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
mjs9t@virginia.edu
Who can REALLY help you:
Ms. Sharon Marsh

Graduate/Undergraduate Assistant, LSA
S183 Gibson Hall
1540 Jefferson Park Ave
Office Hours:

(434) 924-3604
smm4g@virginia.edu
Information at our website

• Details in this slideshow also available on Department webpages [https://politics.virginia.edu/](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) 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