



VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Philosophy Department**

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**Memorandum**

TO: CLAHS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee  
FROM: Douglas Lind,  
Head, Department of Philosophy  
RE: Proposed major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics  
DATE:

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The Department of Philosophy endorses the proposed undergraduate major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, to be housed in the Department of Philosophy. The Department welcomes the enrollment of additional students in the Philosophy courses included in the proposed major, and we acknowledge that no additional resources are needed.

*Douglas Lind*

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VirginiaTech

College of Liberal Arts  
and Human Sciences

**Department of Political Science (0130)**  
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220 Stanger Street  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
540/231-6571 Fax: 540/231-6078

4 April 2017

Professor Michael Moehler  
Department of Philosophy

Dear Michael,

The check sheet for the potential major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) looks quite promising. We approve the inclusion of political science courses as electives, and we support the major. The political science department offers these courses on an annual basis, and this inclusion will not involve new resources.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

*Karen*

Karen M. Hult  
Chair and Professor

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY  
*An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution*



VirginiaTech

College of Science

**Department of Economics**

3016 Pamplin Hall (0316)  
880 West Campus Drive  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

April 28, 2017

Professor Michael Moehler  
Department of Philosophy,

Dr. Michael,

The Department of Economics supports the establishment of a major in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. We have examined the checksheet and approve the inclusion of the listed economics courses as electives. We can accommodate students from this new major with no additional resources.

Warm Regards,

Sheryl Ball  
Associate Professor and Associate Department Head

***Invent the Future***

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Department of Philosophy

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy: Major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)

Contact: Michael Moehler (moehler@vt.edu)

## 1 JUSTIFICATION

**Educational value.** Our world is characterized by complex individual and collective decision-making problems that often cut across the boundaries of academic disciplines. The proposed PPE Major trains students to address such interdisciplinary decision-making problems in our globalized world. It trains students to make decisions that are not only economically sound, but also socially, ethically, and politically informed. In addition, the PPE Major equips students with essential foundational skills that arise from actively engaging in the social sciences combined with philosophical reflection. In doing so, the PPE Major promotes the educational mission of Virginia Tech to offer its students an innovative, interdisciplinary learning environment in which they can grow individually and collectively and become reflective and engaged global citizens.

PPE as a program of study has a long tradition in the Anglo-American educational system and, pedagogically, fits well with the current (re)vision of the undergraduate curriculum at Virginia Tech, in particular the desire to create new interdisciplinary majors across campus. The PPE Major allows Virginia Tech to draw on a highly successful and established program of study and fulfill its current educational goal to attract a new type of student to Virginia Tech that values genuine interdisciplinary engagement and has "...the capacity to solve complex problems of a regional, national, and global scale that have yet to be envisioned." (Timothy D. Sands, "A Letter from Virginia Tech's President," *Beyond Boundaries*).

**Market analysis.** PPE as a program of study has become increasingly popular over the last decade, especially in the US. Many top research universities have such a program, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, Yale University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Columbia University, the University of Arizona, the London School of Economics, Oxford University, and the Australian National University. The increased popularity of PPE as a program of study reflects not only strong student demand in this field, but it also puts pressure on Virginia Tech to offer a similar opportunity to its students in order to continue to attract students of the highest caliber, including international students.

**PPE Program at Virginia Tech.** The Department of Philosophy has recognized this educational need and, in the academic year 2015-2016, established a PPE Program that is tailored specifically to the environment at Virginia Tech. This interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, and intercollegiate program integrates disciplines not only in the humanities and social sciences, but also in the fields of business, engineering, urban affairs and planning, geography, agricultural and applied economics, fish and wildlife conservation, and forest resources and environmental conservation. The program involves twelve departments in seven colleges across campus and includes more than twenty faculty affiliates who teach for the program. In its current form, the PPE Program consists of four components:

**I) PPE Minor.** The Department of Philosophy established the PPE Minor in January 2015, and, after two years of operation, the program has now about fifty students enrolled. This academic year, the PPE Minor has also been approved as Pathways Minor. For the PPE Minor, the Department of Philosophy developed two new cross-listed undergraduate courses, namely, the PPE Gateway Course and the PPE Capstone Course, that serve as the core integrative courses of the PPE Minor curriculum. The PPE Gateway Course and the PPE Capstone Course will also serve as the core integrative courses of the PPE Major curriculum.

**II) PPE Student Ambassadorships.** Each academic year, the PPE Program selects up to three undergraduate students to serve as ambassadors for the program. The primary tasks of the PPE Student Ambassadors are to (i) promote the PPE Program at Virginia Tech, (ii) work closely with the PPE Program Director as well as with the program's faculty and staff, and (iii) serve as a student contact for PPE events, such as the PPE Speaker Series and the PPE Distinguished Public Lecture. The PPE Student Ambassadorship allows selected students to develop leadership and professional skills and to gain a unique networking experience at Virginia Tech.

**III) PPE Speaker Series.** The PPE Program offers a public speaker series that forms an integral part of the PPE Gateway Course and the PPE Capstone Course. Each academic year, five guest speakers are invited to present their most recent work to PPE students and faculty at Virginia Tech as well as to the general public. PPE students have the opportunity to go for lunch or dinner with the guest speakers and thereby develop their academic and professional skills as well as have opportunities to network.

**IV) PPE Distinguished Public Lecture.** The PPE Program will offer an annual public lecture presented by a distinguished scholar of international reputation whose research cuts across the disciplinary boundaries of philosophy, political science, and economics and has significant social relevance. The goal of the Distinguished Public Lecture Series is to foster dialogue among faculty, students, and the general public about important social problems. Professor Martha Nussbaum will deliver the inaugural PPE Distinguished Public Lecture in the fall semester 2017.

**Justification for the PPE Major.** Establishing a PPE Major is the next step in the development of the PPE Program at Virginia Tech. The PPE Major not only strengthens the undergraduate curriculum at Virginia Tech, but also complements current degree offerings without competing directly with any of them. The primary target of the PPE Major is undergraduate students who desire to study in a genuinely interdisciplinary degree program in the humanities and social sciences at Virginia Tech and who would not necessarily enroll for a straight degree in philosophy, political science, or economics. The target group of the PPE Major is different from traditional students in philosophy, political science, and economics, although the PPE Major will increase the demand for some of the undergraduate courses in the core departments of the PPE Major.

## **2 WHOM THE MAJOR WILL SERVE**

**Curriculum.** The PPE Major offers a novel curriculum with distinct learning outcomes and focus on undergraduate research that students would not be able to gain if they were simply to double- or triple-major in philosophy, political science, and/or economics, and/or undertake a PPE Minor at Virginia Tech. The PPE Major curriculum requires a total of 120 credit hours divided as follows: 1) Pathways for General Education Requirements (45 credit hours), 2) Philosophy Degree Core

Courses (21 credit hours), 3) PPE Major Courses (24 credit hours), and 4) Free Electives (30 credit hours). Here is a detailed list of the Philosophy Degree Core Courses and the PPE Major Courses:

***Philosophy Degree Core Courses (21 credit hours)***

A. History of Philosophy (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list: PHIL 2115: Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy; PHIL 2116: Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy; PHIL 2125: History of Modern Philosophy; PHIL 2126: History of Modern Philosophy

B. Logic (3 credit hours). PHIL 3505: Modern Logic and Its Development

C. Value Theory (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list: PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice or PHIL 2304: Global Ethics; PSCI 3015 (PHIL 3015): Political Theory; PSCI 3016 (PHIL 3016): Political Theory; PHIL 3314: Ethical Theory; PHIL 3414 Aesthetics; PHIL 4304: Political Philosophy; PHIL 4324 (MGT 4324): Business and Professional Ethics

D. Core Analytic Philosophy (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list: PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality; PHIL 4204: Philosophy of Mind; PHIL 4214: Metaphysics; PHIL 4224: Epistemology; PHIL 4604: Philosophy of Biology; PHIL 4614: Philosophy of Science

***PPE Major Courses (24 credit hours)***

A. Integration (6 credit hours): PHIL 2894 (PSCI 2894) (ECON 2894): Introduction to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; and PHIL 4884 (PSCI 4884) (ECON 4884): Advanced Topics in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

B. Concentration in Political Science and Economics (18 credit hours, 9 credit hours from each area)

Political Science. PSCI 1014 (or 1014H): Introduction to US Government and Politics or PSCI 2014: Introduction to Political Theory; PSCI 2024: Research Methods in Political Science; PSCI 2064 (GEOG 2064) (IS 2064): The Global Economy and World Politics; PSCI 3016 (PHIL 3016): Political Theory; PSCI 3234: Voting and Elections; PSCI 3334: Judicial Process; PSCI 3344 (UAP 3344): Global Environmental Issues: Interdisciplinary Perspectives; PSCI 3364: Constitutional Law: Civil and Political Rights; PSCI 3554: Comparative Political Economy; PSCI 3724: Poverty and Welfare Policy; PSCI 3744: Public Policy Analysis; PSCI 3764: Contemporary Democratic Theory; PSCI 3774 (UAP 3774): Marxian Political Analysis

Economics. ECON 2005: Principles of Economics (micro) or ECON 2025H: Honors Principles of Economics (micro); ECON 2006: Principles of Economics (macro) or ECON 2026 H: Honors Principles of Economics (macro); ECON 3024: Economic Justice; ECON 3104: Microeconomic Theory; ECON 3204: Macroeconomic Theory; ECON 3214: Money and Banking; ECON 4014: Environmental Economics; ECON 4044: Public Economics; ECON 4054: Public Finance; ECON 4074: Labor Economics; ECON 4124: Growth and Development; AAEC 4135 (ECON 4135): International Economics; ECON 4214: Economics of Health Care; ECON 4424: The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior; ECON 4434: Experimental Economics; ECON 4894: Law and Economics

**Demographic of students, student benefits, and career options.** The PPE Major allows students from a great variety of disciplines to widen their horizons and engage in meaningful interdisciplinary research. Moreover, due to its analytic rigor, combination of normative and empirical analyses, and emphasis on the development of transferable skills, the PPE Major prepares students well for a wide variety of careers in the private and public sectors, such as careers in management, consulting, law, investment banking, finance, business administration, journalism, government, public administration, public policy, health care, international affairs, international development, and non-profit organizations. In addition, the PPE Major prepares students for academic programs, especially masters and doctoral programs in philosophy, political science, and economics, as well as related social sciences.

**Benefits to Virginia Tech.** The PPE Major will create institutional synergies by increasing the interactions among existing units at Virginia Tech and by advancing the integration of the undergraduate curriculum. The PPE major will facilitate new teaching and research collaborations across campus, not only among the Department of Philosophy, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of Economics, but also among other departments on campus that work on problems that involve social, ethical, political, and economic dimensions. In addition, the PPE Major is likely to attract international students, increase diversity on campus, and lead to the development of exchange programs with universities abroad, and thus increase the visibility of the humanities and social sciences at Virginia Tech not only on campus, but also off campus.

### **3 RESOURCE NEEDS**

No new resources are required to establish the proposed PPE Major at Virginia Tech.

### **4 ADMINISTRATION**

The PPE Major would be administered by the Department of Philosophy, but run jointly with the Department of Political Science and the Department of Economics at Virginia Tech. The requested effective term of the PPE Major is spring 2018, with the first class of graduating students in the calendar year 2020 (some students at Virginia Tech may have already taken some of the relevant courses for the major, including the PPE Gateway Course and the PPE Capstone Course).





## B. PPE Major Requirements

### I) Philosophy Degree Core Courses (21)

#### A. *History of Philosophy* (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list:

PHIL 2115: Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy	_____ (3)
PHIL 2116: Ancient Through Medieval Philosophy	_____ (3)
PHIL 2125: History of Modern Philosophy	_____ (3)
PHIL 2126: History of Modern Philosophy	_____ (3)

#### B. *Logic* (3 credit hours)

PHIL 3505: Modern Logic and Its Development	_____ (3)
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#### C. *Core Analytic Philosophy* (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list:

PHIL 1204: Knowledge and Reality	_____ (3)
PHIL 4204: Philosophy of Mind (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)
PHIL 4214: Metaphysics (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)
PHIL 4224: Epistemology (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)
PHIL 4604: Philosophy of Biology	_____ (3)
PHIL 4614: Philosophy of Science (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)

#### D. *Value Theory* (6 credit hours). Two courses from the following list:

PHIL 1304: Morality and Justice or PHIL 2304: Global Ethics	_____ (3)
PSCI 3015 (PHIL 3015): Political Theory (Pre: PSCI 2014)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3016 (PHIL 3016): Political Theory (Pre: PSCI 2014)	_____ (3)
PHIL 3314: Ethical Theory (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)
PHIL 3414: Aesthetics	_____ (3)
PHIL 4304: Political Philosophy (3 Philosophy credits required)	_____ (3)
PHIL 4324 (MGT 4324): Business and Professional Ethics	_____ (3)

### II) PPE Major Courses (24)

#### A. *Integration* (6 credit hours)

PHIL 2894 (PSCI 2894) (ECON 2894): Introduction to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics	_____ (3)
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PHIL 4884 (PSCI 4884) (ECON 4884): Advanced Topics in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (senior standing required, Pre: 2894 or PSCI 2894 or ECON 2894)	_____ (3)
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#### B. *Concentration in Political Science and Economics* (18 credit hours, 9 credit hours from each area)

##### *Political Science* (9 credit hours)

PSCI 1014(or H): Introduction to US Government and Politics or PSCI 2014: Introduction to Political Theory	_____ (3)
PSCI 2024: Research Methods in Political Science (Pre: 1014 or 1014H, 1024 or 1024H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 2064 (GEOG 2064) (IS 2064): The Global Economy and World Politics	_____ (3)
PSCI 3016 (PHIL 3016): Political Theory (Pre: 2014)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3234: Voting and Elections (Pre: 1014 or 1014H or 1024 or 1024H)	_____ (3)

PSCI 3334: Judicial Process (Pre: 1014 or 1014H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3344 (UAP 3344): Global Environmental Issues: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (Pre: Completion of Area 4 of University Core)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3364: Constitutional Law: Civil and Political Rights (Pre: 1014 or 1014H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3554: Comparative Political Economy (Pre: 1024 or 1024H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3724: Poverty and Welfare Policy (Pre: 1014 or 1014H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3744 (UAP 3744): Public Policy Analysis (Pre: 1014 or 1014H)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3764: Contemporary Democratic Theory (Pre: 2014, 3015 or 3016)	_____ (3)
PSCI 3774 (UAP 3774): Marxian Political Analysis (Pre: 2014, 3016 or 3554)	_____ (3)

*Economics (9 credit hours)*

ECON 2005: Principles of Economics (micro) or ECON 2025H: Honors Principles of Economics (micro)	_____ (3)
ECON 2006: Principles of Economics (macro) or ECON 2026H: Honors Principles of Economics (macro)	_____ (3)
ECON 3024: Economic Justice (Pre: 2005 or 2025H, 2006 or 2026H)	_____ (3)
ECON 3104: Microeconomic Theory (Pre: Must complete ECON 2005 (with a C or better) and obtain (1) a C- or better in MATH 1205, 1206 and 1114 or (2) a B- or better in MATH 1525 and 1526 or (3) a B- or better in MATH 1015, 1016 and 2015)	_____ (3)
ECON 3204: Macroeconomic Theory (Pre: (2006 or 2115 or 2125 or 2026H), (3104 or 4104H), (MATH 1226 or MATH 1526 or MATH 2015 or MATH 1026))	_____ (3)
ECON 3214: Money and Banking (Pre: 2005 or 2025H, 2006)	_____ (3)
ECON 4014: Environmental Economics (Pre: 2005 or 2116 or 2126 or 2025H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4044: Public Economics (Pre: 3104 or 2025H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4054: Public Finance (Pre: 3104 or 2025H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4074: Labor Economics (Pre: 2005 or 2116 or 2126 or 2025H, 3254)	_____ (3)
ECON 4124: Growth and Development (Pre: 2006, (2025H or 3104))	_____ (3)
AAEC 4135 (ECON 4135): International Economics (Pre: 3104 or 2025H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4214: Economics of Health Care (Pre: 2005 or 2025H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4424: The Theory of Games and Economic Behavior (Pre: 3104 or 4104H)	_____ (3)
ECON 4434: Experimental Economics (Pre: (3104 or 2025H), (BIT 2406 or STAT 2004 or STAT 3005))	_____ (3)
ECON 4894: Law and Economics (Pre: 2005)	_____ (3)

**Total credit hours required to complete the PPE Major Requirements: (45)**

*C. Free Electives*

**Free elective courses (30)**

**Total credit hours required for graduation (120)**

### *General PPE Major Requirements and Guidelines*

- (1) Departmental prerequisites and corequisites for all courses must be satisfied. Please consult the University Catalog for the latest statement of these requirements.
- (2) The PPE Gateway Course (PHIL/PSCI/ECON 2894: Introduction to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics) must be taken before the PPE Capstone Course (PHIL/PSCI/ECON 4884: Advanced Topics in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics), which is assumed to be the final course for fulfillment of the “PPE Major Requirements”.
- (3) Students must take at least five courses at the 3000-4000 level from the selection of “PPE Major Courses”.
- (4) No more than 50% of the graded course credits required for the PPE Major may be double-counted by a student also enrolled in a Philosophy, Political Science, or Economics major.
- (5) All courses to fulfill the “PPE Major Requirements” must be taken A/F and be completed with a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- (6) Foreign language requirement: Students who did not successfully complete at least two years of a single foreign, classical, or sign language during high school must successfully complete six semester hours of a single foreign, classical, or sign language at the college level. Courses taken to meet this requirement do not count toward the hours required for graduation. Please consult the Undergraduate Catalog for details.
- (7) Eligibility for continued enrollment: Checksheet requirements adhere to the “Satisfactory Progress” toward degree policy of the university (Policy 91).
- (8) A minimum of 120 semester credit hours is required for graduation.