POLITICAL SCIENCE, BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

The Department of Political Science offers a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science as well as elective courses in political science for program majors and non-majors.

The political science curriculum has two central objectives. It offers the student a broad liberal arts education along with a comprehensive understanding of the nature and the functioning of the political process and government. It also provides a sound foundation for graduate study in political science, public administration and nonprofit management, or for careers that require knowledge of governance and the political process, such as law.

Learning outcomes
Upon completing this program, students will know and know how to do the following:

1. Assumptions, methods and analytical tools
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods and analytical tools of the discipline of political science.

2. Current political and policy issues
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of current political and policy issues.

3. Theory and principles of four subfields
   Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic theory and conceptual principles of political science in the four subfields of American government, political theory, international relations and comparative politics.

4. Advanced understanding of one subfield
   Students will demonstrate an advanced understanding of current theoretical and empirical study in one subfield.

5. Expository and analytic writing
   Students will demonstrate skill in expository and analytic writing in the political science discipline.

6. Political behavior
   Students will demonstrate knowledge of the ways in which individuals, national governmental organizations, political movements and parties, nation-states, and intergovernmental institutions work to achieve their political objectives.

Honors in political science
Political science majors can earn honors in political science. Students earn honors status when they complete POLI 490 with an A grade and graduate with an overall 3.0 GPA and a 3.3 GPA in political science.

Special requirements
To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, students must complete 45 upper-level credits (including upper-level course work in the major) and maintain a cumulative and major GPA of 2.0. Students may count a maximum of six internship and three independent study credits toward the major. Students may also apply three credits from courses in other departments toward the major with prior approval from the department chair.

Degree requirements for Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in politics and government

General education requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111</td>
<td>Play course video for Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112</td>
<td>Play course video for Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200</td>
<td>Inquiry and the Craft of Argument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved humanities/fine arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved natural/physical sciences</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved quantitative literacy</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved social/behavioral sciences</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>21-24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Additional College of Humanities and Sciences requirements (11-23 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202</td>
<td>Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S diverse and global communities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S human, social and political behavior (fulfills University Core social/behavioral sciences)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S literature and civilization (fulfills University Core humanities/fine arts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S science and technology (fulfills University Core natural/physical sciences)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S general education electives</td>
<td>6-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiential fine arts</td>
<td>1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language through the 102 level (by course or placement)</td>
<td>0-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>11-23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collateral requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language (201-level)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language (202-level)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103</td>
<td>U.S. Government (meets approved H&amp;S human, social and political behavior requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Political Science, Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with a concentration in politics and government**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 105</td>
<td>International Relations (meets approved H&amp;S diverse and global communities requirement)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 107</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 109</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select POLI electives from the 300- and 400-level POLI offerings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Open electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 35-49 open elective credits</td>
<td>35-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

What follows is a sample plan that meets the prescribed requirements within a four-year course of study at VCU. Please contact your adviser before beginning course work toward a degree.

**Freshman year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103</td>
<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 101</td>
<td>Introduction to the University</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 111</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play course video for Focused Inquiry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved quantitative literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language (101-level)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMS 202</td>
<td>Choices in a Consumer Society</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 105 or INTL 105</td>
<td>International Relations or International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 112</td>
<td>Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Play course video for Focused Inquiry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved H&amp;S science and technology</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language (102-level)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>14-15</td>
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</table>

**Sophomore year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 107</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 109</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIV 200</td>
<td>Inquiry and the Craft of Argument</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved H&amp;S literature and civilization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language (201-level)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POLI electives</td>
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</table>

**Experiential fine arts (course offered by the School of the Arts)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language (202-level)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>14-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Junior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education electives</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education electives</td>
<td>3-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Senior year**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>120-125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The minimum total of credit hours required for this degree is 120.

The accelerated B.A. and M.P.A. program allows qualified students to earn both the B.A. in Political Science and the Master of Public Administration in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.A. and M.P.A. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 144 credits rather than the 156 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship. In this case, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 147 credits rather than the 159 credits necessary if the two degrees are pursued separately.

Students holding these degrees will demonstrate knowledge about the assumptions, methods and analytical tools of the discipline of political science and current political and policy issues; and they will be prepared, professional public managers, public officials and citizens who are able to meet the challenges of public service in both government and nonprofit sectors and serve the profession and local, state, federal and international communities.

**Admission to the program**

Minimum qualifications for admittance to the program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours including a minimum of nine credit hours in political science courses; an overall GPA of 3.0; and a GPA of 3.3 in political science course work. Successful applicants would enter
Undergraduate students must have departmental approval to participate in an accelerated program and must apply for admission to the master’s program prior to beginning their final year of full-time undergraduate study. Candidates should submit applications for admission immediately following the spring of their junior year, but no later than the M.P.A. program admission deadline. The entry term for the master’s program will be the next available admission term following the last semester of undergraduate study. Admission to the master’s program is provisional until the undergraduate degree has been conferred. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree, students are fully admitted to the master’s program.

Students who are interested in the accelerated program should consult with both a political science academic adviser and a graduate adviser to the M.P.A. program before they have completed 90 credits. To be considered for acceptance into the program and before enrolling in 600-level M.P.A. courses, students must complete the application to graduate study, submit standardized test scores and supply the supporting information required for admission.

Once admitted into the accelerated program, students must meet the standards of performance applicable to graduate students as described in the "Satisfactory academic progress (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/satisfactory-academic-progress/)" section of the Graduate Bulletin, including maintaining a 3.0 GPA. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by both the undergraduate political science adviser and the faculty adviser to the graduate program.

Degree requirements

The Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree will be awarded upon completion of a minimum of 120 credits and the satisfactory completion of all undergraduate degree requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Bulletin.

A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree. These graduate credits may be used to satisfy required major electives or open elective credits for the undergraduate degree. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The undergraduate public administration courses that may be taken as an undergraduate, once a student is admitted to the program, are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or a PADM elective course (elective requirement for the M.P.A. and elective for the undergraduate major)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended course sequence/plan of study

What follows is the recommended plan of study for students interested in the accelerated program beginning in the fall of the junior year prior to admission to the accelerated program in the senior year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>POLI 490 Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved H&amp;S General Education elective</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>PADM 601 Principles of Public Administration (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 602 Public Administration Theory (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>PADM 607 Public Human Resource Management (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs (may count for both undergraduate and graduate credits in accelerated program)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>POLI elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fifth year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>PADM 609 Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 624 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PADM 625 Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>500- to 600-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>
Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500- to 600-level PADM, CRJS, GVPA, HSEP or URSP electives</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 12-15

POLI 103. U.S. Government. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of American national government focusing on its underlying political ideas, constitutional basis, major institutions and their interaction in the determination of public policy.

POLI 105. International Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introductory analysis of interstate relations and world affairs. Attention focuses on theories of international politics, military capabilities and their application, international organizations, global economic trends, domestic sources of state behavior and other selected issues as appropriate. Crosslisted as: INTL 105.

POLI 107. Political Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the great thinkers and ideas of political theory. Provides an analysis of the relationship between ethics and politics in contemporary democracy and current challenges to traditional democratic theory. Topics discussed may include the nature of human existence and civilization; political obligations between the state and the citizen and among citizens; attempts to justify authority; the content and uses of power; and the right to disobedience and resistance, freedom, social justice, and equality.

POLI 109. Comparative Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the ways in which societies around the world govern themselves. Covers such topics as the historical evolution of the political system, political processes and institutions, and key issues in contemporary public policy for a globally representative group of 10 to 15 countries.

POLI 301. U.S. Parties and Elections. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of U.S. political parties and elections. Topics will include the history, organization and methods of U.S. political parties, presidential nominations and elections; Congressional elections.

POLI 302. Politics of the Civil Rights Movement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The main objectives of the course are to introduce and examine the personalities and activities of the modern Civil Rights Movement. The course provides the historical background leading up to the peak years of the struggle for racial equality in America. It has special focus on the events of the 1960s and particularly their implication for the current state of U.S. Civil Rights. Crosslisted as: AFAM 302.

POLI 303. Public Opinion, Polling and the Media. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of the interplay among the mass media, political campaigns and public opinion. Topics include public opinion and its measurement, how campaigns use public opinion polling and the impact of the media on public opinion.

POLI 304. Political Campaigns and Communication: New Hampshire Primary. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Introduces students to the historical and political contexts of presidential primary campaigning. Investigates candidate strategy and ways candidates seek out money, media coverage and grassroots organization. Includes a week-long trip to New Hampshire during the first-in-the-nation primary to provide students with hands-on experience. Offered as an intersession class during presidential election years.

POLI 305. Political Campaigns and Communication: Theory and Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of political campaigns focusing on presidential elections. Analysis includes the study of electoral contexts, political mobilization, campaign organizational structures and strategies, campaign rhetoric, and the evolution of campaign-related technology such as polling and social media.

POLI 306. The Congress. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the behavior of legislators and the structures and processes of legislative decision making in the U.S. Congress. Analysis will include both the internal and external environment of congressional policy making, and an assessment of the impact of congressional policy.

POLI 308. U.S. Presidency. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A political and institutional study of the chief executive, focusing especially on the presidential personality and relations with Congress, the bureaucracy, the courts and the shaping of domestic and foreign policy.

POLI 309. Bureaucratic Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analysis of the nature of bureaucracy and bureaucratic phenomena in American governments; the role and involvement of the bureaucracy in politics and the policy-making process. Primary focus on theories and approaches to understanding the central role of bureaucracy in modern society and its use and abuse of power.

POLI 310. Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analytical survey of policy formulation and implementation in the United States, together with an examination of the impact of policy upon individuals and groups in American society.

POLI 311. Politics of the Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of the current controversy about environmental politics and the issues and crises it centers on. Special attention will be given to the constitutional, political and geographical factors in the development of environmental policy and the organized effort to deal with governmental actions and inaction and its impact on policy outcomes. Crosslisted as: ENVS 311.

POLI 313. U.S. Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of the major provisions of the U.S. Constitution concerning civil rights and civil liberties as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court. Topics to be covered include how the federal courts enforce individual rights found in the Constitution, limitations on governmental actions and the use of the Constitution as a starting point for discussions of the nation’s need to balance competing interests of individuals, government and societal values.
POLI 314. U.S. Constitutional Law. 3 Hours.
Structure of Government Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits.
A survey of the development of the Constitution as it pertains to
the structure of U.S. government. Topics to be covered include an
introduction to the operation of the Supreme Court, separation of powers,
decisions on federalism, the powers of Congress, the president, the
judiciary and judicial review.

POLI 315. Courts and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of theories and
models of judicial decision-making in the Supreme Court, focusing
on judicial structure and procedures, policy-making analysis, political
ideology, and judicial activism.

POLI 316. Women and the Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will introduce
students to the history, politics and status of women under the American
legal system. Topics to be covered may include equal protection,
sexual violence, the particular rights of women of color and lesbians,
reproductive rights of women of color and lesbians, reproductive rights,
women criminals and women in the legal profession. Crosslisted as:
GSWS 316.

POLI 318. Politics of Race, Class and Gender. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the racial, class
and gender influences on the history and development of political values,
conflicts, processes, structures and public policy in the United States.
Crosslisted as: AFAM 318/GSWS 318.

POLI 319. Women and American Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course analyzes the
participation of women in American politics. Attention is given to both
women's historical and contemporary roles in politics, their participation
as voters and citizens, and their behavior as candidates and office
holders. Additional topics may include workplace, family and education
issues and reproductive rights. Crosslisted as: GSWS 319.

POLI 320. Research Methods in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Current
methods of research in the discipline of political science. Includes a
brief introduction to the tools and techniques for exploring and analyzing
political science data.

POLI 321. Urban Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of urban
political power and influence, governance, and public policy. Topics
include: power and influence, governmental structures and the political
process, public policy, and service delivery.

POLI 322. State and Local Government and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the
politics and governance of states and localities. Attention is devoted to
political culture, interest groups, political parties, the legislative, executive
and judicial components of state government, along with the structure
and political processes of local governments.

POLI 323. Virginia Government and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of Virginia
state government and politics, with appropriate attention given to
political culture, interest groups, political parties, the media and the
legislative, executive and judicial branches of government.

POLI 329. Intergovernmental Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of vertical
and horizontal intergovernmental relations. Attention will be given to the
major variants of federalism. The role of categorical and block grants in
programmatic federalism will be assessed. Trends in intergovernmental
relations will be advanced.

POLI 331. Public Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the concepts
and practices of public administration in the United States. Particular
attention will be given to the administrative procedures and practices of
the national government and of the government in Virginia.

POLI 332. Administrative Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Survey of the major functions
of the modern administrative state as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme
Court. Topics to be covered include the constitutional and legal authority
of bureaucratic agencies, rulemaking and adjudication, and judicial review
of agency action. Emphasizes the tensions found in the administrative
process, how administrators try to address them while performing their
jobs and how the environment surrounding administrative behavior
affects administrators trying to do their work.

POLI 333. Politics in Film. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses pivotal elements
of the study of politics of the past 100 years and highlights how they
have been treated in film. The fundamental assumption of the course is
that film has been in many powerful ways more important in inculcating
political values and beliefs than elected officials, government institutions
and other political socialization agents.

POLI 341. History of Political Theory: Classical to Modern. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of leading political
ideas of the ancient and medieval periods.

POLI 342. History of Political Theory: Modern to Contemporary. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of leading political
ideas of modern and contemporary thought.

POLI 343. Black Political Thought. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An historical and sociological
perspective on the political and social ideas of black thinkers from David
Walker to the present. Crosslisted as: AFAM 343.

POLI 344. Contemporary Political Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides a survey
of recent trends in political theory. It examines updates of the major
ideological traditions, arguments about the nature of modernity and
recent developments in environment, feminist and non-Western thought.

POLI 345. African-American Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In this course, students
will discuss and analyze the dynamics of the black experience in the
American political system. The status of African-Americans in the
United States and the struggle for racial equality will be examined, as
will the manner in which American institutions have responded to these
phenomena. Students will examine the race/class metric in African-
American politics, particularly policies of Affirmative Action as a black
progress strategy. Crosslisted as: AFAM 345.
POLI 346. Black Political Activism. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the
movement for black lives in the United States through the lens of political
activism. Engages vigorous dialogue on black social and economic
justice, redistribution, labor rights and democracy, with particular
references to historic and contemporary movements in the black political
experience. Contextualizes the long history of racial justice, nonviolent
and anti-racist political movements within academic historical, social
scientific and legal frameworks.

POLI 347. Black Queer Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the political
dimensions of black queer life in the United States. Takes a multifaceted
approach to black queer politics, addressing black theories of gender
and queer sexuality, but queer theoretical interrogations of blackness
as well. Students will gain practice applying black queer analysis as
an interpretive lens for contemporary sociopolitical issues and cultural
production including via film, music, art and performance.

POLI 351. Governments and Politics of the Middle East. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comparative analysis of
political systems in the Middle East including the study of contemporary
aspects of traditionalism, the political nature of transition, the
instruments of political modernization, and evolution and revolution in
the political process of Middle Eastern states. The course will explore
the primary bases of cleavage and conflict and the principal forces that
shape the policies and political dynamics of the region. Crosslisted as:
INTL 351.

POLI 352. European Governments and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comparative study of the
political systems of selected western and eastern European countries.
Crosslisted as: INTL 352.

POLI 353. Latin American Governments and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of politics
characteristic of Latin American systems, including democratic
reformism, military authoritarianism and revolutionary socialism.
The course also examines the contemporary problems of fledgling
democracies as they cope with economic and debt crises and various
opposition challenges. Crosslisted as: INTL 353.

POLI 354. Russian and Post-Soviet Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the origins,
institutions, processes and disintegration of the Soviet political system
and the ongoing reform efforts during the post-Soviet period. Special
emphasis is placed on the politics of the transition to a democratic
political system and a market economy. Other topics include nationality
issues, social problems and foreign policy. Crosslisted as: INTL 354.

POLI 355. Asian Governments and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comparative analysis of the
politics and governments of major Asian states, with a focus on Japan,
China and India. Crosslisted as: INTL 355.

POLI 356. Government and Politics of Africa. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will introduce
students to the basic outlines of government and politics in Africa. The
course will consider such topics as colonialism, elitism, and nationalism
and modernization strategies. Using the comparative approach, the
course will primarily focus on West, East and Central Africa. Crosslisted
as: AFAM 356/INTL 356.

POLI 357. Politics of Southern Africa. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of racial and
political developments in the southern tip of Africa. While South Africa
will be the primary focus of analysis, other countries in the region such
as Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique will be studied. Crosslisted as:
AFAM 357/INTL 357.

POLI 358. Concepts of Comparative Government. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Comparative study of
politics and governments. Introduces concepts and theories used in
the study of political systems. Topics include democratization and
democratic governance, the role of the state, one-party and military
regimes, revolution, and economic and political development. Crosslisted as: INTL 358.

POLI 359. The Politics of Developing Areas. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of the processes
of political and economic development. Includes a study of various
challenges facing developing countries, such as economic inequalities,
environmental degradation, mass political participation, military coups,
revolution and civil war. Crosslisted as: INTL 359.

POLI 360. China in Transition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Traces how China is making
the transition from a planned to market economy, and what implications
this transition has on the political, social and urban landscape. Class
discussions are grounded on a basic understanding of China’s modern
history and regional geography. Crosslisted as: INTL 360.

POLI 361. Issues in World Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of several
significant issues in world politics. Topics may include peacekeeping
and collective security, international economic competitiveness, global
environmental politics as well as selected others. Topics will vary with
current events and trends in the international arena. Crosslisted as:
INTL 361.

POLI 362. International Organizations and Institutions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the background
development structure and operations of organizations and institutions
such as the United Nations, the European Community and the
Organization of American States. Crosslisted as: INTL 362.

POLI 363. U.S. Foreign Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analytical survey of
processes and practices in the formulation of U.S. foreign policy,
including an introduction to the goals, problems of implementation and
current challenges faced by policy makers. Crosslisted as: INTL 363.

POLI 364. Vietnam. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analysis of the complete
record of the conflict in Vietnam. The primary focus will be on the period
of U.S. involvement. The course will examine closely how and why the
U.S. became involved in Vietnam and what impact the Vietnam War has
had on political institutions and behavior. In particular, the course will
examine what impact the period of U.S. involvement has had upon U.S.
foreign policy. The course also will consider additional topics including
public opinion and the war, the relationship between the president and
Congress in light of the war, and contemporary U.S. politics as a backlash
against the political movements of the 1960s. Crosslisted as: INTL 364.
POLI 365. International Political Economy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of both theoretical and current policy issues in international political economy. Theories to be covered include liberalism, mercantilism, Marxism, regionalism, world systems theory and others. Policy issues include differing styles of capitalism in the industrialized world, the political economy of development, the politics of international corporate alliances and others. Crosslisted as: INTL 365.

POLI 366. Women and Global Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of women and global politics, providing both a feminist re-examination of traditional international-relations theories and a comparative analysis of the political, legal and economic status of the world's women. The impact of women on global political institutions such as the United Nations will be addressed as well as other feminist and grass roots means of taking political action. Crosslisted as: GSWS 366/INTL 368.

POLI 367. Terrorism. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 and POLI/INTL 105; or POLI 103 and HSEP 101; or POLI/INTL 105 and HSEP 101. A survey of the modern problem of terrorism with an emphasis on the political nature of terrorist acts. Examines the history of terrorism, domestically within the U.S. and internationally, the role of religion, the structures and operations of terrorist organizations, as well as counterterrorism policies and policy-making. Crosslisted as: HSEP 301.

POLI 368. Comparative National Security Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of national security policies and policy-making in a diverse set of nation-states. Emphasis is placed on comparing how threat perception, historical context, ideology, political structure and leadership impact national security policies of both powerful and weak nation-states. Crosslisted as: INTL 468.

POLI 369. U.S. National Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of key issues in U.S. national security including national security decision-making, the use of force, military intervention, nuclear strategy and strategic arms control, ballistic missile defense, the transformation of war due to technology and globalization, defense policy, planning and budgeting, the impact of technology on strategy from airpower to cyberspace and robotics, and critical regional issues.

POLI 370. Foundations of Nonprofit Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the history and foundations of the nonprofit agency in the U.S. and abroad. Compares and contrasts relationships between business, government and the nonprofit sector. Discusses requirements for formalizing and managing nonprofit organizations from the perspectives of the volunteer board and employees. Examines issues of accountability, policy, research and resource development.

POLI 372. Ethics, Law and Governance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how legal, legislative and public policy issues affect the development and growth of nonprofit organizations. Examines ethical principals and legal issues related to personnel and employment, as well as the goals of advocacy and its importance to nonprofit practitioners.

POLI 374. Financial Management for Nonprofits. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how nonprofit organizations are influenced by prices, distribution of goods and services and the distribution of income and wealth. Topics include financial-statement analysis, time-value of money, budgeting concepts and techniques, securities valuation, long- and short-term financial planning issues and working capital management. Designed to develop skills in decision-making in financial management of the nonprofit organization.

POLI 380. Human Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of the key elements of human security: the positive and negative impacts of globalization, the rise and impact of civil violence within many nations, the dilemmas of the aid industry, the impact of non-state actors, and issues related to chronic poverty, food security and water security.

POLI 381. The Politics of Genocide and Human Rights. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the history and causes of genocide and large-scale human rights violations of the 20th century and more recent examples. Using case studies, and focusing on the Holocaust as the paradigmatic genocide, the course studies historical events and theoretical explanations to understand why people have been so willing, in every historical era, to kill each other in large numbers.

POLI 382. International Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of the basic principles of international and comparative health, as well as the national and international institutional structures in place to address health challenges. Focuses on the political, economic, social and individual burdens of inadequate health to societies and the international community. The implementation of global health programs and methods used to evaluate them are studied in detail.

POLI 383. The Middle East and North Africa in Transition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the political, social and economic aspects of the “new” Middle East and North Africa after what has come to be known as “The Arab Spring.” Topics addressed include a historical and geographical overview of the Arab world prior to the mass uprisings, an examination of the political and economic motivations for popular unrest in several Arab countries, the role of women and youth movements as well as social media in mass demonstrations that happened in several Arab countries, the wider regional and global impact of the uprisings, and an assessment of the Arab world today.

POLI 384. International Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to majors or minors in political science. Studies the rules and practices of international law as a vehicle for exploring the relations among states, international organizations and individuals within the international system. Beginning with fundamental issues such as a theory of international law, the sources of law, international identity, treaties, jurisdiction, title and territory, and means of conflict resolution, this course further examines applications of international law to human rights, the global environment, the law of the sea and global conflict.

POLI 385. International Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the theories, concepts, issues and cases in international security, a major subfield of international relations. Emphasizes the extensive security relationships between and among nation-states and serves as a critical comparison to national security, homeland security and human security.
POLI 386. Environmental Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on how the availability of natural resources affect human civilization and how political power artificially determines their accessibility. Topics include the nexus of resource conflict, privatization, scarcity, over-usage, competing interests, garbage, climate change, gender issues, migration, forests and disaster.

POLI 391. Topics in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Maximum total of 9 credits in all departmental topics courses may be applied to the major. An intensive survey of a specialized field of political interest. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

POLI 448. Scope and Method of Political Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: POLI 103 or permission of instructor. A comprehensive and systematic study of the philosophy of political science, various theories seeking to explain political phenomena and some of the techniques of political analysis.

POLI 490. Senior Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: 24 credits in political science courses or permission of instructor. A capstone course examining the major ideas and debates in each of the four sub-fields of the discipline of political science: American government, political theory, comparative politics and international relations. Students are required to produce a research project on a critical issue in one of the sub-fields.

POLI 491. Topics in Political Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Maximum total of 9 credits in all departmental topics courses may be applied to the major. An intensive survey of a specialized field of political interest. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

POLI 492. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 4 credits per semester; maximum total of 6 credits for all independent study courses. Open generally to students of only junior or senior standing who have acquired at least 12 credits in political science. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be obtained prior to registration of the course. An independent study course that allows a political science major or other student who meets the requirement to do research, under the direction of an instructor qualified in that area, in a subject or field of major interest.

POLI 493. Political Science Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. (50 hours per credit.) May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Permission of internship coordinator required. Restricted to political science majors, nonprofit management and administration minors and public management minors. Provides an opportunity to relate theory to practice through observation and actual experience within the field of political science. Graded as pass/fail.

POLI 494. Political Science Mentorship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: 24 credits in political science courses including POLI 103, 105, 107 and 109, permission of instructor, and 3.3 GPA in POLI courses. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A mentorship course that allows students to develop advanced research skills, to experience managing a classroom and to present the results of their research in a classroom setting. Different sections of the course specialize in different subfields of political science: U.S. government, comparative politics, international relations and political theory.