

Academic Advising Research & Plan of Study

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Note: According to my admission letter, I'm supposed to choose the courses PUBP720 (Managerial Economics and Policy Analysis) and PUBP503 (Investment and Macroeconomics) in the next semester at most. However I can't find the information about these two courses on the SPP official website (under 2012 spring syllabus catalog), so I wonder if it means that these two courses are not available in the next semester. If so, I think I need to choose the other two common core MPP courses: PUBP502 (Governance and Policy Processes) and PUBP503 (Culture, Organization and Technology). These two possible conditions will lead to distinct opportunities for me to prepare for the class next semester.

This study plan is generally focusing on the time of winter holiday.

For the course next semester:

Situation 1: PUBP720 & ITRN503

Since these two courses are all economics-related, I think the best way to prepare for that is to review the basic theory knowledge about economics. Consequently, I will read some 2-3 macroeconomics books during the winter holiday.

Reference reading material

1. David Moss, A Concise Guide to Macroeconomics
2. Robert Pindyck and Daniel Rubinfeld Microeconomics
3. Mankiw, N. Gregory Principles of economics

Situation 2: PUBP502 & PUBP503

These two courses are both very specific to American domestic political topics and it will be more difficult for international students like us. Therefore, in order to prepare enough for these courses, I need to get more familiar with the structure of the US government and the environment of the US political system. I can use those online resources (open courses of top university in the US) for basic introducing information about those fields. On the other hand, these online video course also can help me to maintain the status of being an effective listener during the holiday.

Reference reading material:

1. John Kingdon, America the Unusual
2. John Kingdon, Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies
3. Elliott D. Sclar, You Don't Always Get What You Pay For: the Economics of Privatization
4. The Democracy Sourcebook, edited by Robert A. Dahl, Ian Shapiro, and Jose Antonio Cheibub

Social activities:

I know that learning to communicate with Americans and understand the way of thinking of American is crucial for international students, especially for my major. So at my leisure time in holiday I will try to find some part-time works. I have already made posters online that are

searching for a chance to be a Chinese language tutor for local people. Furthermore, I will also ask some of my elder friends for the information about part-time work, for acquiring more opportunities to interact with native Americans. My short term purpose is to having a stable part-time job regularly (once or twice a week) starting next semester.

Other purposes:

For long-term purposes: Take summer courses, try to finish the program within 2 or 2.5 years