CRAIG LEONARD BRIANS, is Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Political Science at Virginia Tech (Ph.D., University of California at Irvine, 1997). His research analyzes communication and political behavior. Since 1993, he's studied how people acquire, utilize, and retain information, from sources as diverse as TV news or advertising or online resources. His studies’ cover a broad scope, ranging from the voter turnout effects of knowing voter registration laws to studying which teaching techniques help students be more efficient information seekers and users to the learning roles of classroom response systems (i.e., “clickers”).


Brians provides interpretation of elections and political behavior to publications ranging from the Los Angeles Times to the Boston Globe, and electronic media ranging from FoxNews.com to Al Jazeera English. Additionally, he provides live election-night commentary on Virginia’s NPR affiliate, WVTF-FM.

In recent years Brians’ teaching efforts have been acknowledged by his colleagues and students, alike. He was voted the favorite professor by the students of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, won the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Certificate of Teaching Excellence, and been honored with the Professor of the Year Award from the Political Science Club. Professor Brians teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in American politics, elections, political communications, public opinion, and Political Science research methods, as well as the department’s First Year Experience course.