School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Graduate Programs in Political Science

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

75 hours minimum beyond the baccalaureate degree

Faculty


Associate Professors: Patrick T. Brandt, Linda Camp Keith, Clint W. Peinhardt, Gregory S. Thielemann

Clinical Associate Professors: Brian Beary, Karl K. Ho

Assistant Professor: Banks P. Miller

Mission Statement

The Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science provides a rigorous, disciplinary program with strong multidisciplinary links. The Program consists of innovative, state-of-the-science graduate education in political methodology and the fields of comparative politics and international relations; political institutions and American politics; and law and courts. In the first two years of the program, students acquire basic research skills and tools, and work on research projects. Later, they have opportunities to develop their instructional and presentation skills, to participate in summer methodology programs, and to interact with highly regarded scholars and practitioners in their fields of study.

Objectives

• Students will engage in critical and constructive thinking, effective communication to academic audiences, and rigorous design and execution of research projects.

• Students will describe, classify, and analyze the causes and consequences of the unprecedented unfolding of democracy on a global scale, its successes and failures, and its opportunities and problems during an era of globalization, and of ongoing subnational, national, and transnational conflicts and negotiations.

• Students will describe, classify, and analyze the major theories, methods, and findings that are used to explain the participation of individuals in a variety of institutional settings in the United States and elsewhere, how public institutions can be designed to promote both collective goods and individual gains, and how changes in institutions have consequences for individuals and public policy.

• Students will describe, classify, and analyze the major theories and empirical findings about the behavior of judges, interactions between the judiciary and other institutions, and the role of courts in the evolution of public policy, and the definition and protection of human rights around the world.

• Students will acquire the professional socialization necessary to teach and to conduct
research in American, comparative, or international government and politics; democratization, globalization, and international relations; governmental and political institutions and processes; and public administration, decision making, and risk management.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the university's computer labs. The school has four computing laboratories which house 24-30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including EViews, R, RATS, S-Plus, SPSS, and Stata. Computerized geographic information system software (e.g. ARC-GIS), the LexisNexis database, and Westlaw are also available for student use. The university's computer labs provide personal computers and UNIX workstations.

Many important data and reference materials are available online from professional associations or at UT Dallas via the library's and school's memberships in the American Political Science Association, the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), the Roper Center, the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), and other organizations. The library has a substantial number of political science journals and access to journals via loan.

Students have opportunities to participate in research programs directed by members of the faculty. As appropriate, some students may become involved in methodological development activities offered by the school's memberships in the ICPSR, ECPR, and UCGIS. In addition, some students may be eligible to participate in the professional development activities provided by faculty who co-edit the journal Electoral Studies.

Admission Requirements

The university's general admission requirements are discussed on the Graduate Admission page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/admission).

The Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science Program seeks applications from individuals with a baccalaureate, Master of Arts, or Master of Science degree in Government and Politics, Political Science, Public Administration, Public Affairs or a relevant discipline. The degree must be from an institution of higher education. An undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.2 and a combined quantitative and verbal Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score of 310 are desirable for students who expect to progress satisfactorily towards graduation. An analytical writing score of at least 4.5 in the GRE is considered desirable. Applicants also may submit their score from the writing component of the GRE as additional evidence of their admission eligibility. Applicants should submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation (preferably from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study and research), and a one-page essay describing educational and professional objectives. Grade point average (GPA), GRE score, and other information pertaining to the applicants' educational background and professional goals are among the factors that are considered in determining direct admission. Applications are reviewed by the Political Science Program Committee in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

To attract the best students, editorial, research and teaching assistantships are available. Prospective students interested in teaching assistantships should apply for admission to start in the fall by February 15. Editorial assistantships are available through several of the professional journals supported by the university. Research assistantships may be
available with individual faculty who have funding from external sources. Other assistantships are provided to work with faculty at the Center for Texas Politics or on instructional activities. Students who lack the necessary background to start the program are advised to take courses that strengthen their preparation, but these courses do not receive credit towards the PhD Program. Undergraduate students who are interested in completing their undergraduate degrees while simultaneously taking graduate courses in the Political Science PhD Program are expected to meet the school's "fast-tracking" requirements.

Degree Requirements

The university’s general degree requirements are discussed on the Graduate Policies and Procedures page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/policies/policy). On admission to the PhD in Political Science Program, the student earns a minimum of 75 semester credit hours of coursework and dissertation credit beyond the baccalaureate degree. Core semester credit hours include four courses in political science methodology and theory, and three proseminars in the program fields. The three fields are comparative politics and international relations; political institutions and American politics; and law and courts. Additional coursework includes four courses in the major field, two courses in the minor field, and at least three courses of freely chosen elective credits. Students may use these electives to complete an optional concentration in research methods. Prior to admission to doctoral candidacy and further work on the dissertation or practicum, the student must pass examinations in the subjects covered by the core and field courses. Students must receive a grade of B- or better in all core courses and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate.

On examination completion, the student proceeds to present a doctoral dissertation or practicum proposal. The proposal must be approved by his/her advisory committee not later than two consecutive semesters after examination completion. Upon committee approval, the student does further work on the doctoral dissertation or practicum while enrolling continuously for credit in research seminars and in dissertation or practicum research. The dissertation has multiple chapters that consist of a clear statement of the research problem, the theoretical framework and research design, the methods of analysis and findings, and an appropriately developed conclusion. The practicum consists of three papers that may or may not be thematically related and are informed by the theories and methodology of the student's major field. All three papers must be suitable for presentation at a major professional meeting and/or submission to a peer-reviewed professional journal.

Semester Credit Hour Requirements

Core Courses in Political Science Methodology and Theory: 21 semester credit hours
Field Proseminars: 9 semester credit hours
Program Fields: 9 semester credit hours
Courses in Major Field: 12 semester credit hours
Courses in Minor Field: 6 semester credit hours
Freely Chosen Elective Credit: at least 9 semester credit hours
Dissertation or Practicum Research: up to 27 semester credit hours
Total (Minimum): 75 semester credit hours

Core Courses in Political Science Methodology and Theory (12 semester credit hours)
- EPPS 7313 Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
- EPPS 7316 Regression and Multivariate Analysis
- PSCI 6350 Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science
- PSCI 6352 Empirical Democratic Theory

Field Proseminars [9 semester credit hours]
- PSCI 6300 Proseminar in Comparative Politics and International Relations
- PSCI 6311 Proseminar in Law and Courts
- PSCI 6347 Proseminar in Political Institutions and American Politics

Students who lack the math background for EPPS 7313 and EPPS 7316 may need to do additional work before completing these requirements.

Program Fields [9 semester credit hours]
Comparative Politics and International Relations
- PPPE 6319 Political Economy of MNCs
- PSCI 6309 International Political Economy
- PSCI 6316 International Organizations
- PSCI 6335 Institutions and Development
- PSCI 6337 Comparative Institutions
- PSCI 6357 Political Economy of Latin America
- PSCI 6362 Political Development
- PSCI 6363 Conflict and Development
- PSCI 6361 Political Violence and Terrorism
- PSCI 7330 Contemporary International Security

Political Institutions and American Politics
- PSCI 6314 Policy Processes, Implementation and Evaluation
- PSCI 6323 Public Choice
- PSCI 6324 Local and State Government and Politics
- PSCI 6330 Campaigns and Elections
PSCI 6331 Executives, Legislatures and Public Policy
PSCI 6333 Political and Civic Organizations
PSCI 6337 Comparative Institutions
PSCI 6339 Election Law and Electoral Systems
PSCI 6343 Law and the Policy Process
PSCI 7350 Institutions and Citizen Behavior
PSCI 7352 Choice and Decision Making

Law and Courts
PSCI 6301 Constitutional Law
PSCI 6305 Workshop in Constitutional Law Studies
PSCI 6306 Human Rights and International Law
PSCI 6339 Election Law and Electoral Systems
PSCI 6342 Comparative Courts and Law
PSCI 6343 Law and the Policy Process

Minor Field Courses (6 semester credit hours)

Freely Chosen Electives (9 semester credit hours minimum)

Dissertation or Practicum Research (27 semester credit hours maximum)

Research Methods Concentration: optional (9 semester credit hours)

Students can complete a concentration in research methods by taking three courses from the following list. Students must consult with the Director of Graduate Studies in advance to determine which courses fit best with their research interests.

ECON 6306 Applied Econometrics
ECON 6309 Econometrics I
ECON 6316 Spatial Econometrics
ECON 6320 Game Theory for the Social Sciences
ECON 6380 Experimental Economics I
ECON 7309 Econometrics II
ECON 7315 Econometrics III
ECON 7316 Game Theory
Master of Arts in Political Science

30 semester credit hours minimum

Faculty


Associate Professors: Patrick T. Brandt, Linda Camp Keith, Clint W. Peinhardt, Gregory S. Thielemann

Clinical Associate Professors: Brian Beary, Karl K. Ho

Assistant Professor: Banks P. Miller

Mission

The mission of the Master of Arts in Political Science (MAPS) degree is to offer advanced instruction in the social science literature and theories about politics, citizenship, and governance. The program serves the interests and needs of talented students who can commit initially to a 30-semester credit hour program but may be attracted subsequently to the PhD program, as well as those who can commit initially to the doctoral program but subsequently decide not to complete the program. The Master of Arts in Political Science further can satisfy the interests and talents of students who "fast-track" in the Political
Science undergraduate program and who want an additional year of more rigorous, sharply focused graduate coursework in Political Science.

Objectives

Students in the Master of Arts in Political Science program will:

- Demonstrate the ability to apply political science theories and concepts to the study of citizenship, governance, and politics.
- Develop a competency in one of the fields of comparative politics and international relations; political institutions and American politics; and law and courts.
- Develop basic skills in professional communication appropriate to political science research and analysis.
- Develop competency in analysis, evaluation, and research design relevant to political science research and analysis.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the university's computer labs. The school has four computing laboratories that have 24-30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including EViews, R, RATS, SPSS, and Stata. A computerized geographic information system, the LexisNexis database, and Westlaw are also available for student use. The university's computer labs provide personal computers and UNIX workstations. Many important data and reference materials are available online from professional associations or at UT Dallas via the library's and school's memberships in the American Political Science Association, the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, the European Consortium for Political Research, the Roper Center, and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Systems, and other organizations.

Admissions Requirement

The university's general admission requirements are discussed on the Graduate Admissions page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/admission). The Master of Arts in Political Science seeks applications from students with a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education. Although applications will be reviewed holistically, in general, entering students have earned a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (on a 4.0 point scale), and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 300 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Standardized test scores are only one of the factors taken into account in determining admission. Applicants should also submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation (preferably from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study), and a one-page essay outlining the applicant's background, education, and professional objectives. Applications are reviewed by the Political Science Program Committee in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Undergraduate students who are interested in completing their undergraduate degrees while simultaneously taking graduate courses in the MA in Political Science program are expected to meet the school's "fast-tracking" requirements.
Prerequisites

While there are no specific course prerequisites, entering students will benefit from exposure to undergraduate courses in the economics, political sciences, sociology, college algebra, statistics, public policy, and research design. In cases where undergraduate preparation is not adequate, students may be required to take additional course work before starting the master's program.

Transfer Policies

Students who have previous graduate work pertinent to the requirements of a master's program may be given up to 6 semester credit hours of transfer credit, and the semester credit hours of coursework required for the degree will be reduced accordingly. Students desiring to transfer graduate courses thought to be equivalent to core courses may be required to demonstrate competency through examination. The award of such transfer credit must be consistent with the university's "Transfer of Credit" policy.

Degree Requirements

The university's general degree requirements are discussed on the Graduate Policies and Procedures page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/policies/policy). Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work in the program, must receive a grade of B- or better in all required courses, and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate.

The curriculum has two components:

1. Fifteen semester credit hours of required coursework
2. Fifteen semester credit hours of prescribed electives

Required Courses: 15 semester credit hours

All students should complete the core courses as soon as possible.

All of the following:

- **EPPS 6313** Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- **PSCI 6350** Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science
- **PSCI 6352** Empirical Democratic Theory

Two of the following:

- **PSCI 6300** Proseminar in Comparative Politics and International Relations
- **PSCI 6311** Proseminar in Law and Courts
- **PSCI 6347** Proseminar in Political Institutions and American Politics

Prescribed Electives: 15 semester credit hours

Two additional courses at the 5000 or 6000 level in one of the following fields: Comparative Politics and International Relations; Political Institutions and American Politics; or Law and Courts.
Three additional political science courses at the 5000 or 6000 level, or methodology courses such as applied regression (EPPS 6316) or other methods courses offered throughout the school, or up to three credits of optional thesis (independent study).

Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies

30 semester credit hours minimum

Faculty

Professors: Thomas L. Brunell, Anthony M. Champagne, Marianne C. Stewart, John L. Worrall
Associate Professors: Denise Paquette Boots, Patrick T. Brandt, Linda Camp Keith
Assistant Professor: Banks P. Miller

Mission

The mission of the Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies degree is to provide students with the reasoning and analytic skills necessary to understand the technical rules of law, legal practices and policies, and law more generally as a social phenomenon. It serves the interests and needs of students who want an intellectually rigorous legal education as preparation for law school, for more advanced graduate learning, or for law-related careers in teaching, journalism, government, policy-making, or the private sector.

Objectives

Students in the Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies program will:

• Acquire detailed knowledge of the role of the judicial system in the evolution of public policy in the United States.
• Acquire detailed knowledge of the roles played by practicing attorneys in the development and application of public law in the United States.
• Demonstrate basic skills in legal research and writing.
• Develop competency in the application of theories of the evolution of constitutional law to United States Supreme Court decisions.
• Demonstrate the ability to conduct original research on law and courts using skills in legal research and writing, quantitative research or field research.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the university's computer labs. The school has four computing laboratories that have 24-30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including EViews, R, RATS, SPSS, and Stata. A computerized geographic information system, the LexisNexis database, and Westlaw are also available for student use. The university's computer labs provide personal computers and UNIX workstations. Many important data and reference materials are available online from professional associations or at UT Dallas via the library's and school's memberships in the American Political Science Association, the Inter-University Consortium for Political
and Social Research, the European Consortium for Political Research, the Roper Center, and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Systems, and other organizations.

The Center for American and International Law, an internationally known organization that provides professional development to lawyers, judges, and law enforcement officers, helps to administer the Capstone Seminar in Constitutional Law Studies in which leading lawyers and judges provide lectures on law and the legal process.

Admissions Requirement

The university's general admission requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Admission page](catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/admission).

The Master of Arts in Political Science seeks applications from students with a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education. Although applications will be reviewed holistically, in general, entering students have earned a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (on a 4.0 point scale), and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 300 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Standardized test scores are only one of the factors taken into account in determining admission. Applicants should also submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation (preferably from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for graduate study), and a one-page essay outlining the applicant's background, education, and professional objectives. Applications are reviewed by the Political Science Program Committee in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

Undergraduate students who are interested in completing their undergraduate degrees while simultaneously taking graduate courses in the MA in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies program are expected to meet the school's "fast-tracking" requirements.

Prerequisites

While there are no specific course prerequisites, entering students will benefit from exposure to undergraduate courses in the economics, political sciences, sociology, college algebra, statistics, public policy, and research design. In cases where undergraduate preparation is not adequate, students may be required to take additional course work before starting the master's program.

Transfer Policies

Students who have previous graduate work pertinent to the requirements of a master's program may be given up to 6 semester credit hours of transfer credit, and the semester credit hours of coursework required for the degree will be reduced accordingly. Students desiring to transfer graduate courses thought to be equivalent to core courses may be required to demonstrate competency through examination. The award of such transfer credit must be consistent with the university's "Transfer of Credit" policy.

Degree Requirements

The university's general degree requirements are discussed on the [Graduate Policies and Procedures page](catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/policies/policy).

Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science - Constitutional Law Studies must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work in the program, must receive a grade of B- or better in all required courses, and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point
average to graduate.
The curriculum has two components:

1. Twenty-one semester credit hours of required coursework
2. Nine semester credit hours of prescribed electives

**Major Required Courses: 21 semester credit hours**
All students should complete the core courses as soon as possible.

**One of the following:**
- [EPPS 6313](#) Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- [PSCI 6350](#) Logic, Methodology, and Scope of Political Science

**All of the following:**
- [PSCI 5306](#) The American Legal System and the Practice of Law
- [PSCI 5307](#) Legal Reasoning and Writing
- [PSCI 6301](#) Constitutional Law
- [PSCI 6305](#) Workshop in Constitutional Law Studies
- [PSCI 6311](#) Proseminar in Law and Courts
- [PSCI 6343](#) Law and the Policy Process

**Prescribed Electives: 9 semester credit hours**

**Three of the following:**
- [CRIM 6311](#) Criminal Justice Policy
- [CRIM 6317](#) Courts
- [CRIM 6348](#) Drugs and Crime
- [EPPS 6316](#) Applied Regression
- [PA 6319](#) Topics in Public Affairs
- [PSCI 5308](#) Immigration Law
- [PSCI 6306](#) Human Rights and International Law
- [PSCI 6331](#) Executives, Legislatures and Public Policy
- [PSCI 6339](#) Election Law and Electoral Systems

Other courses as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies

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Master of Arts in Political Science - Legislative Studies

30 semester credit hours minimum
Faculty

Professors: Thomas L. Brunell, Anthony M. Champagne, Marianne C. Stewart, John L. Worrall
Associate Professors: Patrick T. Brandt, Linda Camp Keith, Clint W. Peinhardt, Gregory S. Thielemann
Assistant Professor: Banks P. Miller

Mission

The mission of the Master of Arts in Political Science - Legislative Studies degree is to offer pre-professional instruction for students interested in positions as legislative staff, political consultants, or other careers in professional politics. Students will receive instruction that moves beyond the standard coursework in American and Texas government and politics by advancing their knowledge of legislative processes and the role that legislatures play at the local, state, and national levels of government. Graduates will have the communication, research, and project management skills that are necessary for undertaking policy or political analysis in legislative and/or public affairs offices of the state of Texas and elsewhere.

Objectives

Students in the Master of Arts in Political Science - Legislative Studies program will:

• Demonstrate knowledge of subnational political institutions and processes in the United States and their effects on politics and policy.
• Demonstrate knowledge of normative issues in contemporary democracies involving representation, influence, and the balance of majority and minority interests, and the ability to evaluate political institutions and processes in the United States.
• Demonstrate proficiency in skills required for at least one position in the practice of politics by successfully completing an internship.

Facilities

Students have access to the computing facilities in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences and the university's computer labs. The school has four computing laboratories that have 24-30 computers that are network linked and equipped with major social science software packages, including EViews, R, RATS, SPSS, and Stata. A computerized geographic information system, the LexisNexis database, and Westlaw are also available for student use. The university's computer labs provide personal computers and UNIX workstations. Many important data and reference materials are available online from professional associations or at UT Dallas via the library's and school's memberships in the American Political Science Association, the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, the European Consortium for Political Research, the Roper Center, and the University Consortium for Geographic Information Systems, and other organizations.

Students also have access to the non-partisan Center for the Study of Texas Politics. The Center develops opportunities for North Texans to interact with Texas' leading policymakers while simultaneously enhancing the quality of instruction, research, and service that exists in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.
Admissions Requirement

The university's general admission requirements are discussed on the Graduate Admissions page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/admission).

The Master of Arts in Political Science seeks applications from students with a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education. Although applications will be reviewed holistically, in general, entering students have earned a 3.0 undergraduate grade point average (on a 4.0 point scale), and a combined verbal and quantitative score of at least 300 on the Graduate Records Examination (GRE). Standardized test scores are only one of the factors taken into account in determining admission. Applicants should also submit all transcripts, three letters of recommendation (preferably from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for a career in professional politics), and a one-page essay outlining the applicant's background, education, and professional objectives. Applications are reviewed by the Political Science Program Committee in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences.

Undergraduate students who are interested in completing their undergraduate degrees while simultaneously taking graduate courses in the MA in Political Science - Legislative Studies program are expected to meet the school's "fast-tracking" requirements.

Prerequisites

While there are no specific course prerequisites, entering students will benefit from exposure to undergraduate courses in the economics, political sciences, sociology, college algebra, statistics, public policy, and research design. In cases where undergraduate preparation is not adequate, students may be required to take additional course work before starting the master's program.

Transfer Policies

Students who have previous graduate work pertinent to the requirements of a master's program may be given up to 6 semester credit hours of transfer credit, and the semester credit hours of coursework required for the degree will be reduced accordingly. Students desiring to transfer graduate courses thought to be equivalent to core courses may be required to demonstrate competency through examination. The award of such transfer credit must be consistent with the university's "Transfer of Credit" policy.

Degree Requirements

The university's general degree requirements are discussed on the Graduate Policies and Procedures page (catalog.utdallas.edu/2014/graduate/policies/policy).

Students seeking a Master of Arts in Political Science - Legislative Studies must complete at least 30 semester credit hours of work in the program, must receive a grade of B- or better in all required classes, and must maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average to graduate.

Major Required Courses: 9 semester credit hours

- EPPS 6313 Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- PSCI 6352 Empirical Democratic Theory

One of the following:
Prescribed Electives: 9 semester credit hours

Three from the following list of courses:

- PSCI 6314 Policy Processes, Implementation and Evaluation
- PSCI 6324 Local and State Government and Politics
- PSCI 6330 Campaigns and Elections
- PSCI 6331 Executives, Legislatures and Public Policy
- PSCI 6332 The U.S. Congress
- PSCI 6333 Political and Civic Organizations
- PSCI 6339 Election Law and Electoral Systems
- PSCI 6341 Texas Legislative Process
- PSCI 7350 Institutions and Citizen Behavior
- PSCI 6364 Public Opinion and Survey Research
  or EPPS 7386 Survey Research

Free Electives: 6 semester credit hours

Two additional courses at the 5000-level or above offered by programs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, subject to approval by the Director of Graduate Studies. These may include additional courses from the list above.

Internship: 6 semester credit hours

- PSCI 6V42 Legislative Affairs Internship (6 semester credit hours total; can be spread over more than one semester). Internships can be done in Austin, TX or Washington, D.C., or with another state or local government agency or political organization.

1. Semester credit hours are counted as part of major core.
2. Students cannot receive credit for both courses, PSCI 6364 and EPPS 7386.