



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE



Academic Program

We offer several tracks of study including two distinct majors in political science. The Political Science Department faculty contribute to the International Studies program in European, Asian, and Middle Eastern Studies, and we are partners in the college's unique major in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics. The Department of Political Science also houses the college's nationally known prelaw program.

Degree Program

A political science degree will provide you with a sound knowledge of five principal areas of study—American politics, political thought, international relations, comparative government and legal studies. You also will gain a wider understanding of the world by focusing on both the theoretical and practical problems of politics through a combination of core courses and advanced seminars. You will be encouraged to link theory and practice and to compare different political systems and cultures.

Students are expected to translate concepts into action, to become real-world problem solvers rather than merely classroom puzzle solvers, to explore such central issues as the exercise of power in its myriad forms and consequences, to analyze the role of religion in global governance, to explore the impact of the war on terrorism on national and international politics, to examine the causes of war and peace, and to contemplate the history of important ideas including “liberty,” “justice,” “community” and “morality.”

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Teaching and Assessment

The Political Science Department is devoted to excellence in teaching, and we challenge our students to master difficult concepts and to articulate what they learn in both written essays and oral presentations. Many of our classes are taught as discussion seminars in which students play a leading role in explaining and analyzing the issues that are being discussed. This approach becomes more pronounced during the third and fourth years of study when seminars and independent and directed studies gradually displace formal lectures.

We always insist that students take an active role in their own learning, and we never expect you to listen passively to lectures or to simply regurgitate memorized lists of basic facts. We are committed to the idea that the study of politics and international affairs is the proper training ground for students who want to play a leading role in the political, public policy, and international affairs of their communities, our nation, and an interconnected world.

Everyone has opinions about politics. We expect that you will bring your opinions to class, articulate those opinions as clearly

and persuasively as possible, subject those opinions (and those of your classmates) to a rigorous and critical examination, and revise your opinions according to the dictates of the arguments presented. We expect our students to graduate with a wide range of well-informed thoughts on the most pressing issues facing our nation and our world as well as the practical skills necessary to translate their principles into reality.

Program Options

The bachelor of arts degree in political science offers students two degree options.

B.A. in Political Science: To prepare students for graduate study in political science; careers related to public service, government or administration; careers in teaching history or social sciences at the secondary level; or any career where strong

writing, analysis or problem-solving skills are required for success.

B.A. in Law and Politics: To prepare students for entry into law school or to pursue other work in the legal profession.

The Department of Political Science faculty also contribute to

interdisciplinary majors in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics; Asian Studies; Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies; and European Studies. We collaborate with appropriate faculty members from many other disciplines to offer an interdisciplinary view of the politics and cultures for students preparing to work in an increasingly diverse and complex world.

Special Opportunities

The Political Science Department supplements its regular course offerings with a number of other opportunities designed to help students gain practical experience to complement their theoretical proficiency. These opportunities include the following:

Honors Thesis Program. The Political Science Department offers one of the most rigorous undergraduate Honors Thesis Programs in the region. Particularly well-qualified seniors apply for admission into this highly selective program. We are proud of our honors graduates; their successes are the best advertisement for what we do here.

Opportunities for Study Abroad. The opportunity to study abroad is an integral component of the political science program,

enabling students to study any specialization, particularly international law and international relations, literally anywhere in the world, including China, India, France, England, the Middle East and Greece.

Annual Moot Court Competition. Every year, the department sponsors a moot court competition. Students argue cases before current federal and state judges. Winners of the E&H competition have gone on to win major law school contests.

Career Options

Studying politics gives students the skills necessary to succeed in an increasingly global, complex and dynamic environment. A major in politics is good preparation for graduate work in the fields of law, business, journalism, politics, public administration, education, social service, and diplomatic and international affairs.

Faculty

Joe Lane, Hawthorne Professor and Chair of Political Science. B.A., Hampden-Sydney College; Ph.D., Boston College. Dr. Lane taught at Harvard University, Hampden-Sydney College and Bowdoin College before coming to Emory & Henry in 2000. He has published widely on ancient and modern political thought and coauthored *The Deconstitutionalization of America* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2004) and *Interrogating Nature* (MIT Press, 2014). He was awarded the College's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2004. He also directs Emory & Henry's Honors Program and serves as advisor to the Pre-Law Society.

Alise Coen, Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Studies. B.A., Syracuse University; Ph.D., University of Delaware. Dr. Coen taught at the University of Connecticut before coming to Emory & Henry in 2011. Her research focuses on Middle East politics, Global Governance, and International Perceptions of the United States. She has

traveled throughout Europe and the Middle East, and conducted her dissertation field research in Egypt. Her dissertation, titled "Rethinking Anti-Americanism: Egyptian Perceptions of the United States," was nominated for an American Political Science Association dissertation award.

Samir Saliba, Meyung-Alley Chair of International Studies and Professor of Political Science. B.A., M.A., and Ph.D., Tulane University. Dr. Saliba is the longest serving full-time faculty member at Emory & Henry College. He serves as a pre-law advisor and has authored or co-authored multiple editions of *The Nature and Functions of Law* (Foundations Press), one of the most widely used textbooks on comparative law and legal theory. In 1997, he was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, and in 2001, he was awarded the Outstanding Educator Award by the Higher Education Foundation of the United Methodist Church.



Office of Admissions • Post Office Box 10 • Emory, Virginia 24327-0010
800-848-5493 • 276-944-6133 • ehadmiss@ehc.edu • www.ehc.edu

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