

# Political Science

**MAJOR**

**PROFESSORS:** Edward A. Lynch (chair, global politics & societies)

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS:** Jon D. Bohland

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Courtney Chenette

**VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Ashleigh Breske

The political science major emphasizes the relationship between politics in theory and politics in action. The major has four areas of focus: international relations, comparative politics, political theory, and American politics. In addition, students can, with the guidance of their departmental advisor, opt to develop a special interest, such as the American judicial system or politics of the developing world. Political science is an excellent preparatory major for those planning to pursue careers in such fields as law, journalism, international business, or public service.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE:

10 courses (40 credits)

- GPS 216: Research Methods (4)
- Three courses from the American focus (12)
- Three courses from the international focus (12)  
Three of the above six courses must be chosen from:  
POL 101: American Government (4)  
POL 102: International Relations (4)  
POL 103: Modern Comparative Politics (4)  
POL 104: Political Theory (4)
- Two courses from among 300-level courses in addition to above (8)
- Senior Thesis, honors or non-honors (or one additional 300-level course) (4)

Courses satisfying the American politics focus within the political science major are labeled (A) at the end of the respective course descriptions. Courses satisfying the international relations focus within the major are labeled (I). A few courses are labeled (A or I) because they contain material from both focus areas. These courses can be used to satisfy either area of focus.

### PREREQUISITES

Courses at the 100 level, and some at the 200 level, are open to all students. Students who wish to take other courses at the 200 or 300 level should have taken at least one of the following courses: POLS 101, POLS 102, POLS 103, or POLS 104 or received permission from the instructor. In addition, courses in economics, history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, and computer science are strongly recommended.

## COURSES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE:

### POLS 101: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (4)

**Lynch**

The American myth of individualism, the cyber-generated sense of impatience and the attendant inability for deferred gratification, the Internet world of individuation and disaggregation, rising income gaps, increasing demographic diversity, limited upward social and economic mobility, atrophying social groups, educational inequality, and increasing activism on the part of women - how do these and other factors influence the structure, function, and interaction of the elements of the American political system, and the actions and responsibilities of the president, Congress, the courts, and the voters, some of them with shrill voices of dissent? Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (A) (MOD)

### POLS 102: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (4)

**Lynch**

An introductory course to familiarize students with major concepts and problems of the international political system. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

### POLS 103: MODERN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (4)

**Breske**

The first part of this course examines the basic concepts used in comparative politics (e.g., political culture, political actors, political decision making, political performance, etc.). The second part of the course uses these concepts to

analyze the politics in various country case studies. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 1. (I) (f, w, GLO, MOD)

**POLS 104: POLITICAL THEORY (4)**

**Lynch**

An examination of some of the political theories that have influenced Western civilization from Aristotle through Marx and into the present. This course will offer first-year students and sophomores an opportunity to practice their critical analysis and writing skills. Open to first-year students. Not recommended for juniors and seniors. Not offered in 2020-21. (A or I) (o)

**POLS 118: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4)**

**Department**

An in-depth examination of selected issues of controversy in American politics today—e.g., capital punishment, abortion, gun control, school violence, voucher system, electoral college, campaign finance, PACs, mass media, term limits, faith-based governmental initiatives, health policy, environmental policy, energy policy, and politics and morality. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (MOD)

**POLS 160: MODEL UNITED NATIONS (2)**

**Lynch**

We study the history and functions of the U.N., as well as the current major political, social, and economic issues. The course focuses on preparation for Hollins' delegations to the American Model U.N. Conference in Chicago, which is held the weekend before Thanksgiving. Participation is recommended, but not required for all class members. The course may be taken more than once since the countries and issues change from year to year. Also listed and described as INTL 160. May be repeated for credit. Open to first-year students. Offered both terms. (I) (o, GLO- 4 credits required for GLO)

**POLS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR –SUPREME! AMERICA'S HIGHEST COURT (4)**

**Chenette**

Notorious RBG to signature Scalia snark, Supreme Court justices interrupted and disrupted, crafted and reflected the country, pushed one another to the brink and even lived together just like college! This seminar explores the fundamental structure, judicial and political philosophies, intersectional identities, and bold personalities that make and continue to shape the top of the judicial branch. Students examine this government institution through founding documents, significant opinions, oral arguments, and films. Also listed as GWS 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (A) (r)

**POLS 203: GENDER AND THE LAW (4)**

**Chenette**

This course examines how women have been treated by wielders of the power of the law. Using constitutional and statutory case law, the course investigates women's reproductive rights, sexuality and family law, equal employment, domestic partner battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Also listed as GWS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (DIV)

**POLS 206: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (4)**

**Chenette**

A study of the criminal justice system at work in the courtroom setting, emphasizing the relationship between substantive criminal law, criminal procedure, and the law of evidence. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (A)

**POLS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4)**

**Department**

Survey of the history, theories, and recent research integrating these key concepts for modern society; explores gender, ethnic, and class political participation, movement politics and empowerment; gender, ethnicity, and class policy and law. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (DIV, MOD)

**POLS 210: ETHNICITY, NATIONALISM, AND CONFLICT IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (4)**

**Department**

From Turkey to Darfur to Spain to Chiapas, ethnic conflict represents the most common expression of large-scale political violence within and across states. This course explores themes and conceptual issues of identity, ethnicity, and nationalism from a comparative perspective. Examining case studies where ethnicity and nationalism variously fuel popular support of political regimes or genocide will contextualize the ways that these socio-political constructs create difference between groups. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (o, r, GLO)

**POLS 214: MEDIA AND POLITICS (4)**

**Bohland**

What role do the media play in the process of governance - the so-called "fourth estate" of the print and broadcast media and now the "fifth estate" that includes the internet world and blogosphere? How do they influence and are influenced by the government? How do they shape the beliefs and policies of elected and appointed government officials, citizen political socialization and ultimately elections, campaigns, and all that concerns the relationship

between the government and its citizenry? Exploration of these and other issues through videos, movies, lectures, and discussions. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (f, w, x, o, MOD)

**POLS 217: POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST (4)**

**Lynch**

The history and politics of the Middle East. Special emphasis given to the cultural background of various countries of the region as well as nationalism, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the politics of oil. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

**POLS 221: GLOBALIZATION AND LOCAL RESPONSES (4)**

**Breske**

Also listed and described as ES/INTL 220. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: q. Offered Term 2. (Q, GLO)

**POLS 225: CONQUEST (4)**

**Lynch**

Students will analyze examples of forcible imposition of political power, from the ancient Romans to modern dictators. Making other people accept political authority is difficult, especially when power is seized. We will not focus on the military exploits of dictators or conquerors, but rather what happens when the fighting is over. How did Caesar conquer Gaul? How did Europeans conquer so much of the world in the 19th century? Can one person really rule a modern nation-state? Through lectures, class discussions and individual research, we will address these and related questions. Prerequisite: one 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 2. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 226: INTERNATIONAL LAW (4)**

**Lynch**

This course introduces the student to the basic concepts, both traditional and conjectural, of international law and its study. We will do this both by reading and discussing texts on politics and international legal relations, and by discussing current international political issues. Classes are a mix of lecture, discussion, and respectful debate. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

**POLS 234: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY (4)**

**Du Bray**

This course introduces environmental politics from a grass-roots, state, and international perspective. We analyze social movements, policymaking, patterns of consumption, developmental imperatives, and political culture. Among the key issues we examine are: the role of community, scientific, bureaucratic, media, and industry interests in shaping environmental discourse and policy. Close inspection of conditions such as car culture and fast food will help us understand the complexity of formulating uniform international environmental policy. Also listed as ES 234. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: q. Offered Term 1. (A or I) (Q, GLO)

**POLS 247: PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR (4)**

**Department**

Political activities and behavior of individuals and groups in regard to electoral processes. Emphasis on the American experience but includes comparisons with other systems. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2020-21. (A)

**POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: ELECTION LAW AND VOTING RIGHTS (4)**

**Chenette**

Where do voting and election regulations come from and how do they shape and reflect relationships of power, division, identity, and inclusion in the United States? This course will look to Supreme Court cases, federal statutes, state laws, and the Constitution to explore the who, when, where, and how of voting in America. Major themes include the political and legal trajectory of access to the vote at the intersection of race, gender, national origin, citizenship, poverty, and other categories of identity; the duality of voter protection and suppression; electoral design and representation in district drawing; revocation and felony disenfranchisement; historic and contemporary challenges to racial and partisan gerrymandering; the administration of elections; and campaign finance and money in electoral politics. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 1.

**POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: CONGRESS (4)**

**Chenette**

Congress: the people's branch? This course explores the evolution, structure, dynamics, powers, and limits of the United States Congress. In the context of historic and contemporary American social movements, we will examine the function and relationship of legislators to lawmaking, constituents, lobbyists, other branches of government, and each other. Offered Term 2.

**POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: RELIGION, POLITICS AND THE MODERN WORLD (4)**

**Breske**

We will examine historical and political implications of religion in the modern world. Throughout the semester, we will discuss the history of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam to understand modern challenges to traditional religion and responses to these challenges, including the influence of religion on: law and sovereignty; gender and race; science and technology; and, identity and media representations. Also listed and described as INTL 250 and REL 250. Offered Term 2.

**POLS 254: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (4)****Downey**

Also listed and described as PHIL 254. Not offered in 2020-21.

**POLS 255: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (4)****Lynch**

Structure and functions of state governments in the federal system. Cooperation and conflict between levels of government. Problems of constitutional law, of decision making and administration, of political power and resources. Viability of state government today and proposals for reform. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 1. (A)

**POLS 262: GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS IN AFRICA (4)****Lynch**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the most important issues in sub-Saharan African politics, both current and perennial. It will be divided into four sections. In the first, students will examine the global context of African politics to identify the most significant obstacles to African prosperity. The second section will cover representative African Independence movements. The third section will examine the continent's experience with democratic governance, while the fourth section will examine diverging economic paths in Africa. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 271: POLITICS OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS (4)****Lynch**

This course is designed to introduce the student to the most important contentious issues, including environmental issues, concerning the world's oceans. Since human beings learned to travel great distances across the seas, they have found themselves in conflict over bases, colonies and resources, and also over the handling of environmental issues related to the exploitation of the resources. We will begin by looking at the early European presence in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, and how international law and the international political system sought to handle those conflicts. We will move on to current issues concerning the oceans, from fishing to cruising. Open to first-years. Also listed as ES 271. Offered Term 1. (I) (MOD, GLO)

**POLS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)****Department**

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

**POLS 302: COMPARATIVE URBANISM (4)****Bohland**

Also listed and described as INTL 302. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 303: CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN POLITICS (4)****Lynch**

This seminar examines contemporary issues in European politics. Special attention is given to political issues in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy. The issues vary depending upon events in Western Europe, but such topics as European integration and ethnic nationalism are representative. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 304: GEOPOLITICS (4)****Bohland**

Also listed and described as INTL 303. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 310: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (4)****Department**

A study of the American national government, including the philosophical foundation; the making of the U.S. Constitution; public opinion, voting, and elections; parties and interest groups; the presidency; Congress; and the Supreme Court. Open to first-year students with permission. Prerequisites: *q* and any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (*w, x, o, Q, MOD*)

**POLS 311: SEMINAR IN CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4)****Chenette**

An in-depth analysis of the political, legal, economic, social, and ethical aspects of selected issues of controversy in American politics today [e.g. senate filibuster (unanimous consent), legislative-judicial conflict, religion and politics, electoral college, abortion, gun control, capital punishment]. Prerequisite: POLS 101 or permission. Offered Term 2. (A) (*w, x, o, MOD*)

**POLS 315: ANGER, TERRORISM, AND REVOLUTION (4)****Lynch**

Investigation of some of the causes of revolutions and political violence. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (I)

**POLS 323: SMALL CITIES STUDIO (4)****Bohland**

The Small Cities Studio Class is designed to provide a hands-on and collaborative research environment for students to engage issues and projects with Roanoke, Virginia. Students design their own research projects in consultation with instructors from both Hollins University and Virginia Tech. The class includes students from both campuses and provides a unique opportunity to work with students at a different campus. Also listed as SOC 323. Not offered in 2020-21. (A)

**POLS 332: CURRENTS OF MARXIST THOUGHT (4)****Bohland**

Also listed and described as INTL 332. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered 2020-21. (A or I)

**POLS 337: SEMINAR IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (4)****Lynch**

A seminar that examines the content and conduct of U.S. foreign policy in different regional contexts. For example, U.S. policy in Latin America and the Middle East. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 2. (A or I)

**POLS 340: ELECTIONS AND VOTING (4)****Breske**

Study of history of elections, the place of elections in the theory of democracy; various influences on the outcome of elections such as campaigns, campaign finance, party politics, candidates and their policies and images, issues, the nature of times, media, the voter profile as a function of political, psychological, social, and economic factors and the institutional factors such as primaries, the Electoral College, and laws governing the election process. Prerequisite: POLS 101. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (A)

**POLS 345: AMERICAN VOTING BEHAVIOR (4)****Department**

Study of psychological, social, and economic influences affecting current American voting behavior. Consideration is given to suggested reforms in existing voting procedures. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (A) (w, x, MOD)

**POLS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND GLOBAL POLITICS (4)****Breske**

This course will offer a comprehensive overview of the debates on secularism and the role of religion in the public sphere. Looking at specific case study examples, we will examine the relationship between religious discourses and political violence, political systems and multiculturalism models, theocratic states, and state responses to religious identity claims. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Also listed and described as REL 350. Offered Term 1.

**POLS 350: REFUGEES AND RESETTLEMENT (4)****Breske**

This course will examine significant political, social, and economic issues related to the movement of displaced peoples (both internally and externally displaced). Using local resources, we will explore the concepts of enculturation, socialization, and adaptation. In the course, we will also evaluate key concepts related to displacement, borders, migration, and international policies through an analysis of national policies, advocacy responses, and media sources to understand current issues related to displacement. Also listed as INTL 250. Offered Term 2.

**POLS 363: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (4)****Chenette**

In this course we will read and analyze constitutionally based arguments and court decisions resolving cases about the powers and limits of government in the United States. We will pay attention to fundamental concepts (i.e., executive power, judicial review, equal protection of the law, and federalism), as well as current applications and debates related to these fundamental concepts (e.g., Internet privacy, same-sex marriage, immigration, warrantless wiretapping, campaign finance, and environmental regulation). Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 1. (A)

**POLS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)****Department**

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

**POLS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)****Department**

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.

**POLS 450: DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM (4)****Department**

Designated for senior honors majors only, the invited departmental scholar may undertake one of the following: jointly designing a course and/or teaching it with a faculty supervisor of her choice; assisting the faculty supervisor with a research project that bears relevance to her area of interest; or proposing an extension of her honors thesis by engaging in specialized readings. This program is by invitation only.

**POLS 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)****Department**

Offered to qualified political science majors. Research begins during first term, continues through Short Term, and is completed during second term. GPA requirements: 3.33 in political science and 3.0 overall. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.