



**SOUTHERN
EVANGELICAL**
Seminary & Bible College

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS (PPE)

CONCENTRATION / CERTIFICATE



DR. RICHARD LAND

Dr. Richard Land is president of Southern Evangelical Seminary. In addition to his presidency, Dr. Land also teaches courses at the seminary. Previously, Dr. Land served for 25 years as the President of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Southern Baptist Convention's social entity assigned to address social, moral, and ethical concerns, with particular attention to their impact on American families and their faith. He is a graduate of Princeton University (AB, *magna cum laude*), New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (Master of Theology, Honors Program), and Oxford University (D.Phil.), where he was first introduced to the PPE concept.



DR. BERNARD J. MAUSER

Dr. Bernard J. Mauser is currently the Upper School Principal at Westside Christian Academy. He has taught at Marquette University, Southern Evangelical Seminary, Bethlehem Bible College and Seminary, Cardinal Stritch University, helped launch two great book programs at different universities and has served as Youth Pastor at several Baptist churches. He has a passion for defending the Christian faith and was a funded scholar for the Acton Institute in 2014 and 2016. He earned an M.A. in Christian Apologetics from Southern Evangelical Seminary and both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Marquette University.

PPE CONCENTRATION/ CERTIFICATE SUMMARY

Our nation and culture are becoming polarized. It is becoming polarized spiritually, morally, and politically. Issues that even a decade ago would have been debated merely as ideological disputes have morphed into issues of politics and public policy. To ably serve this and the next generation spiritually, our future pastors, apologists, and professors will need to dialogue with their liberal counterparts while keeping in mind the political facets of public debate.

To this end, Southern Evangelical Seminary (SES) feels led to provide the opportunity to its students to obtain, along with their program degree (e.g., M.Div, MA Apologetics, etc.) a concentration in Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE). Non-degree students would also be able to earn a Certificate in PPE. We believe that one must minister to the present generation according to its needs, and to do so with truth and power our students need training in the ethical, political, and economic implications of the unchanging Faith “once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). This combination of PPE training and classical seminary education can be a potent one in combating the new heresies and false doctrines rooted in a secularist, progressivist worldview.

HISTORY

Dr. Richard Land came to SES in 2013 with decades of experience in public policy advocacy. During his inaugural address, he first introduced the idea of the need for a seminary to graduate pastors and professors with an understanding of culture, public policy advocacy. He explained that culture is impacted by seven institutions: government, education, religion, media, business, family, and arts & entertainment. SES’s integrated apologetics curriculum uniquely prepares its graduates to impact all of these life-changing cultural realms.

“The PPE initiative is the product of more than three years of prayerful preparation and planning. SES is grateful to the Acton Institute for its grant to Dr. Mauser to teach the very first PPE course at SES.”

– **Dr. Richard Land**

TIMELINE

2017

- PPE concentration approved by accrediting agency (Spring)
- First PPE concentration course to be taught by Dr. Mauser (Fall)

2018

- Beginning in July, Dr. Mauser will be brought on as a full-time professor and head of the PPE concentration
- Continued funding will be needed for the second year as income from tuition begins to grow

2019

- Tuition from students will cover ongoing expenses for the PPE concentration
- Funding from individuals and foundations will go to the expansion of this concentration

WHAT IS PPE?

The first program in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics was started in the 1920s at Oxford University. The idea was to “bring together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a whole range of careers and activities.”

Teaching philosophy has been the specialty of SES from the beginning. Our emphasis on natural law and ethics, based on a classical, yet biblical understanding of human beings, brings together some of the most significant approaches to understanding the world around us. This will give students the skills needed to have a powerful impact on a wide range of careers and avocations.

Studying *Philosophy*, you will increase critical thinking skills and promote analytical rigor, as well as learn to reason logically and apply these skills to questions concerning how we acquire knowledge or make ethical judgments.

The study of *Politics* provides a comprehensive understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies. It gives you the tools to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Economics is the study of how consumers, corporations, and government make decisions that together determine how resources are distributed. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly essential to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses, and the enormous flux of economic systems throughout the world.*

*Adapted from <http://www.ppe.ox.ac.uk/index.php/course-information>



REQUIRED COURSES

The PPE *Concentration* will consist of five courses for three credit-hours each, totaling 15 hours. The concentration will contain the following courses:

PPE501 PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, & ECONOMICS

This course includes classes that cover government, philosophy, and economics. It examines how both the market and

political process allocate resources, and assesses the strengths and weaknesses of both. Readings, videos, discussion questions, and assignments are utilized to bring economics alive. The first section of the course focuses on the relationship between philosophy and government. The second section of the course is divided into four parts. Part 1 covers the key elements of the economic way of thinking,

including incentives, scarcity, opportunity cost, gains from trade, demand, supply, the pricing mechanism, and secondary effects. Part 2 focuses on macroeconomic topics. Gross domestic product, inflation, unemployment, fiscal policy, monetary policy, and the key elements of economic growth are examined in this part. Part 3 examines the role of government and the operation of the political process. Both

market failure and government failure are explained. As in the case of markets, the tools of economics are used to address how the political process works, why it sometimes works poorly, and what might be done to improve the process.

PPE502 POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

This course will survey the thought of the major political thinkers in history. They will explore what each thought about the state, government, man, justice, and law. Students will read primary texts from Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, selections from the founding documents of America, Britain, and more. Students will also explore some of the debate between some of the modern liberals, conservatives, and libertarian thinkers.

PPE503 PUBLIC POLICY & POLITICAL ECONOMY

This seminar examines the conversations on the theoretical and practical relationship between economics and politics.

The focus will be on the basic principles of economics, economic reasoning, and how these relate to different policy and economic issues. We will also examine the different moral sources for evaluating the policies based on the foundation of economic reasoning provided in this course. The course will attempt a synthesis between Austrian economics and Thomism and discuss the practical implications for public policy.

PPE504 CHRISTIAN ETHICS & PUBLIC POLICY

This course outlines the foundations of a Christian worldview and their implications for interacting with society, culture, and public policy. Emphasis will be given first to how these theological and philosophical foundations form the basis for Christians to interact with government and society. Significant attention will also be given to enabling students to formulate a Christian worldview grid through which to analyze particular issues and evaluate proposed public policies. Special focus

will be given to American society and public policy.

PPE505 JURISPRUDENCE

This course explains the relationship between legal theory and the actual practice of lawyers, judges, and legislators. The first half provides a brief description of legal positivism, legal realism, and natural law theories. The second half explores seven questions about what judges and lawyers do: What is law? What is the proper role of the legal system: How do/should judges and lawyers interpret legal texts? What is the relationship between the law of states or nations and morality? What, if anything, is wrong with our legal system? How can the legal system be improved? How does worldview affect law?

PPE CERTIFICATE

The *PPE Certificate* will consist of the same five courses above in addition to one three credit-hour PPE506 elective course, for a total of 18 hours.

SHARE THE NEWS, SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

We are convinced of the importance of this PPE program and its far reaching impact. For too long leaders in business, the church, and paralegal organizations have not been sufficiently equipped to stand strong ethically, morally, and intellectually in the marketplace under the influence of an “anything goes” mentality. *You can help change that.*

First, share the news within your sphere of influence, and help SES promote this exciting new area of study. Without students, there can be no PPE.

Second, show your support. To launch the PPE, we are raising funds from individuals and foundations to help offset the costs of recruiting, marketing, and personnel, in addition to scholarships for students.

- Year One (2017) - \$75,000
- Year Two (2018) - \$150,000
- Year Three (2019) - \$100,000

WILL YOU BE PART OF THE CHANGE?

Please prayerfully consider joining us in this challenge. To make a one-time gift, to make a three-year pledge, or to ask any questions, please contact Eric Gustafson in the Office of Institutional Advancement at **(704) 847-5600, x232** or **egustafson@ses.edu**.

“The PPE program provides practical advice to change the world in a positive way as it recognizes the reality of economic and moral laws. I’m excited to teach others to explore the moral case for capitalism, biblical and natural law ethics in the public square, the role of the rule of law, and the role of and proper limits of government. Our PPE program promotes implementing the basic principles in these areas into society with the goal of maximizing human flourishing.”

– Dr. Bernard Mauser



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On Campus. Online. *On Mission.* 