B.A. in Political Economy

Political Economy studies how economies develop and how various groups and classes of people shape—and in turn are shaped by—the economy. Political Economy allows students to investigate how gender, race, ethnicity, and class shape the social world, including the economy.

The Political Economy major combines course work from Economics and other disciplines to create a coherent program investigating the behavior of the economy and society using a broader and more inclusive framework than found in standard economics programs. This program is an innovative blend of coursework from mainstream economics, heterodox economics, and non-economics disciplines.

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR
The B.A. in Political Economy provides students with a knowledge of contemporary issues and policy along with a set of practical skills preparing them for employment in community groups, unions, non-profits, government, and private businesses. This program also equips students to enter professional schools along with graduate schools in various disciplines.

The program provides students with great flexibility, and the ability to take courses from several different disciplines. Students will gain, however, the skills necessary to perform research and data analysis. Further, students will gain additional practical skills such as writing for the public, accounting, and geographic information systems.

Importantly, the program gives students the option to systematically investigate gender, race, and ethnicity.

Indeed, a partial overlap exists between the B.A. in Political Economy and the following minors:
- Minor in Ethnic Studies
- Minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies
- GE Minor in Diversity and Social Justice
- Minor in Sociology

Because of this overlap, students can easily combine the B.A. in Political Economy with one or more of the above minors. Further, students completing the B.A. in Political Economy will meet the requirements of the Minor in Economics.

To promote student engagement with the community, the program has a service-learning course.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
A major in political economy provides a solid foundation for a wide variety of careers.

Among the potential careers political economy majors can pursue include:
- Union Campaign Researcher
- Community Organizer
- Policy Analyst
- Union Organizer
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Legislative Aid
- Market Analyst
- Affirmative Action Counselor
- Political Organizer
- Program Manager
- Policy Director
- Communications Coordinator
- Social Media Coordinator
- Voter Contact Organizer
- Field Data Manager
- Speechwriter
- Legislative Representative
- Policy Advocate
- Tenant Organizer
- Community Care Advocate
- Research Associate

ECONOMICS FACULTY
- Yasemin Dildar (Ph.D. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2015), Feminist Economics, Development.
- Daniel MacDonald, (Ph.D. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2013), Labor, Economic History.
- Eric Nilsson (Ph.D. University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 1989), Political Economy, Climate Economics.
- Thomas Pierce, Teaching Emeritus (Ph.D. University of Notre Dame, 1976), Macroeconomics, Monetary Policy.
- Abhilasha Srivastava (Ph.D. American University, 2017), Feminist Economics, Political Economy.
- Mayo Toruño, Teaching Emeritus (Ph.D. University of California, Riverside, 1983), History of Political Economic Ideas, Political Economy of Latin America.
The B.A. in Political Economy provides the student with the skills and background needed to promote positive social change.

The major provides excellent preparation for a variety of jobs in local communities, in nonprofits, in unions, in government, and in the private sector. It also provides preparation for numerous graduate and professional schools.

Where to find us:
https://www.csusb.edu/economics/
Economics Department office: SBS 327
or send an e-mail to: economics@csusb.edu

Upper-division requirements (31 units)
ECON 3105  Political Economy
Three units chosen from:
ECON 3314  Public Economics
ECON 3316  Labor Economics
ECON 3400  Money, Banking, & Financial Markets
ECON 3500  Tools of Economic Analysis
ECON 3900  Writing in Economics
ECON 4525  Mixed Methods Research
ECON 5601  Service-Learning in Political Economy
Six units chosen from:
ECON 3101  Political Economy of Southern California
ECON 3103  Environmental Economics
ECON 3109  Political Economy of Women
ECON 3125  Economic History of the United States
ECON 3720  Behavioral Economics
ECON 3750  Origins of Political Economy
ECON 3790  Post-Keynesian Economics
ECON 4700  History of Economic Thought
ECON 4815  Global Inequality and Growth

Lower-division requirements (12-13 units)
ECON 2000  The Economy: Problems & Perspectives
Three units chosen from:
MATH 1201  Introduction of Statistical Thinking
MATH 2265  Statistics with Applications
ADMN 2100  Applied Business Statistics
Three units chosen from:
MATH 1301  Modeling with Functions
MATH 1401  Accelerated Preparation for Calculus
MATH 1601  Modeling with Calculus
One course chosen from
ACCT 2110  Introductory Accounting I
COMM 2301  Newswriting and Reporting
ENG 2400  Wiring in the Public Sphere
GEOG 2250  Introduction to GIS and Cartography

Six units chosen from:
ANTH 3603  Gendered Worlds: Power, Difference, & Inequality
GEOG 3050  Economic Geography
GEOG 3501  Environmental Sustainability
GSS 4200  Feminist Theory
GSS 4250  Women as Agents of Social Change
GSS 4500  Queer Theory
HIST 3230  Introduction to Public and Oral History
PHIL 3330  Social and Political Philosophy
PSCI 3300  State and Local Politics
PSYC 3354  Organizational Psychology
SOC 4100  Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
SOC 4200  Social Movements
SOC 4220  Sociology of Work
SOC 4340  Community Organization
SOC 4440  Sociology of Sex and Gender
SSCI 3160  Race and Racism
SSCI 3390  Climate Change