT 4500	Social & Political Cohesion Throughout History*
PLPT 4500	Roman Political Philosophy*
PSYCH 3420	Nature & Nurture
RELC 3222	From Jefferson to King
RELG 2495	Religious Violence in the West

3 Co-Requisites: Microeconomics (ECON 201)
1 in History of Political Thought
1 in Legal History/Public Policy

8 Interdisciplinary (1 overlap w/Co-Requisites):
@ least 3 in Theoretical Foundations
@ least 3 in Policy & Law

A maximum of 2 courses may overlap with another major or minor

Fall 2023

PPL Approved Courses

RELG 2650	Religion, Ethics & Health Care
RELJ 3052	Responses to the Holocaust
RELJ 3390	Jewish Feminism
SLTR 3300	Facing Evil in the 20th Century
SOC 2052	Sociology of the Family
SOC 2220	Social Problems
SOC 2320	Gender & Society
SOC 3020	Intro to Social Theory
SOC 3056	Culture & Power*

SOC 3410	Race & Ethnic Relations
SOC 3480	Sociology of Globalization
SOC 3640	Human Society in History
SOC 4078	Racism & Democracy
WGS 3100	Intro to WGS Theory
WGS 4800	Queer Theory
WGS 4820	Black Feminist Theory

Interdisciplinary: Policy & Law

AAS 3853	Race & Real Estate in the US
ANTH 2280	Medical Anthropology
ANTH 2285	Anthropology of Development & Humanitarianism
ANTH 3275	The Corporation: History, Culture, Capital
BIOL 3450	Biodiversity & Conservation
COMM 3410	Commercial Law I
COMM 3420	Commercial Law II
COMM 3559	Foundations of Sustainable Commerce
COMM 3880	Global Sustainability
COMM 4559	Finance & Society
ECON 3430	Sustainability & the Environment
ECON 4200	Antitrust Policy
ECON 4210	International Trade: Trade & Policy
ECON 4310	Economics of the Public Sector
ECON 4440	Economic Inequality
ECON 4559	Economics of Climate Change
EDHS 2860	Child Protection in Emergencies
EDHS 2895	Mental Health and Schools
EDIS 2010	Teaching as a Profession
EDLF 2050	What the Innovators Do
EDLF 2070	Effective Altruism
EDLF 3491	Inequality in US Social Policy
EDLF 4080	U.S. Education Policy

EVSC 2559	Environmental & Climate Justice
GCCS 3010	Global Commerce
GSGS 2559	Mass Migration & Global Development
GSGS 3559	Dynamics of Great Powers
GSVS 3310	Sustainability Policy at Home & Abroad
GSVS 4100	Evidence for (Sustainability) Policy
HIEU 2004	Nationalism in Europe
HIME 2010	Modern History of Palestine/Israel
HIST 2152	Climate History
HIST 3281	Genocide
HIUS 2061	American Economic History
HIUS 3671	African American Freedom Movement
HIUS 3853	Race & Real Estate
LASE 3510	From Theory to Practice
LPPL 2600	Foundations of Behavioral Science
LPPL 3210	Behavioral Sciences for Civic Leadership
LPPL 4660	Value & Bias in Public Policy
LPPP 2200	Intro to Public Policy
LPPP 3620	Engaging Policy Communities*
LPPP 4200	Institutional & Political Context of Public Policy*
LPPS 3050	Intro to Social Entrepreneurship
LPPS 3240	Terrorism & Counterterrorism
LPPS 3280	Lessons in Leadership: JFK

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with another major or minor

Fall 2023

PPL Approved Courses

LPPS 3310 | Police-Community Relations
LPPS 3340 | Defense Innovation & Problem Solving
LPPS 3370 | Trauma & the U.S. Public School System
LPPS 3470 | American Healthcare System
LPPS 4220 | Comparative Budgeting & Economic Policy
MDST 3108 | Media Law
MDST 3402 | War & the Media
PHIL 2820 | Philosophy of Health & Healthcare
PHS 4050 | Public Health Policy
PLAN 3020 | Planning in Government
PLAN 3070 | Global Political Economy
PLAP 1010 | Intro to American Politics
PLAP 2250 | American Political Tradition
PLAP 3270 | Public Opinion & American Democracy
PLAP 3370 | Contemporary American Electoral Politics*
PLAP 3400 | American Political Economy
PLAP 3500 | The American Supreme Court
PLAP 3810 | Constitutional Interpretation
PLAP 4360 | Campaigns & Elections*
PLAP 4500 | Representation & Public Opinion in the US*
PLAP 4500 | Political Polarization in the US*
PLAP 4601 | Democracy in America
PLCP 3120 | Political Economy of the Welfare State
PLCP 3500 | Representing Diverse Identities
PLCP 4130 | Capitalisms Compared
PLCP 4200 | Comparative Legislatures*
PLCP 4220 | Comparative Budgeting & Economic Policy

PLCP 4250 | Politics of Economic Reform
PLCP 4430 | Politics of Corruption*
PLCP 4500 | Making Rich Democracies*
PLCP 4500 | Democratic Erosion*
PLIR 3060 | Military Force in International Relations*
PLIR 3500 | The Military & American Democracy
PLIR 3610 | European Union in World Affairs
PLIR 4320 | Religion & War
PLIR 4430 | Empire, Hegemony, Leadership*
PSYCH 3420 | Nature & Nurture
RELG 2495 | Religious Violence in the West
RELG 2650 | Religion, Ethics & Health Care
SOC 2052 | Sociology of the Family
SOC 2220 | Social Problems
SOC 2320 | Gender & Society
SOC 2559 | Drugs & Society
SOC 3056 | Culture & Power*
SOC 3410 | Race & Ethnic Relations
SOC 3460 | Future Cities
SOC 3480 | Sociology of Globalization
SOC 4230 | Deviance & Social Control
STS 2760 | Technology & Policy
WGS 2125 | Race & Power in Gender & Sexuality
WGS 3100 | Intro to WGS Theory
WGS 3100 | Intro to WGS Theory
WGS 3125 | Transnational Feminism

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1 in History of Political Thought
1 in Legal History/Public Policy

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@ least 3 in Policy & Law

A maximum of 2 courses may overlap
with another major or minor