

Transfer Student Orientation Politics Department

2021

Welcome to UVa and our Department!

Overview of Presentation:

- Who can help you
- What we study (the fields in political science)
- Navigating our websites, SIS, Lou's List
- Understanding the Requirements for our two major
- Forms for transfer students and information on how to declare a major (Links below)

Director of Undergraduate Program

Michael Smith
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Who can *really* help you:
Ms. Sharon Marsh

Graduate/Undergraduate Assistant, LSA
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Office Hours: tba

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Information at our website

- Details in this slideshow also available on Department webpage: <https://politics.virginia.edu/>
- Major declaration worksheets: <https://politics.virginia.edu/how-to-declare-politics-major>
- Links to faculty office hours, webpages, email addresses
- Info about events in Department

Our two majors

- Government
 - Political Theory
 - American Politics
- Foreign Affairs
 - Comparative Politics
 - International Relations

Our courses

- PLAD – All Department (methods and inter-sub-disciplinary courses)
- PLAP – American Politics
- PLCP – Comparative Politics
- PLIR – International Relations
- PLPT – Political Theory

Which major should I pursue?

- They are similar
- The difference is in the “track”
- Let your substantive interests drive your choice—which courses do you find yourself drawn to?
- No real difference in later career path or professional schools (e.g. Law School)

Both majors have 4 parts

- The “Distribution” requirements (4 courses: 1 each in AP, CP, IR, PT)
- The “track” requirements within Gov or F.A. (3 courses)
- Politics “electives” (3 courses from any subfield)
- Related courses (4 courses)

Thus: 10 PL** courses, and

4 courses from related fields

Both majors require the same “distribution”...

- At least **one** course from each of the 4 major subfields
 - American Politics (PLAP)
 - Comparative Politics (PLCP)
 - International Relations (PLIR)
 - Political Theory (PLPT)

Depending on your major...

Your “track” or focus of study within the major:

- For **Government**: you’ll pick either PLAP or PLPT
- For **Foreign Affairs**: you’ll choose PLIR or PLCP

In either major..

- You can take any PL** courses for your additional 3 major elective courses
- The electives section is also where your transfer or study abroad credit gets counted

Major Courses in Summary:

- Ten PL** courses:
 - One each in AP, CP, IR, and PT 4
 - Three courses in your major focus area 3
 - Three major elective courses from any subfield within the Politics Department 3
- Plus 4 related courses

What are *related* courses?

- These are courses in fields closely related to Politics like Economics, History, Sociology, and Philosophy*
- PL** courses are *not* related; the point of the requirement is to broaden your base of knowledge by taking classes in areas *related* to the study of politics
- Again: The major requires 10 PL** courses and 4 related courses

*The full list of related disciplines: AAS, AMST, ANTH, EAST, ECON, ETP, HIAF, HIEA, HIEU, HILA, HIME, HISA, HIST, HIUS, MDST, MEST, PHIL, PSYC, RELA, RELB, RELC, RELG, RELH, RELI, RELJ, RELS, SOC, WGS

Course Level Requirements

- 1000s – big introductions, “survey” courses, usually large lectures (**maximum of 3** allowed)
- 2000s – focused introductions, specialized courses, usually smaller classes (**up to 5** allowed)
- 3000s – focused intermediate level, narrower topical courses (**4 classes at the 3000-level or higher required**)
- 4000s – seminars with research component and more writing (**1 required**)

Enrolling for the Fall Semester

- You won't officially "declare" the major in Government or Foreign Affairs until the end of the Fall Semester.
- Here are some general guidelines:
 - Refer to your transfer course equivalents on SIS when choosing your classes. Don't duplicate courses for which you've already received equivalent UVa credit
 - Choose classes appropriate to your level of experience and preparation

Pick 1 or 2 PL** Classes

- If you have at least *one* course from your previous college that was granted PL** credit, you *need to take only one* course from us this term to declare the major in the fall
- Many of you will still want to take *two* politics courses for Fall 2020 to make progress in the major
- If you have *no* classes from your previous institution that transferred in as PL** classes, you will need to take *two* classes here before you can declare our major.
- Again, do *not* choose classes that duplicate courses you completed at your previous institution and for which you have received UVa college credit.

SIS or Lou's List

- Full information about classes available either way
- Lou's list is easier for searching classes

<https://louslist.org/index.php>

Summer 2021: <https://louslist.org/page.php?Semester=1216&Type=Group&Group=Politics>

Fall 2021: <https://louslist.org/page.php?Semester=1216&Type=Group&Group=Politics>

- SIS gives you access to waitlists, classes; you can only enroll through SIS

<https://sisuva.admin.virginia.edu/ihprd/signon.html>

How do I declare the Major (1)?

- As explained above, take ONE or TWO courses from the Politics Department this summer and/or fall term.
- Obtain and fill out the Major Worksheets:
 1. Download and consider the Major worksheets for each major:
 - a. Government major [worksheet](#)
 - b. Foreign Affairs Major [worksheet](#)

How to Declare (2):

2. Fill this in, paying attention to the subfield and course level requirements.
 - One course you've already taken at your previous institution that has been granted UVa PL** credit can count as prerequisite; one other class can count as an elective.

3. Choose your additional classes—this is a plan, not a commitment—by referring to our general offerings:
 - Lou's list has a convenient link here: [“Course Catalogues Index”](#). This resource also shows when the course was last offered.
 - You can also refer to the official University Record: for the Politics Department listings are [here](#).)

How to Declare--3

4. Fill out the form, save the file on your device with a new filename leading with your last name (e.g. “*Smith_Gov_Worksheet.docx*”)
5. Email this renamed file, as an attachment, to Ms. Sharon Marsh (smm4g@virginia.edu)
by Sept 30, 2021
6. When you have completed your fall Politics course(s) with a grade of C or better, Ms. Marsh will return your worksheet to you, and direct you to the College “DocuSign” form so you can complete the process

Will politics courses from my old college count for my major?

- Yes, but with limits. *To recapitulate:*
- Two courses (six credits) of PL** will count, one as a pre-requisite, one as an elective. The pre-req course will also be treated as a major elective course.
- Two courses (six credits) of RELATED coursework will count
- Next spring: check your Academic Requirements section in SIS to confirm that your prior courses have been applied to the major. If you see problems, check with Ms. Marsh.

Final Thoughts

- Check out Summer Courses—you can enroll by emailing summer@virginia.edu Several good courses are available in the third summer session (July 19-August 12).
- Meet your professors—go to their office hours
- Engage with current students—choose some extracurricular activities you enjoy
- Let your intellectual interests drive your class choices
- Explore the Charlottesville community, too; consider volunteering with Madison House

UVA Grade point values

- A+, A • 4.0
- A- • 3.7
- B+ • 3.3
- B • 3.0
- B- • 2.7
- C+ • 2.3
- C • 2.0
- C- • 1.7