Political Economy focuses on the links between the economy, society and political interests. It deals with important challenges like economic instability and uneven development, employment and unequal income distribution, the globalisation of economic activity including corporate globalisation, and ecological sustainability.

The study of political economy centres on the proposition that economic processes take place in conjunction with social and political processes and particular institutional contexts. It contends that understanding the modern economy requires study of the broader questions - such as the dynamics of globalisation and the implications for national economic policy settings; the concentration of economic activity, wealth and opportunities; the trade-offs between health, education and social services and the free market perspective; environmental sustainability; the decline of regional economies, and so on.

Political Economy at Sydney is taught by the largest group of political economists at any Australian university. It offers the most developed programs in undergraduate and postgraduate studies and is recognised as a leading centre of economic analysis and research. The discipline publishes the highly regarded Journal of Australian Political Economy and attracts significant research funding from ARC and other sources.

WHAT YOU CAN STUDY
Political Economy provides a focal point for critical inquiry into contemporary economic issues, taking account of their connections with social, political and environmental concerns.

The core units of undergraduate study within the Department include: Economics as a Social Science and International Economy and Finance. Elective units cover issues such as trade and development, the environment, financial volatility, human rights, gender, globalization, and neoliberalism.

WHERE IT CAN TAKE YOU
Graduating with a Political Economy major will open up a wide range of career opportunities for you. Past graduates are working in economic research, in education, in the public service and the private sector, as well as in non-government organisations. Many Political Economy graduates have gone on to become journalists working in both the print and electronic media, providing commentary on the state of the economy and other current affairs.
Other Political Economy graduates go on to work in the public sector and as Ministerial advisors, and contribute to the design and management of economic and other public policy. Several graduates have established high profiles as government ministers in Federal and State governments.

Career opportunities are varied and include:
- Economic Researcher
- Economics Teacher
- Policy Analyst and Advisor
- Economic and Financial Journalist
- Trade Union Researcher

MAJOR IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

A major in Political Economy requires at least 36 senior credit points from the unit of study table for Political Economy. This includes 12 credit points chosen from ECOP 2011 Economic Theories of Modern Capitalism, ECOP 2012 Social Foundations of Modern Capitalism or ECOP 2612 Economic Policy in Global Context. You will also complete 6 credit points from 3000-level units of study.

Your pathway commences with the completion of two junior units of study:
- ECOP 1001 Economics as a Social Science
- ECOP 1003 International Economy and Finance

The remaining credit points for your major can be taken from senior elective units of study such as:
- ECOP 2613 Political Economy of Global Capitalism
- ECOP 2614 The Political Economy of Gender
- ECOP 2616 Inequality and Distribution
- ECOP 2617 Globalisation and Labour
- ECOP 2618 Neoliberalism: Theory, Practice, Crisis
- ECOP 2619 Development in Emerging Economies
- ECOP 2911 Political Economy Honours II
- ECOP 3015 Political Economy of the Environment
- ECOP 3017 Human Rights in Development
- ECOP 3019 Finance: Volatility and Regulation
- ECOP 3601 Cyclical Fluctuations
- ECOP 3911 Theories in Political Economy
- ECOP 3912 Research in Political Economy

HONOURS IN POLITICAL ECONOMY

If you achieve at least a credit average in first year Political Economy units, you qualify to gain entry to special pre-honours courses. In 2nd and 3rd year you will undertake advanced units that will sharpen your research and writing skills. In 4th year, you will write your own honours thesis on a topic of your choice under the guidance of an academic supervisor. An honours degree in Political Economy is a valuable qualification that will open many doors for graduates.

THE BACHELOR OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

This is a degree designed to enable you to focus your studies on political, economic and social issues. The degree is flexible to provide the possibility for you to study other subject areas. A major should be chosen from one of the following: Economics, Government and International Relations, Political Economy, Sociology or Anthropology. You must also complete a minimum of 12 senior credit points from any two of the subject areas that are different to your core major.

A second major or other elective units can be chosen from any unit of study Table A or B subject area. Combining these different areas of study provide outstanding opportunities for you to pursue a wide range of career paths with government and public service, with business, in the non-government sector and internationally.

For more information on the Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences, please visit the Faculty of Arts website at:
http://sydney.edu.au/arts/future_students/courses/undergraduate/political-economic_social_science.shtml

For more information
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS) Department of Sociology and Social Policy Lower Level, RC Mills Building A26 T +61 2 9351 2650 F +61 2 9036 9380 E
ssps.enquiries@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/arts/sociology_social_policy/

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