POLITICAL ECONOMY

This major explores the intersection of economics with politics in domestic and international contexts. It prepares students for engagement with global and regional questions that require analysis of economic and political causes and consequences and provides a useful background for a wide variety of entry positions in the public and private sectors.

Opportunities for Students

• **Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics:**
  The mission of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics is to motivate students to become active in the world of politics and to encourage public officials to participate in the daily life of USC. The Unruh Research in Applied Politics Program supports research that addresses political topics of concern to the polity.

• **Study Abroad:** Explore political issues on the international scale in locations ranging from Cairo to Sao Paulo, Florence to Tokyo.

• **Omicron Delta Epsilon:** ODE, which dates back to 1915, is one of the world’s largest and most prestigious academic honors societies. Its basic objective is to recognize and honor outstanding academic achievements in economics. It also works to promote closer ties between students and faculty and among colleges and universities around the globe.

Notable Courses

• **ECON 330: The Political Economy of Institutions** — Social functions served by the rules, laws, regulations, and customs that constrain human activity. Processes whereby such institutions adapt, or fail to adapt, to changing circumstances.

• **ECON 395: Economic Policy Issues** — Selected policy dilemmas, including welfare reform, urban renewal, government budget deficits, regulation and deregulation, environmental problems, immigration, and global development.

• **IR 430: The Politics of International Trade** — Economic approaches and political processes are used to explain observed international trade policy choices. Topics covered include globalization, regionalism, labor standards, the environment and sanctions.

• **POSC 363: Cities and Regions in World Politics** — Cities and the rise of states; globalization and localization; federalism and decentralization; comparative politics of urban regions in developed and developing countries.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Lower Division Course Requirements*
- ECON 203: Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 205: Principles of Macroeconomics
- MATH 118: Fundamental Principles of Calculus
  or MATH 125: Calculus I

Introductory Course Requirement (select one)*
- IR 210: International Relations — Introductory Analysis
- POSSC 120: Comparative Politics
- POSSC 130: Law, Politics, and Public Policy

Economic Theory Course Requirement*
- ECON 303: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

Group 1 Course Requirements (select three, at least two from ECON)**
- ECON 332: Contracts, Organizations, and Institutions
- ECON 340: Economics of Less Developed Countries
- ECON 360: Public Finance
- ECON 366: Urban Economics
- POSSC 335: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

Group 2 Course Requirement (select one)**
- IR 325: North-South Relations in the Global Economy
- IR 360: International Relations of the Pacific Rim
- POSSC 380: Political Theories and Social Reform

Group 3 Course Requirements (select two, at least one from ECON)**
- ECON 450: International Trade
- ECON 487: Resource and Environmental Economics
- POSSC 425: Legislative Process
- POSSC 437: Mass Media and Politics

Group 4 Course Requirement (select one)**
- IR 454: The International Political Economy of Development
- POSSC 456: Women in International Development
- POSSC 463: European Politics

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/political-economy/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.