Political Science

PROFESSORS: Edward A. Lynch (chair, global politics & societies, John P. Wheeler Professor of Political Science)
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:
    - 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) Chenette
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) 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. Offered Term 1. (A or I) (f, w, GLO, MOD)

POLS 118: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4) Chenette
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 2021-22. (A) (MOD)

POLS 160: MODEL UNITED NATIONS (2) Chenette
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 – FINDING HIDDEN MESSAGES (4) Lynch
Are there any such things as simple stories? Do all works of literature have political messages? In this course, we will look at a wide variety of literary genres, from children's books to classic epics. In some, we will find obvious political messages; in others, the message, if there is one, will be much more subtle. The process of finding political messages will reveal much about political science, related social sciences, and the analytical process. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (r)

POLS 203: RACE, CLASS, GENDER & 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 2021-22. (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. Also listed as GWS 205. Prerequisite: any 100-level POLS course, any GWS course or permission. (A) Offered Term 1.

POLS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4) Chenette
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 2021-22. (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 2021-22. (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 2021-22. (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 2021-22. (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. Offered Term 1. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

POLS 247: PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR (4)  Chenette
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 2021-22. (A)

POLS 254: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (4)  Downey
Also listed and described as PHIL 254. Not offered in 2021-22.

POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPICS: 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 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, to critically examine structures of power created, reinforced, and dismantled by these sources of law. Also listed and described as GWS 250. Offered Term 2.

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 2021-22. (A)

POLS 261: POLITICAL ECOLOGY (4)  du Bray
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 as ES 261. Open to first year students. Prerequisite: ES 104 or 117. Offered Term 1. (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 2021-22. (I) (GLO, 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. Not offered in 2021-22. (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. Offered Term 2. (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 2021-22. (I) (GLO, MOD)

POLS 304: GEOPOLITICS (4)  
Also listed and described as INTL 304. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2021-22. (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. Not offered in 2021-22. (A) (w, x, o, Q, MOD)

POLS 311: SEMINAR IN 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 2021-22. (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 or permission. Not offered in 2021-22. (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. Not offered in 2021-22. (A)

POLS 332: CURRENTS OF MARXIST THOUGHT (4)  
Also listed and described as INTL 332. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered 2021-22. (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 2021-22. (A or I)
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 using case studies, we will assemble the intellectual and analytical tools necessary to determine who was right. Offered Term 2.

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 2021-22. (A)

POLS 350: SPECIAL TOPICS: FAMILY LAW AND POLICY (4) Chenette
Who defines family and why does it matter? This course explores how families are defined and elude definition in federal and state law, politics, policies, and programs; and how people live within and beyond the law, every day. We will study American constructions and regulations of marriage and partnership, divorce, pathways to parenting, child custody, shared property distribution and estates, family-based immigration, and family violence. We come to a deeper understanding of United States government institutions by analyzing primary sources: judicial opinions, statutes, proposed legislation, executive agency guidance, and constitutional language. In doing so, we critically examine structures of power and privilege created, reinforced, and dismantled by these sources, in the country, court, community, and self. Also listed as GWS 350. Prerequisite: 100-level POLS course. Not open to first-year students. Offered Term 1.

POLS 350: SPECIAL TOPICS: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & GLOBAL POLICY (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 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. Not offered in 2021-22. (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.