Political Science

MAJOR

PROFESSORS: Edward A. Lynch (coordinator), Jong Oh Ra (on leave short & spring terms)
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: Jon D. Bohland, Susan L. Thomas
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Tanya Schwarz

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. Offered Term 2. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

POLS 103: MODERN COMPARATIVE POLITICS (4)  
Schwarz
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. Not offered in 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (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. Not offered in 2017-18. (A) (MOD)

**POLS 125: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN’S POLITICAL ACTIVISM (4)**  
Thomas  
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. Offered Term 1.

**POLS 131: INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST POLITICAL THOUGHT (4)**  
Thomas  
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 2017-18. (I)

**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. Can be repeated for credit. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (o, GLO-4 credits required for GLO) (I)

**POLS 203: WOMEN AND THE LAW (4)**  
Thomas  
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. Offered Term 2. (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 2017-18. (A)

**POLS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4)**  
Thomas  
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 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (I) (o, r, GLO)

**POLS 213: GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY (4)**

Thomas

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. Offered Term 2. (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. Offered Term 2. (I) (o, GLO, MOD)

**POLS 218: GLOBAL GAYZ – THE LESBIAN AND GAY MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (4)**

Thomas

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. Offered Term 2. (A or I) (GLO)

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

Department

Also listed and described as ES/INTL 220. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: q. Not offered in 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (A or I) (Q, GLO)
POLS 237: RELIGION AND GLOBAL POLITICS (4)  
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. Offered Term 1. (w, x, MOD)

POLS 240: POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (4)  
This course explores the primary issues, actors, and dynamics that shape the politics of the European Union. Specifically, it examines the history of European integration, theories of integration, the structure of the EU, the Union's decision-making process, and the challenges faced by the Union. Prerequisite: POLS 101, POLS 102, POLS 103, or POLS 104. Not offered in 2017-18. (I)

POLS 247: PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL BEHAVIOR (4)  
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 2017-18. (A)

POLS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN AND ADDICTION: A FEMINIST ANALYSIS (4)  
This course explores addiction within the contexts of the social construction of gender, popular culture and mental health. Discussion topics include the relationship between alcohol and drug abuse and a variety of forms of violence against women; the role that alcohol and drugs play in a hypersexualized consumer culture that enforces rigid gender roles; and the role of corrosive capitalism in promoting addiction as a means of suppressing class struggle and racial justice movements, among others. Through class discussions, readings, films, and in-class activities, students will gain a better perspective on gender, intersectionality, and addiction. Also listed as GWS 250. Offered Term 1.

POLS 254: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (4)  
Also listed and described as PHIL 254. Not offered in 2017-18.

POLS 255: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (4)  
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 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 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (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 2017-18. (A or I) (MOD)

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 2017-18. (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. Offered Term 2. (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 2017-18. (GLO, MOD)

POLS 310: SEMINAR IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (4)  
Ra  
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 2017-18. (A) (w, x, o, Q, MOD)

POLS 311: CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN AMERICAN POLITICS (4)  
Ra  
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 2017-18. (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 any 100-level POLS course or permission. Offered Term 1. (I)

POLS 332: CURRENTS OF MARXIST THOUGHT (4)  
Bohland  
Also listed and described as INTL 332. Open to first-year students with permission. Offered Term 1.

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. Not offered in 2017-18. (A or I)

POLS 340: ELECTIONS AND VOTING (4)  
Ra  
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 2017-18. (A)

POLS 345: AMERICAN VOTING BEHAVIOR (4)  
Ra  
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 2017-18. (A) (w, x, MOD)
POLS 363: CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (4)  Thomas
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 2017-18. (A)

POLS 371: RELIGION, GENDER, AND PEACEBUILDING (4)  Schwarz
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. Not offered in 2017-18.

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.