

Political Science

MAJOR

PROFESSOR: Edward A. Lynch (chair, global politics & societies, John P. Wheeler Professor of Political Science)
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS: 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:
 POLS 101: American Government (4)
 POLS 102: International Relations (4)
 POLS 103: Modern Comparative Politics (4)
 POLS 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)

Department

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 2. (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)

Lynch

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 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (A) (MOD)

POLS 160: MODEL UNITED NATIONS (2)

Department

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 203: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & THE LAW (4)

Department

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 and described as GWS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2024-25. (A) (DIV)

POLS 206: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (4)

Department

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. Also listed and described as GWS 205. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course, any GWS course, or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (I) (o, r, GLO)

POLS 214: MEDIA AND POLITICS (4)

Department

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 2024-25. (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. Offered Term 2. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

POLS 221: GLOBALIZATION AND LOCAL RESPONSES (4)

Lee

Also listed and described as ES/INTL 220. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: *q*. Not offered in 2024-25. (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. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

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 2024-25. (A)

POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: POLITICS OF PUBLIC POLICY (4)

Lynch

This course will introduce the student to the basic processes of conceptualizing and making public policy. We will do this by discussing readings on domestic and foreign policies, focusing on how these policies come into being. Classes will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, and debate. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (A)

POLS 254: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (4)

Downey

Also listed and described as PHIL 254. Not offered in 2024-25.

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. Not offered in 2024-25. (A)

POLS 261: POLITICAL ECOLOGY (4)

Department

In this course, students will develop an understanding of political ecology, a framework that takes perspectives from anthropology, economics, and political science to understand how historical and systemic structures impact the way that people use, protect, and relate to their environments. Focusing on American environmental politics and policy, this class will introduce students to key policies, including NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the Wilderness Act. Although this class includes components of policy, it focuses on the history of the American landscape, dispossession, and the way current policy is premised on historical values. Also listed and described as ES 261. Open to first year students. Prerequisite: ES 104 or 117. Not offered in 2024-25. (MOD)

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 2024-25. (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 and described 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)

Department

Also listed and described as INTL 302. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25. (I) (GLO, MOD)

POLS 304: GEOPOLITICS (4)

Lee

Also listed and described as INTL 303. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (I) (GLO, MOD)

POLS 310: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (4)

Bishop

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: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 2. (A) (w, x, o, Q, MOD)

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

Department

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. Not offered in 2024-25. (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. Offered Term 2. (I)

POLS 317: REFUGEES AND RESETTLEMENT (4)

Breske

In this course, we analyze some of the significant political, economic, and social issues that influence forced migration of peoples across borders and evaluate the varied relationships between refugees and their new homes through concepts such as enculturation, socialization, adaptation, and international policies. Our discussions look critically at global conflict and the laws and/or policies that cause displacement. Also listed and described as INTL 317. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2024-25.

POLS 338: SEMINAR IN U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY (4)

Lynch

This course will deal with the foreign and domestic elements of a number of U.S. armed interventions since the end of the Vietnam War. (We will also discuss a famous case of USG non-intervention.) In every case, the decision-makers involved believed that their actions would contribute to the national security of the U.S. But many of the critics of these operations also believed that they had U.S. national security on their side. By examining the tools available to policy makers and by using case studies, we will assemble the intellectual and analytical tools necessary to determine who was right. Not offered in 2024-25.

POLS 340: ELECTIONS AND VOTING (4)

Breske

Study of the 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; the nature of the times; media; the voter profile as a function of political, psychological, social, and economic factors; and

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 2024-25. (A)

POLS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: HIGH POLITICS (4)

Department

Caffeine to cocaine, women's temperance movement to the war on drugs, religious peyote practice to opioid crisis, decriminalizing cannabis to city soda bans. This course explores U.S. law, politics, and policy on mind-altering substances at the federal, state, and local level. We come to a deeper understanding of American government institutions by analyzing primary sources and sites that sanction and prohibit. In doing so, we critically examine structures of power and privilege created, reinforced, and dismantled by these sources at the intersection of identity in America. Also listed and described as GWS 350. Offered Term 2.

POLS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC: CLASH OF THE TITANS (4)

Lynch

Considering affect is variously understood as emotion, feeling, capacity, or even relationality, this course will explore the following questions: What does affect do? Why does affect matter in the contemporary globalized world? What is power? How does power affectively work in our everyday lives? How are they geographical? Through a geographical examination of the topics of affect and power, students will have a better understanding of how emotions and affects shape and drive our lives, as well as why our affective lives are political. Prerequisite: one 100-level POLS course. Offered Term 2.

POLS 363: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (4)

Department

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.