

## **Some important things to know about our department/program...**

**Updated October 2020**

### **Africana Studies**

- AFS has a wide array of courses in many different departments, please keep this in mind when discussing options with interested students.
- Be sure to remember that each student has a personal history that sometimes makes them more attractive for employers. Many students may appear to have an “average” record academically, but other skills and experiences are highly sought after by employers and graduate schools. All students should receive encouragement when it comes to graduate study, at least at the Masters level in their field of interest.

### **Anthropology & Sociology**

- Students must take EITHER A&S 102 or A&S 103 to take a 200- or 300-level A&S course.
- We offer a variety of courses for those interested in health professions. Those students should take A&S 103: Introduction to Sociology, which is now recommended for the MCAT, before taking Medical Anthropology, Race, Racism, and Health in the U.S., Social Determinants of Health, or Health in the Life Course Perspective.
- Students interested in majoring should plan on taking A&S 200: Research Methods and Design in their sophomore year. A&S 342: Theories of Society usually fills with seniors and is typically taken in the senior year. A 300-level elective can be taken at any time after taking 102 or 103.

### **Biology**

- Students should be advised to take BIOLOGY and CHEMISTRY and MATH in their first year if they're fairly serious about majoring in Biology.
- Because of how courses build upon one another, the prerequisite structure is important and exists for a reason; students need prerequisite material to succeed. In addition, academic advisors should model good practices for their students by reviewing for

themselves and with first-year students how to negotiate through the extensive material provided on the website (rather than just sending a student to come talk to one of us).

- During the first year, students should become acquainted with the various research opportunities in our department.

### **Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering**

- If a student is currently not in engineering but becomes interested in majoring in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, the student should come talk with the Chemical Engineering Department Head as soon as possible so that the department head can review the courses they've taken and help them determine the best path forward.

### **Chemistry & Biochemistry**

- Start with CHEM 121 in the fall semester unless advanced placement in chemistry has been recommended
- See suggested course sequences here: <https://chemistry.lafayette.edu/program/>

### **Civil & Environmental Engineering**

- We offer a number of courses that may be of interest to students outside of engineering and that have few, if any, prerequisites:
  - o ES 101 - Introduction to Engineering (no prerequisites needed)
  - o CE 202 - Data: the good, the bad, and the misleading (STSC course — prerequisite any 100-level lab-based course in the natural sciences)
  - o CE 203 - Envisioning a Sustainable World (STSC course — prerequisite any 100-level lab-based course in the natural sciences)
  - o CE 322 - Environmental Site Assessment (prerequisite: CHEM 121 or permission of instructor)

### **Computer Science (CS)**

- Students who are interested in taking a computing course and have little or no experience should take either CM 151 (for non-majors) or CS 104/105. Students who are interested in possibly majoring (or minoring) in computer science should meet with the department head to discuss the options and course selection.

## **Data Science (DS)**

- The program currently offers a minor. Students who are interested should look at the website ([datascience.lafayette.edu](http://datascience.lafayette.edu)) for information about the requirements.

## **Economics**

### ***Requirements for the major (see below for non-economics classes):***

- Econ 101 - Principles of Economics
- Econ 251 - Intermediate Microeconomics
- Econ 252 - Intermediate Macroeconomics
- Econ 253 - Econometrics
- Minimum of five department electives (at least three at the 300-level or higher)
- Capstone: a 400-level seminar, Econ 496 (Honors Thesis), or other approved work

### ***Requirements for the minor:***

- Six courses in Economics, satisfying each course's prerequisites

### ***Notes:***

- The 200-level courses below 250 only require Econ 101. They are meant to be of interest to many different audiences on campus.
- Math 141 (or Mathematics 161 with the Moodle multivariate calculus module) and 186 are required components of the major.
- The prerequisites for Econ 251 and 252 are Econ 101 and Math 141 (or Math 161 -- see Dept Head)
- The prerequisites for Econ 253 are Math 186 and either Econ 251 or Econ 252.
- Econ 251 and Econ 252 are not a sequence. They can be taken in any order.
- Internships are not counted towards the elective requirement.
- One semester of thesis can count toward the electives.
- *Students expressing interest in pursuing a graduate degree in economics should be advised early of the importance of taking advanced mathematics courses, completing and going beyond the calculus sequence that begins with Math 161, not Math 141. They should meet with the Economics Department Head for further information.*

### ***Possible Timeline for the major\****

#### First year:

- Math 141 or Math 161

- Math 186
- Econ 101
- Econ 200-level (optional)

Sophomore year:

- Econ 251 (Fall or Spring)
- Econ 252 (Fall or Spring)
- Econ 253 (Spring) - Note: Either Econ 251 or Econ 252 is a prerequisite for Econ 253

Junior year:

- Econ Electives

Senior year:

- Econ Electives
- Capstone - Either 400-level seminar or Econ 496 (both are W courses)

*\* There is flexibility in this schedule. Please feel free to reach out to the department head if you have any questions.*

## **Electrical & Computer Engineering (ECE)**

If a student is currently in engineering and interested in majoring in electrical and computer engineering, here are some entry level courses for consideration.

- ECE 211 - Digital Circuits I (no prerequisites needed)
- ECE 221 - Basic Electrical Circuits (prerequisite: Math 162)

If a student is currently not in engineering but becomes interested in majoring in electrical and computer engineering, the student should come talk with the civil engineering department head as soon as possible so that the department head can review the courses they've taken and help them determine the best path forward.

## **Engineering (B.S.)**

- The engineering program offers students the opportunity to develop systems thinking and modeling skills and to focus their study in one of three interdisciplinary fields of engineering: bioengineering, environment & energy, or robotics. There is no general engineering track in the program. Students in the program take ES 103 Systems 1 in the spring of their first year, and ES 201 Systems 2 in the fall of their sophomore year. Students that transfer into the program late can take these courses in the sophomore and junior years instead.
- Engineering students considering the BSE should check out the FAQs document on our website: <https://bse.lafayette.edu/faqs/>
- If a student is currently not in engineering but becomes interested in the program, they should meet with the Program Chair as soon as possible to review the courses they've taken and determine the best path forward, particularly in meeting the core

systems course requirements and the math and science requirements, which are equal to those of the other B.S. programs in engineering.

## Engineering Studies

- The mission of the Engineering Studies program is to engage students in engineering as a liberal art, recognizing the increasingly complex challenges of socio-technical systems and examining these systems through multidisciplinary perspectives.
- Students come to the Engineering Studies major through a variety of paths, including initial interest in the humanities, social sciences, and/or sciences, as well as in engineering. Any student who is interested in exploring the Engineering Studies program should schedule, to the extent possible, chemistry, physics, and calculus classes during the first year, as well as Introduction to Engineering (ES 101). Nonetheless, if a student decides later that the Engineering Studies program sounds interesting, regardless of what they initially thought their major might be, they still may be able to complete the Engineering Studies major and should see the Program Chair ASAP.
- The Engineering Studies major requires at least eight math/science/computing courses, three core EGRS courses, and at least six additional engineering courses.
- All but one EGRS class (the capstone) is open to students from all majors at the college, and many have no or minimal prerequisites.

## English

- Students who would like to take an introductory English course designated as a Writing or “W” course have the option of registering for English 100 or English 202. If you are unsure of which course to take, please consider the following:
- *Introduction to Academic Writing (ENG 100) is probably best for me if:*
  - I am a first-year or sophomore student looking for additional practice with academic writing conventions after my FYS.
  - In high school, I did not do much writing.
  - I am often confused or uncertain about how to organize my ideas—where to begin, how to paragraph, how to conclude, and so forth.
  - Surface errors in my writing have interfered with a reader’s ability to follow my ideas.

- I type or retype my papers on a computer, but don't really revise my work.
  - I don't think of myself as a strong writer.
  - I would benefit from taking a course in which I would write regularly and receive regular feedback on my writing.
- *A Writing Seminar (English 202) is probably best for me if:*
    - I want to take a course whose subject is writing and language, a course in which I can expect to write regularly and receive feedback on my writing.
    - I feel fairly comfortable in planning and organizing an essay—knowing where to begin, how to paragraph, how to conclude, and so forth.
    - I have specific strategies I use to draft and revise my writing. There are specific issues I know to look for when I edit my work.
    - I haven't had problems with grammar and punctuation (commas, apostrophes, etc) that interfered with the quality of my work or my ability to complete my assignments successfully.
    - I consistently receive positive feedback and grades on my writing from my instructors.
    - I consider myself a reasonably good reader and writer.

### **Environmental Science (EVSC) & Environmental Studies (EVST)**

- EVSC and EVST are related, but are distinctly different: a BS in Environmental Science and an AB in Environmental Studies. Students from both programs take EVST 100 Intro to the Environment and EVST 400 Capstone.
- Students who think they may be interested in either program should take EVST 100 and BIOL 102 during their first year.
- The Environmental Science degree is grounded in a foundation of core sciences and is as rigorous as any other B.S. program in the natural sciences at Lafayette (i.e. on par with Biology, Geology, Chemistry).
- There are three tracks or concentration areas within EVSC: Restoration Ecology, Hydrology and Aquatic Systems, and Energy Resources.
- The Environmental Studies degree is a blend of Social Science and Humanities with a bit of Science, designed to give graduates the skill-set to prepare them for careers or graduate study in diverse fields such as Environmental Policy and Management, Environmental Law, Environmental Writing and Journalism, and Environmental Economics.

- The programs have close ties to the Office of Sustainability and LaFarm, and thus our students have many opportunities for sustainability-related experiences on campus.
- The programs have close affiliation with off-campus and study abroad programs such as Frontiers Abroad in New Zealand, Semester in Environmental Science at Woods Hole on Cape Cod, and IES Environmental Studies and Sustainability in Germany.
- The programs draw on faculty expertise from many programs across campus, from English to Engineering.
- The programs are housed on the second floor of the new Rockwell Integrated Sciences Center.

### **Film and Media Studies**

- Lafayette College's interdisciplinary program in Film and Media Studies (FAMS) explores the moving image and digital media in art, culture, and society. The FAMS program combines rigorous critical study with hands-on practice, all within the liberal arts context. Since we live in an increasingly media-driven world, it is essential that students learn to analyze diverse visual and textual forms while honing their skills as effective communicators and media/story makers. Students employ the moving image and sound as creative vehicles and research tools while acquiring essential skills in visual literacy. FAMS works actively to nurture relationships with established film and media scholars, artists and community members, integrating career and advanced-study opportunities for students within local, regional, national, and international centers of film and media activity—connecting what goes on in the classroom to the larger world. For more information <https://fams.lafayette.edu/>
- To complete a FAMS major you need a minimum of 10 courses, and 6 for a FAMS minor. For a complete set of course requirements: <https://fams.lafayette.edu/program/>

### **Foreign Language & Literature**

#### Elementary Proficiency in a Second Language

- To assist you in developing long-term verbal skills and intercultural awareness, Lafayette College requires demonstration of elementary-level proficiency in a second language. The College offers instruction in Chinese, French, German, Ancient Greek, Modern Hebrew, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish. Native speakers of English can fulfill the College's language requirement by successfully completing Elementary 101-102 (a two-semester course sequence), Elementary 103 (a one-semester course for high beginners, which is the equivalent of 102), or any higher-level language course (e.g., Intermediate 111). (*For exemption policies, please see below.*)

## Registering for Classes

- Language classes at Lafayette College are relatively small, and seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please consult placement guidelines *before* you preregister because it will increase your likelihood of obtaining a seat in the appropriate level language course. After you have preregistered, the language department will consult your high school transcripts, placement test scores, and other official records (e.g., the language proficiency section on the Common Application). If the department determines that you have signed up for a course in error, you will be moved to the appropriate course level of the same language and informed of the change before the start of classes. If the course list is already full, your name will appear at the end of a wait list. If a seat does *not* come available, you have several options, including the option to take a different language or to wait a full semester or academic year until the appropriate level language course is next offered. If you decide to wait, please consult your academic adviser about fulfilling a different general education distribution requirement in the meantime.

### General rules of thumb for determining your language level:

- **If you have NO prior experience in a language that you wish to study at Lafayette College**, please register for Elementary 101. (Please note that this course level is normally *reserved* for true beginners.)
- If you have experience speaking or studying a second language **and you wish to register for the same language at Lafayette College**, please consult relevant placement guidelines and specific requirements as listed in the Course Catalog. (For example, if you studied Spanish for two or more years in high school, you are *ineligible* to take Spanish 101.)
- Lafayette College's elementary-level proficiency requirement in a second language does not state *which* language you should take. Indeed, if you did not excel in a particular language in high school, there may be very good reasons for you to consider switching to a new language in college. If you did excel at a second language, then you must take the appropriate course level if you wish to continue your language studies at Lafayette.
- Past experience is one of several factors the language department uses in determining level. For example, if you have completed multiple years of language studies in high school (e.g., AP or 4th-year honors), the language department might place you in Intermediate 111-112 or Advanced 211. (Remember that you always have the option to

start a new language if you prefer studying Elementary 101-102 to continuing your studies at a more advanced level in a language you have already studied.)

### Second-Language Requirement Exemption Policies

Lafayette College provides several options for students who wish to seek exemption from general education requirements in the Common Course of Study. As regards the elementary-level proficiency requirement in a second language, standardized testing is the primary way to demonstrate equivalency. If you have never taken a College Board test in the target language, the Office of the Dean of the College administers optional SAT subject tests during the first-year student orientation weekend.

#### *Achievement testing:*

- The Registrar's office accepts College Board test scores to exempt students from Lafayette's elementary-level proficiency requirement. For languages other than English, students need a score of 3 or above on the appropriate AP exam or 500 or above on the appropriate SAT subject test in order to receive exemption. In certain cases, the Registrar's office awards course credit for high achievement on AP or IB exams; however, this policy does not extend to SAT subject tests. Furthermore, requirement exemption and course credit are not available for other forms of testing such as WebCAPE, which the language department uses as an online tool to assist students in finding the correct course level prior to registration.

#### *Transferring course credit:*

- Students are welcome to apply to transfer course credit for language courses from an approved college or university. The Registrar will grant exemption from the corresponding general education requirement if course credit is awarded. Grades, however, only transfer if students are on a program affiliated with Lafayette's Office of International and Off-Campus Education.

#### *Non-native speakers of English:*

- For students whose second language is English (e.g., some international students), a passing score on TOEFL is sufficient to obtain exemption from the College's elementary-level proficiency requirement.

#### *Heritage speakers:*

- Heritage speakers of a language that is not tested by the College Board should make an appointment with the department head of Foreign Languages & Literatures for information about how to seek exemption from the College's elementary-level requirement in that language. Please note that students need to demonstrate elementary-level *reading* proficiency in the target language in order to receive exemption.

## **Geology & Environmental Geosciences**

- The Geology Department offers a diversity of 100-level natural science (with lab) courses that are open to all first- and second-year students. While these "Introduction to Geology" courses range in course number from Geol 100 to 130 these courses are NOT sequential. Differing course numbers signify differing topical content not variations in level of difficulty. All of these courses are designed to accommodate a range of prior experience and proficiency in science coursework, from students for whom this would be their first course in natural science to those with some prior exposure to the discipline. None of these 100-level courses have prerequisites.

## **Government and Law**

- Ten courses in the Department are required for the major; six for the minor.
- For the major, students need 3 of 4 100-level courses. 100-level courses are limited to first- and second-year students, but majors and minors can get permission to take intro courses (by contacting the Dept Head) if they are required to complete the major. Because almost all upper-level political theory courses require Introduction to Political Theory as a prerequisite, majors should plan to take GOVT 104.
- The major requires exposure to each of four subfields (American Politics, International Politics, Comparative Politics, Political Theory) and exposure beyond the 100-level to at least three of these. Some courses are designated as providing exposure toward more than one subfield, but to fulfill the subfield breadth requirement, students who take a course designated as satisfying two subfields can count that course toward either of the identified subfields, but not toward both. A list of which courses count towards which subfield is available on our departmental site and here:

<https://govlaw.lafayette.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2020/09/Course-listing-by-subfield-4-2020.pdf>

- There is a worksheet students can use to easily track progress toward completion of their major requirements:  
<https://govlaw.lafayette.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2020/09/Govt-and-Law-Major-Worksheet-4-2020.pdf>
- There are three different ways to pursue a Government and Law minor, and students should know that it's not just any six Government and Law courses. Details at:  
<https://govlaw.lafayette.edu/program/>
- Students have the option of pursuing one of two coordinate majors: Religion and Politics or Government & Law and FLL. Details at:  
<https://govlaw.lafayette.edu/program/coordinate-majors/>

### **Health Professions: Medical, Dental, Optometry, Veterinary**

- Start with CHEM 121 in the fall semester unless Chemistry advanced placement has been recommended.
- See suggested course sequences here: <https://chemistry.lafayette.edu/program/>

### **History**

- History-major alumni from Lafayette have succeeded in the fields of law, performing arts, business, academia, consulting, and medicine. Our rigorous curriculum, small class sizes, and many opportunities for individualized instruction make the history major attractive for students who wish to improve their analytical skills, writing, and widen their perspective on a fast-changing world.
- The History Department offers two types of 100-level courses tailored especially for incoming students and sophomores. Our Introduction to History seminars are topic-oriented, and emphasize the use of primary sources. Themes include: Food Histories in the Americas, Partition of South Asia, History in Pictures, The Cold War, and others. Introduction to History seminars meet in groups of sixteen or less, and count towards fulfillment of one W (writing course) in the Common Course of Study. These courses are numbered HIST 110 through HIST 149.
- The department's other introductory course is "History of the Modern World" (HIST 105). This course is required for history majors, and also counts towards International Affairs and Policy Studies major requirements. History 105 is an exciting journey that

takes students to all corners of the globe in a small class setting. World History courses at Lafayette have significant discussion components, along with lectures.

- The department also offers a range of intermediate-level courses in Middle East, African, Russian, South Asian, Latin American, U.S., East Asian, and European history that are suitable for incoming students with strong history backgrounds.
- Students who are interested in a history major, or double-majoring in history and another area, should contact the department head Paul Barclay ([barclayp@lafayette.edu](mailto:barclayp@lafayette.edu)) to set up a meeting and learn more. Our department website also provides a wealth of information about alumni, course offerings, the minor, and the Global History concentration. <https://history.lafayette.edu/>

## **Mathematics**

- During summer registration for first-year students, we offer a suite of placement tests to aid in your decision about a first math course. Please take those tests and incorporate the resulting advice in your decision. We are happy to discuss your options so you get a good start. Please see Prof. Tom Hill (Placement Leader) or Prof. Chawne Kimber (Department Head) for further information.
- The Math Department offers three majors: Math (AB/BS) and the joint Math-Econ major. Students interested in majoring in any of these are encouraged to meet with a Math professor early and often to discuss the curricula since it is strongly recommended that students take the time to plan ahead. Some courses are prerequisites for other courses, some courses are co-requisites for others, and some courses are only available in certain semesters or certain years. Planning will help you make sure you'll get to take the courses you want to take, when you want to take them. See Prof. Chawne Kimber (Department Head) for further information.
- Particularly, it is important that students who wish to major in mathematics take Math 290 and Math 300 during the first two years to ensure the widest possible selection of electives in the third and fourth years.
- Students interested in the joint Math-Econ major or interested in Statistics should take Math 335-336 as early in their careers as possible to ensure the deepest possible selection of electives in the third and fourth years.

## **The Medieval Renaissance and Early Modern Studies Program**

- The program promotes a grasp of the chronological and global interrelatedness of historical, philosophical, political, religious, linguistic, artistic, and cultural phenomena, while also allowing for the study of any specific areas or periods between the 5th and 18th centuries. The minor epitomizes the liberal arts, the hallmark of the Lafayette experience, and brings them to life.

- Five courses are selected in consultation with the adviser from one of three clusters: Medieval, Renaissance-Reformation, or 17th–18th Century. Students must complete an introductory, two intermediate, and two advanced courses from an approved list. As with all interdisciplinary programs, a strong student/adviser relationship is a prerequisite to course selection.

## Music

- A complete listing of our courses is available on the Music Department website: [music.lafayette.edu](https://music.lafayette.edu) In addition to the "more typical" classroom courses, we have several performance opportunities for all students, regardless of major. There are a number of performing ensembles (Chorus, Chamber Singers, Concert Band, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combos, Percussion Ensemble, Marquis Consort, and Contemporary Music Ensemble) that can be taken for 1/4-credit.
- In addition, we offer private lessons on voice and most instruments. Lessons can be taken for 1/4-credit (Mus 141) or non-credit (Mus 140).
- Sign up for private lessons (MUS 140/141) online at: [https://lafayettec.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3OeB5YqRGE2aiBD](https://lafayettec.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3OeB5YqRGE2aiBD)

## Neuroscience

- The Neuroscience course curriculum changed with the class of 2022, which removed previous Categories for a free elective choice and removed the PHYS requirement (<https://neuroscience.lafayette.edu/courses/>).
- Incoming first-year students are encouraged to take Introduction to Neuroscience (NEUR 201); there are several slots held for incoming students during the Fall term. However, if a student has not completed NEUR 201 their first-year (for a variety of reasons), this will not prevent them from completing the Neuroscience major. Registration for NEUR 201 is restricted to first-year and sophomore students during the open enrollment period. Upperclassmen can register for the course with permission of the instructor.
- Students are encouraged to seek out research opportunities with Lafayette faculty, but students should not sign up for more than one research experience (course credit or EXCEL) in a given semester. With the large number of majors (~150) and a limited number of faculty members we want to ensure that all students that are interested in individualized instruction have an opportunity to work one-on-one with faculty.
- All core courses in Neuroscience, except Advanced Neuroscience (NEUR 401), are typically offered every semester. Both Neurobiology (NEUR/BIOL 256) and Physiological Psychology (NEUR/PSYC 323) are prerequisites for Advanced Neuroscience; students will not be allowed to enroll in NEUR 401 if they have not completed *both* of these prerequisites.

- Quantitative Methods (PSYC 120) is a required Foundation Course in Neuroscience. Applied Statistics (MATH 186) does not replace PSYC 120. Students should not take both MATH 186 and PSYC 120.
- Students can petition to count some courses that are not on the elective lists as electives in Neuroscience. Some examples of this are Special Topics courses that contain Neuroscience content, or Anatomy & Physiology I & II courses which are taken at LVAIC schools toward meeting requirements for PA, NP or OT/PT.
- Poor performance in introductory courses does not necessarily mean a student will not be successful in future courses and/or the major. If there are concerns about student success please refer the student the Chair of the Neuroscience program for additional guidance.

## Philosophy

- There are many ways to be introduced to philosophy: not just through our 100-level courses, but through many 200-level courses as well. Most of the 200-level courses in philosophy have no prerequisites and are perfectly suitable to students with no prior philosophical experience, including first-year students. A range of 100- and 200-level courses offer connections to all sorts of interests and career plans, be they in art, cinema, or literature; in psychology or neuroscience; in mathematics and the natural sciences, environmental studies, or the biomedical professions; in law, politics, or social justice.
- PHIL 200, Logic, is as demanding as other “Q” (Quantitative Reasoning) courses. It is an excellent way to strengthen one’s critical thinking skills, and has proven especially useful to students planning to take the LSAT test required for admission to law school.

## Physics

- The Physics Department offers an astronomy course explicitly designed for non-science majors (PHYS 104 or 108) nearly every semester. These courses are a great way for students to fulfill the natural science lab CCS requirement.
- A course on Relativity and Contemporary Physics (PHYS 130) designed for all students in physical sciences, engineering, and math is taught every fall. It intentionally has no prerequisites, and is a great choice for students interested in exploring some of the more exotic aspects of how the universe works. It has math content similar to the PHYS 131-133 sequence (but no calculus prerequisite, so it can be taken in a student’s first year). It is a terrific option for engineers looking for an extra science course, either before or after taking their required physics courses. Every year it gets great course reviews.

- STEM students and others with a year of introductory physics experience who are looking to learn about the “next level” of how things work should consider introductory quantum mechanics (PHYS 215).
- Engineering, math, and other students who are required to take the standard sequence PHYS 131-133 but who have strong physics backgrounds (e.g., non-calculus AP physics in high school) should consider taking the accelerated sequence PHYS 151-152. It is possible to switch between the sequences mid-year.

## Policy Studies

- In his 2019 book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, David Epstein provides a powerful thesis related to the benefits of a multidisciplinary course of study like the Policy Studies program. In brief, many of the world’s most challenging problems involve ill-defined or incomplete rules and non-repetitive patterns. These so-called “wicked” learning environments contrast to “kind” learning environments that have defined rules, boundaries, and patterns that repeat. Generalists, or persons exposed to a broad range of experiences and fields, have an advantage over specialists in solving wicked problems. Epstein goes further to argue that the advantage of generalists over specialists will grow because rule-based, repetitive environments are exactly the types of problems most readily solved by machine learning and AI algorithms. In essence, generalists who develop their capacity to solve wicked problems are not easily replaced by robots.
- The Policy Studies program encourages students to explore a wide range of disciplines and fields and seek opportunities to transfer knowledge from one discipline that may prove useful in problem solving in novel contexts. The program employs a hub and spoke curricular model. Students take core foundational courses and select elective courses from a variety of disciplines to create a theme of concentration that is tailored to a student’s specific interests and career goals.

## Psychology

- MATH 186 is NOT a substitute for PSYC 120.
- AP Psychology transfers as PSYC 99 elective credit and does NOT substitute for PSYC 110
- Taking PSYC 110 in first-year Spring (or even sophomore Fall) does NOT negatively affect one’s ability to major in Psychology.
- For sophomores, prioritize taking PSYC 120; try for PSYC 203, but that can be taken junior year, as well.
- PSYC 110 is closed to Juniors and Seniors.
- Common Core considerations:
  - PSYC 110 includes an NS attribute

- PSYC 120 does NOT have a Q attribute for Common Core, but PSYC 203 DOES.
- All upper-division PSYC lab courses include a W attribute.

## **Religious Studies**

- The major introduces students to world religions including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and religions of Africa, as well as courses on sacred texts, religion and society, and theories of religion. Our courses are both systematic and historical, addressing the historical development of religions, including their texts, beliefs, and practices, and topics such as religious ethics, religion and society (e.g. politics, the environment, medicine), and religion and literature. Courses also introduce students to a range of methods for studying religion, drawing on disciplines such as history, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and gender studies.

### ***Requirements for the Major***

- Nine courses including a 100-level Religious Studies elective; REL 240; REL 490 (Senior Capstone) or REL 495, 496 (Honors Thesis); and six Religious Studies electives. The electives must include a 300-level Religious Studies elective, two courses in Transformations (Traditions and Practices), and at least one course in each of the three remaining non-Introductory domains of inquiry: Representations (Texts and Contexts), Power and Difference and Additional Department Electives

## **Russian & East European Studies**

- The Russian and East European Studies Program offers courses in language, history, literature, art, religion, government and present-day circumstances of life in the Russian Federation and a wide number of other states in the Balkans, the Caucasus region, Central Asia, and the European Union.
- Majors (nine required courses) and minors (five required courses) are also encouraged to participate in a study-abroad program in the region.
- We recommend that students interested in Russian and East European Studies begin (or continue) their study of the Russian language upon their arrival to campus, though students are welcome to begin their language studies at any point in their college career.
- There is usually a 100-level REES-affiliated course offered in each semester for students interested in trying out the program. Examples include REES/CL 161

(Russian Literature in Translation) and REES/CL 162 (Soviet Literature in Translation) and HIST 118 (The Cold War).

- The chair of the program (currently Professor Sanborn ([sanbornj@lafayette.edu](mailto:sanbornj@lafayette.edu))) is always happy to talk individually with students interested in the program.
- For a list of approved and required courses, see [rees.lafayette.edu](https://rees.lafayette.edu).

## Theater

- The Department of Theater at Lafayette College is committed to nurturing twenty-first century artists, scholars, and collaborators who grasp the multidisciplinary nature of theater as well as its historical legacies, global traditions, and contemporary challenges. Students interested in performance should be directed to the Acting and Improvisation class, those interested in dramatic texts and international styles to World Theater, others to Introduction to Theater, which explores all aspects of theater. The fundamental requirement for upper level courses is Theater History. Students also receive credit for performing or technical theater through the practicums.

## Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

- WGSS welcomes ALL students from all divisions of the College.
- If a student is at all interested in **social justice issues**, WGS 101 is a great place to start. The course addresses not only issues around gender and sexuality but also race/ethnicity, socio-economic class, global position, etc.
- WGS 101: Introduction to WGS is a very high-demand class and can be difficult to get into. **However, the Registrar's Office staggers enrollment and adds a few additional seats to WGS 101 as each class year registers.** It may look full but a few new seats will be added when that student's year comes up. The final enrollment is always 25.
- **Students should take WGS 280: Feminist Theory as soon as they can if they wish to major in WGS.** Not only will it help them with their other WGS and elective classes, it is required for the WGS major and (because of limited staffing) only offered once a year, at most.
- WGS 249 is a Community Based Learning course that takes place in the Northampton County prison and is therefore limited to 12 students with instructor permission. The class is high-demand. **Students should contact Professor Tara Gilligan re: 249 asap if they are interested.**