Political Science

MAJOR

PROFESSORS: Edward A. Lynch (coordinator, fall term; on leave short and spring terms), Jong Oh Ra (coordinator, short and spring terms)

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Jon D. Bohland

VISITING INSTRUCTOR: Asheigh Breske

VISITING LECTURER: Courtney Chennette

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 (42 credits)

- GPS 216: Research Methods (4)
- GPS 216L: Research Methods Lab (2)
- 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)
  - POLS 131: Introduction to Feminist Political Thought (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, POLS 104 or POLS 131 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) Ra
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. Not offered in 2018-19. (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 2018-19. (A or I) (o)

POLS 118: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4)  Ra
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. Offered Term 2. (A) (MOD)

POLS 125: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN’S POLITICAL ACTIVISM (4)  Department
This course explores African American women’s political activism as a lens to transform knowledge about the American political system. How do race, gender, class and sexuality impact Black women’s ability to benefit from citizenship and equal protection under the law? Topics will include Black women’s grass roots activism, labor activism, feminism, protest politics, and judicial politics. Further, this course will examine how representations of Black women’s bodies, sexuality, and reproductive behavior shape contemporary law and public policy. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Also listed as GWS 125. Not offered in 2018-19. (A)

POLS 131: INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST POLITICAL THOUGHT (4)  Department
Feminism refers to several movements aimed at establishing and defending equal political, economic, and social rights for women, lesbians, transgendered people, and people of color, among other groups of people commonly discriminated against. Feminist thought emerged from these feminist movements; it aims to understand inequality and oppression, providing critiques of sociopolitical power relations. Themes explored in this class will include discrimination, objectification, oppression, heterosexual domination, reproductive politics, male dominance, and sexual violence. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (A)

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 Term 1. (I) (o, GLO- 4 credits required for GLO)

POLS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - COLLECTIVE MEMORY: REMEMBERING AND FORGETTING (4)  Bohland
“Collective memory” is the fancy academic term used to describe the process of how our communities remember the past and engage what historical events mean in the present. This course examines the politics behind issues of heritage and collective memory—we examine how these issues are playing out in towns throughout the American South, as well as international contexts such as Israel, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, and South Africa. In addition to learning and engaging collective memory in these macro contexts, you will be part of a local effort to engage with our own institutional history here at Hollins. Additionally, you will have the chance to work with the professor on a book project focused on these very issues. Also listed as INTL 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (I) (o, r)

POLS 203: WOMEN AND 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, woman battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Also listed as GWS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (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. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (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. Also listed as GWS 208. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (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 2018-19. (I) (o, r, GLO)

POLS 213: GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY (4)
Department
This course is an introduction to the current debates about poverty and inequality within and between countries in this age of globalization. It looks at the causes and consequences of globalization, for example, the losses by women, children, and men in status, freedom, safety, education, and their diminished access to the basic needs of food, housing, and health care. We also examine how and why wealthy nations have failed to notice, let alone assist, the millions of people trapped in absolute poverty. How do nations, and individuals in them, justify their belief that they have no moral responsibility to help people in poverty? Also listed as GWS 213. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2018-19. (A) (GLO)

POLS 214: MEDIA AND POLITICS (4)
Ra
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. Offered Term 1. (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 2018-19. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

POLS 218: GLOBAL GAYZ - THE LESBIAN AND GAY MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (4)
Department
This course examines the global movement for lesbian and gay civil rights. It introduces students to an interdisciplinary body of research that focuses on contemporary sites of contention, especially the right of lesbians and gays to define what counts as a marriage or family (i.e. civil marriage, adoption rights, insemination rights). Other topics include: the legal status of lesbians and gays around the globe, current criminal sanctions for being gay or lesbian, and existing protections against all forms of heterosexism. The political, historical, legal, and social dimensions of the struggle for civil rights will be addressed. Also listed as GWS 218. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2018-19. (A or I) (GLO)

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 1. (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 2018-19. (I) (O, GLO, MOD)

POLS 234: ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS AND POLICY (4)
Department
This course introduces environmental politics from a grassroots, 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. Not offered in 2018-19. (A or I) (Q, GLO)

POLS 237: RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS (4)
Department
This course uses a critical lens to explore religion in global politics. Students will examine and analyze a range of topics, including the compatibility of religion with democracy, issues of gender in religion and politics, the politics of religious freedom, religious humanitarianism and development, and religion and politics in the public sphere. We will problematize our assumptions about "religion," "secularism," and "politics" and strive to move beyond common misperceptions about Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and other religions, and the roles they play in global politics. Instead of treating religious traditions and communities as static entities, we will view religions as "lived" - paying attention to the historical, social, and cultural contextual factors that shape religious actors and their political actions. Students will develop their understandings of how diverse religious, political, and cultural communities conceptualize and act on a range of religious and political issues. Students will learn to think critically about religion and global politics and present a clear and cogent argument on a related theme. Also listed as INTL/REL 237. Not offered in 2018-19. (I) (W, X, MOD)

POLS 247: PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR (4)
Ra
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 2018-19. (A)

POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: RACE, CLASS, GENDER AND THE LAW (4)
Chenette
This course explores the power of law to construct and deconstruct intersectional identities of race, sex, gender, sexual identity, class, nationality, ability, religion, age, and marital status. We will consider the law’s impact on performance and prohibition of these identities, from classroom to boardroom, bathroom to bedroom. To do so, we will analyze primary sources: judicial opinions, statutes, proposed legislation, administrative orders, and constitutional language. We will critically examine structures of power and privilege created, reinforced, and dismantled by these sources of law, in our country, community, and self. Not open to first-years. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 1.

POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: THE CULTURE OF OWNERSHIP (4)
Breske
This course will look at the politics of culture and examine how cultural property and heritage are defined throughout the world. Themes throughout the class will relate to identity, memory, and ownership. Students will learn about domestic and international cultural heritage laws, regulations, and policies; and will explore the impacts of globalization and historical colonial practices on the idea of culture. Also listed as INTL 250. Open to first-year students. 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 as INTL 250 and REL 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2.

POLS 254: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (4)
Downey
Also listed and described as PHIL 254. Not offered in 2018-19.

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 2018-19. (A)

**POLS 256: CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENCY (4)**

In this course we examine the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government at the national level. Topics of study include, among others, how laws are made in a hyper-partisan era, the constitutional powers and historical development of Congress and the presidency, the legislature’s role in overseeing the executive branch, how the recent rise in partisan politics within national institutions has affected congressional-presidential relations, as well as the influence of lobbies on legislative and executive branches of government. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (A)

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

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 2018-19. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 268: POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION OF CHILDREN (4)**

How do children come to learn, if they do, about the idea of government and politics: the principles, institutions, and the incumbents? Do they internalize or reject the notion that “all people, women and men, are created equal?” How about their attitudes and beliefs about the structure of government and the politicians in it? What explains the lack of uniformity of their learning process and learned outcome? What visible and not-so-visible factors—family, peer group, school, media, and the like—may influence the different ways in which children receive the cues and clues about government and politics. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2018-19. (A or I) (MOD)

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

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)**

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

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

Also listed and described as INTL 302. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (I) (GLO, MOD)

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

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 2018-19. (I) (GLO, MOD)

**POLS 304: GEOPOLITICS (4)**

Also listed and described as INTL 303. Open to first-year students with permission. Offered Term 2. (I) (GLO, MOD)

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

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. Offered Term 1. (A) (w, x, o, Q, MOD)
POLS 311: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4)  
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 2018-19. (A) (w, x, o, MOD)

POLS 315: ANGER, TERRORISM, AND REVOLUTION (4)  
Investigation of some of the causes of revolutions and political violence. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course any 100-level POLS course or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (I)

POLS 323: SMALL CITIES STUDIO (4)  
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. Offered Term 2. (A)

POLS 332: CURRENTS OF MARXIST THOUGHT (4)  
Also listed and described as INTL 332. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered 2018-19. (A or I)

POLS 337: SEMINAR IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (4)  
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. Not offered in 2018-19. (A or I)

POLS 340: ELECTIONS AND VOTING (4)  
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 2018-19. (A)

POLS 345: AMERICAN VOTING BEHAVIOR (4)  
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 2018-19. (A) (w, x, MOD)

POLS 363: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (4)  
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 371: RELIGION, GENDER, AND PEACEBUILDING (4)  
This course examines the relationship between religion, conflict, and peacebuilding through the lens of gender, Employing feminist approaches to security, peace, and religion, which prioritize the experiences of women and other marginalized groups, students will critically analyze discourses portraying religion as inherently antithetical to women’s empowerment, and women as particularly vulnerable in conflict or uniquely qualified peacebuilders. Also listed as INTL/REL 371. Prerequisite: INTL 120, POLS 102, POLS 103, or REL 126 or permission. Not offered in 2018-19. (I)

POLS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)  
Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

POLS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)  
Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.
POLS 450: DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM (4)  
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)  
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.