

# Transfer Student Orientation

## Politics Department

2020

# Welcome to our Department!

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

# 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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1540 Jefferson Park Ave  
Office Hours:

(434) 924-3604

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# Information at our website

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

# Which major should I pursue?

- They are similar
- The difference is in the “track”

# Our two majors

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

# Both majors have 4 parts

- The “Distribution” requirements (4 courses)
- The “track” requirements (3 courses)
- Politics “electives” (3 courses)
- Related courses (4 courses)

Thus: 10 PL\*\* courses , and

4 courses from related fields



# Both majors require the same “distributions”..

- At least one course from 4 major subfields
  - American Politics
  - Comparative Politics
  - International Relations
  - Political Theory

# Our courses

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

# Depending on your major...

- ...you'll pick PLAP, PLPT, PLIR or PLCP for your track or focus

# Whatever your major

- You can take any PL\*\* courses for your major electives
- The electives section is also where your transfer credit gets counted

# What are RELATED courses?

- These are NOT PL\*\* courses but instead courses in fields closely related to Politics like Economics, History, Sociology and Philosophy
- Again: The major requires 10 PL\*\* courses and 4 related courses

# Course Levels

- 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 equivalent worksheet when choosing your classes.

# Pick 1 or 2 PL\*\* Classes

- For this fall only: 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
- 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.
- Do NOT choose classes that duplicate courses you completed at your previous institution and for which you have received 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>
- 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 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 pre-requisite; 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](mailto:smm4g@virginia.edu)) by Sept 30, 2020.
- 6. When you have completed your fall Politics course(s) with a grade of C or better, Ms. Marsh will declare your Gov or Foreign major in January.

# Will Politics courses from my old college count for my major?

- Yes, to recapitulate:
- Two courses (six credits) of PL\*\* will count, one as a pre-requisite, one as an elective.
- 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.

# 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