

PPE Gateway (PS 208) & PPE Capstone (PS 408) Seminars (i.e. approx. 25 students): Principal Differences

PS 208

General Character:

- Foundational knowledge
- Canonical works, figures etc.
- Largely descriptive
- More direct instruction
- Written assignments multiple and short

Concepts taught (basic):

- Justice
- Equality
- Freedom/liberty
- Political authority
- Wellbeing and welfare
- Social organization
- Economic systems
- Basic Institutions (e.g. markets, governments)

Nature of inquiry taught (basic):

- What is PPE?
- Social scientific inquiry
- Philosophical method
- Interdisciplinary study
- Normative questions

PS 408

General Character:

- Advanced knowledge & greater emphasis on real-world application
- Work derived from foundational scholarship
- More analytical
- More student discussion
- Written assignments fewer and longer

Concepts taught (advanced):

- Economics: (public choice, gains from trade, rent seeking, public goods)
- Politics: institutions (electoral systems, constitutions etc)
- Philosophy: (political, law, ethical behavior)
- Historical, geographic, cultural contexts

Nature of inquiry taught (advanced):

- Basic formal theory
- Logic and reasoning
- Game theory
- Categorical and spatial choice
- Strategic behavior
- Collective action