

Global Poverty and Practice

Overview

The Global Poverty and Practice (GPP) program is an undergraduate minor, administered by The Blum Center for Developing Economies.

The GPP Minor introduces students to the frameworks, methods, and practical skills necessary to engage with global poverty and inequality in effective ways. Central to the minor is a "Practice Experience" in which students intern or volunteer with domestic or international non-governmental or community organizations, government agencies, or other poverty or development programs, on various dimensions of poverty action. The combination of the the coursework for the Minor and this real world experience allows students to connect theories and practices of poverty action.

Students graduating with a minor in Global Poverty and Practice will be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the following:

1. Scholarly approaches to understanding poverty, wealth, and inequality in a historical and global context
2. Knowledge of international development and domestic poverty alleviation policies, programs, institutions, and social movements
3. Critical engagement in public debates about poverty and poverty action through written texts, as well as through the use of social, digital, and visual media
4. Knowledge of the history and contemporary politics of poverty and inequality in a particular place or world region, in preparation for the practice requirement of the minor
5. Analytical and practical skills gained through a practice experience in a particular sector of poverty action (e.g., agricultural and rural development, urban poverty, public health, human rights, legal systems, education, energy resources, and sustainable technology), at various scales (e.g., community, global) and in various forms (e.g., government policy, social movements)
6. An understanding of different modalities and relations of power involved in poverty action developed through historically informed analytical skills, practice experience, and critical reflection

Undergraduate Program

Global Poverty and Practice (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/undergraduate/degree-programs/global-poverty-practice/>): Minor

Global Poverty and Practice

Please visit <http://blumcenter.berkeley.edu/academics/gpp/requirements/> for an up to date listing of courses for the GPP Minor.

GPP 105 The Ethics, Methods, and Pragmatics of Global Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

This course is limited to declared Global Poverty and Practice minors. It is intended to provide Global Poverty and Practice minor students with the necessary background and knowledge to undertake projects and work experience of a global scope. Students will be exposed to a diversity of methodological frameworks, introduced to the basic skills needed to effectively participate in organizations, and to understand the ethics of global service and practice. Students will be required to complete a literature review and a major project proposal.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Talwalker

GPP 115 Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 First 6 Week Session, Spring 2025

This class seeks to provide a rigorous understanding of 20th century development and thus 21st century poverty alleviation. Students will take a look at popular ideas of poverty alleviation, the institutional framework of poverty ideas and practices, and the social and political mobilizations that seek to transform the structures of poverty.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7.5-8 hours of lecture and 0-2.5 hours of discussion per week
8 weeks - 6-8 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

GPP 140 Special Topics in Global Poverty and Practice 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016

A short course designed to accommodate changing topics that explore issues and problems related to the goals of the Global Poverty and Practice Minor program. The topics often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Topics change each semester. Specific descriptions of current offerings are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

GPP 150 Special Topics in Global Poverty and Practice 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Changing topics that explore issues and problems related to the goals of the Global Poverty and Practice Minor program. The topics often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Topics change each semester. Specific descriptions of current offerings are available through the department.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

GPP 150AC Special Topics in Global Poverty and Practice (American Cultures) 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2015

Changing topics that explore issues and problems related to the goals of the Global Poverty and Practice Minor program. The topics often reflect the research interests of the instructor and supplement regular curricular offerings. Topics change each semester. Specific descriptions of current offerings are available through the department.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

GPP 196 Global Poverty and Practice Capstone Course 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

This course is intended to provide students with a forum for reflection on the Practice Experience component of the Global Poverty and Practice minor. Lessons learned in the minor will be applied to the realm of public discourse through various forms of public scholarship. Issues of power and privilege, civic engagement, and tensions between tourism vs. travel and community service vs. engagement will be addressed. Students will also explore academic and professional post-graduation options.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 7 hours of seminar per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Global Poverty and Practice/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Formerly known as: International and Area Studies 196