



University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Learning Outcomes

B.A. in History of Public Policy & Law

1. **Critical Thinking:** *Develop the analytic skills to understand legal and public policy problems of the past, with an eye to understanding the present.*
 - A) **Primary Sources:** Analyze a range and variety of primary sources: e.g. government documents, speeches, judicial proceedings, newspaper articles, works of art, artifacts from popular culture, among others. Ask and explain questions about:
 - the historical circumstances and issues the source speaks to
 - the perspective and/or life experiences it reflects
 - the contradictions and conflicted understandings it reveals
 - its significance as historical evidence
 - B) **Understanding Context:** Develop the capacity to situate developments and debates in public policy and law in their times and places, and in relation to the contemporaneous conditions and events that influenced them.
 - C) **Reading & Historiography:** Identify and summarize an author's argument, and identify points of agreement and/or disagreement among scholarly interpretations of the past.
2. **Interdisciplinarity:** Understand how disciplines other than history approach the study of public policy and law, and integrate research and methods from related fields when relevant.
3. **Research & Writing:** Draw on published literature and primary historical evidence to construct well-researched, well-developed, and well-written papers and essays reflecting the field's standards. The culmination of this learning outcome will be an original research paper in the history of public policy and law that utilizes primary and secondary sources.
 - Effectively use the library and internet resources to locate primary and secondary sources, including relevant databases and indexes.
 - Develop bibliographies
 - Master conventions for citations and bibliographies
 - Sustain an argument over the entire length of a paper or essay
 - Write in lucid, grammatically correct prose
4. **Historical Knowledge:** Understand how developments in the history of public policy and law have taken shape and been experienced in specific times and contexts—from ancient to modern and local to global—and have changed over time. Observe the ways in which various identities (political, religious, racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, e.g.) play a role in influencing and are in turn influenced by laws and policies. Examine the varied ways power is exercised, contested, and legitimized through the state, law, and public policy.