

PE Concentration Narratives

We are sharing with you a first hand account of how peer advisors in the PE major narrowed down their concentration topic and selected the four courses towards it. We are hoping the following narratives will help you in your journey as you finalize your concentration topic and concentration courses for the PE major.

Nareh A.

Hello! I'm Nareh, your friendly Peer Advisor at the Political Economy Department. My concentration topic is *Sustainability and Development*. I have always had a passion towards environmental sustainability and one of the most pressing issues in our world is climate change and environmental degradation. Thus, I wanted my degree in Political Economy to be centered around this issue to increase my knowledge on the subject. So far I have taken **HIST 103U** - *Before the Green New Deal: The History of Environmental Thought and Activism* and **ISF 100K** - *Health and Development*. I plan on taking **SOC 127** - *Development and Globalization* and **PUB HLTH 101** - *A Sustainable World: Challenges and Opportunities*. I have so far enjoyed my experience in the various departments and found it enlightening interacting with students and professors from different departments and academic backgrounds. My concentration has been academically fulfilling and eye-opening with the knowledge I have gained. I hope to use my concentration beyond in my career and in improving my homeland, Armenia.

Classes I have taken so far:

- History 103U: Before the Green New Deal: The History of Environmental Thought and Activism
- ISF 100K: Health and Development

Classes I plan to take:

- SOC 127 - Development and Globalization
- PUB HLTH 101 - A Sustainable World: Challenges and Opportunities

Areni C.

Hi! I'm Areni, a Peer Advisor for the Political Economy major. My concentration is *Global Health and Development*. Since I plan on pursuing a graduate degree in Public Health, my concentration classes are applicable to my field and pique my interest. Global health equity is a career goal I hope to work towards, and I believe that the Political Economy coursework combined with coursework from other departments - like Public Health and Environmental Science, Policy, and Management - will help me towards it. I chose **SOC 139H** - *Social Inequalities in Health* because it provided a sociological perspective of health equity. **GPP 115** - *Global Poverty* supplied a holistic analysis of international development and the theoretical frameworks of it. I chose **ESPM 162A** - *Health, Medicine, Society, and Environment* to understand the ethical aspects of community health. Finally, **PUB HLTH 118** - *Nutrition in Developing Countries* gave me the specialization I wanted in Global Nutrition. The Berkeley Public Health program emphasizes the importance of the Social Determinants of Health - I am so grateful that the Political Economy coursework provided the perfect foundation to understand and analyze said determinants. I hope my interdisciplinary understanding of public health will prove advantageous to my future career, especially aiding in the attainment of global health equity.

The classes I took were:

- SOCIOL 139H - Social Inequalities in Health
- ESPM 162A - Health, Medicine, Society, and Environment
- GPP 115 - Global Poverty
- PH 118 - Nutrition in Developing Countries

Stacy G.

Hi! My name is Stacy and I am one of the Peer Advisors within the Political Economy department and my concentration is *Inequality within the United States*. Coming into the major I had no idea what classes I wanted to take, but inequality was always part of my life and that made me want to look into it further. Focusing on the causes and consequences of inequality, I was curious to see the ways that inequalities manifest themselves beyond economic problems. For this reason when looking at the classes I was choosing I decided to take two more theory based classes, **POLECON 138 - Gender and Capitalism** & **GEOG 155 - Race, Space, and Inequality**, to understand the structures that enable and create inequality. Then I added on my **ESPM 163AC - Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity, and the Environment** and **PUB POL C103 - Wealth and Poverty** courses to see how these inequalities develop in society environmentally and socio-economically. These four classes gave me a solid understanding of inequality from different lenses and department points of views. When declaring I had a set of four classes completely different from the ones below, and would encourage you to not worry too much about it everything will work out! Meeting with advisors and letting them know about courses I wanted to take made my experience with concentrations smoother, I always had the support needed in case I wanted to change something. This concentration really gives you the freedom to explore and develop any interests you might have, use this to your advantage and create something that you will genuinely enjoy!

Classes that made up my concentration were:

- ESPM 163AC: Environmental Justice: Race, Class, Equity, and the Environment
- PubPol C103: Wealth and Poverty
- PE 138: Gender and Capitalism
- GEOG 155: Race, Space, and Inequality

Incia H.

Hi everyone! I'm Incia and I am one of the Peer Advisors for Berkeley's Political Economy major. My Political Economy concentration is *Global Inequality and Development*. I was highly interested in both of these two concepts after taking classes such as **Political Economy 100 - Classical Theories of Political Economy** and **POLECON 101 - Contemporary Theories of Political Economy**. In these classes, we discussed how issues surrounding these concepts have arisen on a global scale as a result of faults in our current global economic system. Additionally, I wanted my concentration to be much more broad and interdisciplinary, rather than specialized, because I wanted to keep my options open for classes I would be able to take to fulfill the concentration. Two of my classes for the concentration focus on Inequality and two focus on Development. Additionally, the four classes focused on issues in a variety of regions; for example, **Global 123L - Perspectives in Rural and Sustainable Development** focused mostly on Latin American countries. I am interested in careers in international law, so I believe my concentration has allowed me to gain more knowledge about global systems and how economic policies and decisions affect so many people.

The classes I took were:

- Economics 133 - Global Inequality and Growth
- Sociology 130 - Social Inequalities
- Global Studies 123L - Perspectives in Rural and Sustainable Development
- Sociology 127 - Development and Globalization

Jillian H.

Hi! I am Jillian and I am a fourth year Political Economy major on the Peer Advising Team. My concentration is *International Trade*. I chose this concentration because I have always been interested in international affairs, and am fascinated by how international trade connects the world. I have enjoyed my concentration because it has allowed me to learn about the same topics, such as immigration, tariffs, quotas, and trade, through two different lenses: one focused on economic underpinnings and the other on larger societal implications. By taking classes in departments that approach international trade from different perspectives, I feel I have gained an extremely well-rounded understanding of the subject. Furthermore, through taking classes focused on development and globalization, I have been able to better understand the historical implications of international trade on the global economy, and how trade is influencing the current international system. I feel my concentration has prepared me very well as I embark on a career focused on international trade and finance.

The classes I took were:

- ECON C181 - International Trade
- POLI SCI 126A - International Political Economy
- Global C 100D - Global Developments: Theory, History, Geography
- SOC 127 - Development and Globalization

Stephany S.

Hi! I am Stephany, a Peer Advisor for the Spring 2022 semester. My Political Economy concentration is *International Development*. In **POLECON 101 - Contemporary Theories of Political Economy**, we covered topics on development theory and economic history, and I found macroeconomic policy change throughout the years to be very interesting. I was also interested in the political economy of Asia, so I wanted to learn more about how economic development is achieved in other countries. Every country has its own story and develops at their own pace, and the challenge is figuring out what policies work given the country's circumstances. There are still many developing countries out there that are worth observing to help find solutions for their economic challenges, so I thought that the International Development concentration was very practical and would be something that I could put into practice in a future career.

The classes that I took were:

- CYPLAN 115 - Urbanization in Developing Countries
- GLOBAL 151Q - Global China
- ECON C171 - Development Economics
- LEGALST 158 - Law and Development

Hildeberto V.

Hello! My name is Hildeberto, I am one of the Political Economy Peer Advisors. My PE concentration is *Economic Development in Latin America*. Taking **POLECON 101 - Contemporary Theories of Political Economy** helped me decide my concentration as this class introduced me to different theories of development such as Import Substitution Industrialization. This particular development strategy was often implemented in Latin America which allowed me to further narrow down my concentration to this region of the world. The classes I took helped me answer two questions I had: Why Latin American countries chose certain development strategies? And why did these strategies fail to help develop the region? I also wanted to learn about the role law and politics played in the failure of these development strategies which is why I took **LEGALST 158 - Law and Development** and **POLI SCI 148A - Latin American Politics**. Finally, I decided to take **GLOBAL 123L -**

Perspectives for Sustainable Rural Development in order to learn more about alternative development strategies that emphasize sustainability and how this can help the region.

The classes that made up my concentration are:

- LEGALST 158 - Law and Development
- POLI SCI 148A - Latin American Politics
- GLOBAL 123L - Perspectives for Sustainable Rural Development
- POLECON 160 - Political Economy in Historical Context

If you have questions or need further guidance, please connect with one of the [PE advisors](#).