



The Faculty of Arts
& Social Sciences

Department of Politics and International Relations

COURSE OPTIONS FOR VISITING STUDENTS

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Established in 2004, the Department of Politics & International Relations (PIR) has quickly developed an outstanding reputation for teaching and research in exciting areas of the discipline. The Department offers a range of courses that reflect its strengths in global and transnational politics; international relations and international law; European politics and culture; multiculturalism, nationalism and post-colonial studies; new political communication and e-government; democratic theory and practice; and contemporary Anglo-American and post-Nietzschean political philosophy.

The department aims in its teaching and research to combine close analysis of contemporary events and issues with informed theoretical reflection appropriate to a globalized and ever-changing world.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The courses listed below are open to all Study Abroad and International Exchange students provided sufficient previous experience and knowledge as stated in the individual course prerequisites can be evidenced.

The Politics and International Relations Department is only able to accept Erasmus applications from its Erasmus partner institutions, Université de Strasbourg and Koç University.

Term 1 = Autumn Term

Term 2 = Spring Term

The information contained in the course outlines on the following pages is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change as part of our policy of continuous improvement and development.

Level One Courses:

PR1400	Introduction to Politics and Government	1 unit/ ½ unit*	Full Year/ Term 1*/ Term 2*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 OR Term 2 only for half the credit.* 			

PR1500	Introduction to International Relations	1 unit/ ½ unit*	Full Year/ Term 1*/ Term 2*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 OR Term 2 only for half the credit.* 			

PR1520	Classic and Contemporary Readings in Politics and International Relations	1 unit/ ½ unit*	Full Year/ Term 1*/ Term 2*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 OR Term 2 only for half the credit.* 			

PR1600	Introduction to Research Methods in Politics and International Relations	1 / 1/2 unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* It cannot be started in January. 			

Level Two Courses:

ES2001	European Integration since 1945	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2440	International Relations Theory	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2480	Democracy in Britain	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2490	Contemporary Political Theory	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2500	International Political Economy	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2510	The Politics of Migration	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2540	Political Behaviour	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2580	International Organisations	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR2600	Introduction to Political Communication	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

Level Three Courses:

PR3150	Political Sociology	½ unit	Term 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs in Term 1 only. It cannot be started in January. 			

PR3520	The Politics of the Internet and the Information Society	1/2 unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs in Term 2 only. It starts in January. 			

PR3530	The Politics of Modern Germany	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR3550	The British in India: A Social and Political History	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR3560	The Politics of Toleration	1/2 unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. This course runs in Term 2 only. It starts in January. 			

PR3610	Comparative Democracy and Elections	1/2 unit	Term 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs in Term 1 only. It cannot be started in January. 			

PR3630	Issues in Democratic Theory	1 unit/ ½ unit*	Full Year / Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR3660	Advanced Readings in Global Studies	1/2 unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs in Term 2 only. It starts in January. 			

PR3670	Comparative Foreign Policy	1/2 unit	Term 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs in Term 1 only. It cannot be started in January. 			

PR3680	Young People's Politics	½ unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs in Term 2 only. It starts in January. 			

PR3710	Advanced Seminar in British Politics	1 unit	Full Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs for the full year only. 			

PR3720	Advanced Seminar in British Politics (Autumn)	1/2 unit	Term 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs in Term 1 only. It cannot be started in January. 			

PR3730	Advanced Seminar in British Politics (Spring)	1/2 unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course starts in January. 			

PR3770	Defence in the post-Cold War World	1 unit / ½ unit*	Full Year/ Term 1*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course runs for the full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.* 			

PR3810	Visual Politics	½ unit	Term 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course is available to all INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE and STUDY ABROAD students and ERASMUS students from Université de Strasbourg and Koç University. • This course starts in January. 			

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Level One:

PR1400 Introduction to Politics and Government

This course examines the structure and process of government, the relationship between government and politics and key political concepts. Focusing mainly on the politics of the United Kingdom and the United States, it is divided into three broad sections: the fundamentals; the institutions and mechanisms of government; and government, politics and the citizen.

Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (75%) and assessed coursework (25%)

Alternative Assessment for Term 1 only option - tbc

PR1500 Introduction to International Relations

This course will introduce students to key aspects of the study of international relations, focusing primarily on international history from the early 20th century and an introduction to the main theoretical paradigms of the discipline.

Course Leaders – Dr Stephanie Carvin and Dr Julia Gallagher

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (75%) and assessed coursework (25%)

Alternative Assessment for Term 1 only option - tbc

PR1520 Classic and Contemporary Readings in Politics and International Relations

This course introduces the ideas and writings of a range of key thinkers associated with the development of political philosophy and international relations theory.

Course Leaders – Dr Nathan Widder and Dr Julia Gallagher

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (75%) and assessed coursework (25%)

Alternative Assessment for Term 1 only option - tbc

PR1600 Introduction to Research Methods in Politics and International Relations

This course introduces students to the academic study of Politics and International Relations. It provides an introduction to a range of approaches and methods commonly used in the study of Politics and IR, and equips you with the skills to successfully study and analyse a wide range of political phenomena. The course considers how we acquire knowledge about political ideas, institutions and practices, and how we can carry out and understand empirical research, using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. It provides an essential tool kit to help us answer questions about what happens in politics and IR and how we can explain or describe different political phenomena.

Course Leaders – Dr Oliver Heath, Dr. James Sloam, Dr. Ben O'Loughlin, Dr. Yasmin Khan

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

Alternative Assessment for Term 1 only option - tbc

Level Two:

ES2001 EUROPEAN INTEGRATION SINCE 1945: HISTORY AND POLITICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – Term 1 focuses on the development of European integration since the end of World War Two.

The first term introduces students to concepts and theories which explain the European Union's development. In term 2, students will learn about the politics and political institutions of the EU. Over the term, students will cover the European Commission, the Council of the EU, the European Parliament, European Court, the Democratic Deficit, the role of Euroscepticism, and the politics of European parliamentary elections.

Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2440 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course explores the key theoretical thinkers and debates in IR. These develop a variety of ways of thinking about IR, drawing on questions about the nature of power, identity and ethics in politics and what happens to these in the international realm. The course is divided into two parts. Part one explores mainstream theories, including realism, liberalism and constructivism. Part two deals with critical approaches to IR theory, including Marxism, post-structuralism, feminism and post-colonialism. The emphasis throughout the course is on reading original key thinkers. What problems and issues did these thinkers confront and how did they try to explain them? How well are their concerns and approaches reflected in current IR issues and debates? Which theories best help us understand the practice of international politics? At the end of each part of the course, there will be a special revision session where the class will watch and discuss a film.

Course Leader – Prof Sandra Halperin and Dr Julia Gallagher

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2480 DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course explores the theory and practice of modern British democratic politics. It is designed primarily to familiarise students with the ways in which British government has evolved, and how it continues to operate in an era of mass democracy. Students taking the course will gain knowledge of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the political system, but they will also learn about *why* the system operates in the way it does, as well as the implications for the quality of democratic governance in Britain. The course is organised into four parts. Part I briefly introduces the emergence of Britain as a democracy and the nature of the current political system. Part II then looks in greater depth at various components of the modern democratic state, including electoral systems, referendums, Parliament and the core executive. Part III addresses the major democratic forces in modern British politics, namely the major political parties, which shape, as well as operate in, the political system. Finally, Part IV looks at some of the recent add-ons to Britain’s democratic terrain, including devolution, membership of the European Union and a more assertive judiciary. Part IV concludes with a reassessment of what democracy means in Britain today.

Course Leader – Prof Andy Chadwick

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2490 CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – Underlying policy debate in contemporary states are political ideas and theories about how we should organise the state, how much people should participate in politics, whether we should redistribute wealth within the state; what human rights we should endorse, on what basis the state may punish people; whether the liberal democratic capitalist state is patriarchal or exploitative; and what our obligations are to strangers overseas. The aim of *Contemporary Political Theory* is to examine these key concepts and the thinkers who have developed them in political theory today. Specifically, it examines themes of political obligation; social justice (including exploitation, gender justice and global justice); punishment; democracy, community, utilitarianism; human rights; freedom and toleration; and writers including Rawls, Sandel, MacIntyre, Okin and Mill. The course aims to show how abstract ideas have practical relevance, and conversely how current debates in politics are illuminated by thinking about them theoretically.

Course Leaders – Dr Jonathan Seglow, Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2500 INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course examines the relationship between states and markets, power and wealth, in International Political Economy (IPE). It introduces students to the key concepts and theoretical debates in IPE. It tackles issues such as the globalisation of trade, finance, and production, the continued problems of development and democratic governance in the world economy, and emerging questions surrounding global flows, networks and spaces. Students are taken through the history of regimes, crises, and competing theories of political economy from the nineteenth century to the present day. Throughout the course the emphasis is on how political institutions operate in international politics to regulate the creation of wealth, and who benefits from these arrangements.

Course Leader – Prof Ben O’Loughlin

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2510 THE POLITICS OF MIGRATION AND ETHNICITY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course examines the chief patterns of post-war British migration, the character and fortunes of New Commonwealth settlers, the current patterns of migration and the current political attempts to manage migration. It examines how social and political scientists have addressed issues of migration and ethnicity and considers the analytical classification of minority communities, current debates over British Muslims, and the rise of religious citizenship.

Course Leader – Dr John Mattausch

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2540 POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description –

As the primary mechanism with which to implement the principle of popular sovereignty, electoral participation has received attention of academics, policy makers and the media alike. This course focusses on the various ways in which individuals directly or indirectly influence political choices at various levels of the political system. It examines the relationship between voters and political parties, and considers the theory and practice of how electors decide whether to vote (or not) and whom to vote for. However, voting in elections is only one way in which citizens can try to influence policy outcomes. In this course more direct forms of political action, such as participation in protests and social movements, are also addressed. The course contains both a theoretical and an empirical component. Students will be encouraged to assess the evidence for competing explanations of political behaviour through readings drawn from research on countries across Western Europe and North America. Besides an understanding of the main theories and main questions in the field of political behaviour, the course will provide students with a thorough understanding of how to conduct systematic empirical research and critically appraise it.

Course Leader – Dr Kaat Smets

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2580 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – Students will tackle a number of contemporary debates on international organisations that are central to public debate: the meaning and forms of international organisations, issues of authority, power and legitimacy; how states and non-state actors (particularly INGOs and Business) have shaped the nature and scope of international cooperation and the effects that participation in international institutions has upon policy-making, styles of governance and institutional configuration at the national and sub-national levels. We will also examine the role of hegemonic powers, in particular the impact of the United States over the post-war and post-Cold War eras and the implications of the rise of new powers such as Brazil, China and India upon international organisations. A key question that the course will examine is the extent to which these challenges are leading to a shift away from an international system characterized by the notion of state sovereignty and the control of policy development and implementation by the central political authority of the nation-state, to a diffusion of power and competencies. It will examine the diffusion of competencies 'horizontally' to private actors such as INGOs and Transnational Corporations and 'vertically' to regional and international organisations. The module will critically assess the analytical leverage that can be attained about these questions through the application of IR theory: realist, liberal and constructivist approaches. It will also focus on approaches drawn from political science theory, notably the literatures on multi-level governance, public policy theories, neo-Marxism and 'new' institutionalism.

Course Leader – Dr Tom Dyson and Dr Anja P Jakobi

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (40%) and assessed coursework (60%)

PR2600 INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL COMMUNICATION (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of how citizens, politicians and the media interact across Western democracies during both electoral and governing periods. The first part of the course will focus on the production and consumption of political news, while the second part will address election campaigns and their effects as well as focusing on contemporary debates in political communication, including ethical issues. While the course will cover key aspects of political communication in the United Kingdom, the focus will be mostly comparative.

Course Leader – Dr Cristian Vaccari

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

Level Three:

PR3150 POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY (Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – This course aims to provide an overview of current debates in political sociology. It raises questions about the ability of the social sciences to account for and interpret contemporary political and social transformation, and aims to understand the changing relationships between state, society and the individual in a globalizing world

Course Leader – Prof Chris Rumford

Course Delivery – Weekly lecture/seminar

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3520 THE POLITICS OF THE INTERNET AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – This course provides a detailed examination of the use and impact of the Internet and other information and communication technologies in global, state, party and civil societal structures. It focuses on a number of important contemporary debates about the role and influence of network technologies on the values, processes and outcomes of: global governance institutions; public bureaucracies; representative institutions including political parties and legislatures; pressure groups and social movements. It also examines persistent and controversial policy problems thrown up by 'information age' ICTs, specifically: the digital divide; privacy and surveillance; intellectual property issues; and the power of the new media sector in domestic and global economies.

Course Leader – Prof Andrew Chadwick

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3530 THE POLITICS OF MODERN GERMANY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course focuses on understanding the emergence of the Federal Republic of Germany since 1949. It begins by examining the post-war development of the two Germanys under the conditions of the Cold War. It then deals with the re-unification process marked by the fall of the Berlin Wall, and looks at its impact upon the Federal Republic. In the second term, the course will turn to contemporary issues in German politics, dealing with such issues as the Euro Crisis, the impact of immigration on German politics and Germany's role in foreign and security policy. to investigate the main domestic and international challenges facing the German model since unification.

Course Leaders – Dr Alister Miskimmon

Course Delivery – 2 hour weekly seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3550 THE BRITISH IN INDIA: A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course begins with the arrival of the British, in 1608, in Gujarat, west India. We examine why and how the British came, how they lived and conducted themselves and their business during the 17th century, how they began their rise to power in the 18th century, the relationship of the British to the Native States, British rule before and after the Mutiny/Uprising, the growth of Bombay, the life and campaigning of Gujarat's most famous son, Gandhi, and the nationalist struggles in west India. We examine competing explanations for how the British were, with very few forces, able to conquer and rule India, and we consider the comparative technological development of the two countries. We conclude by looking at how Gujarat fared after Independence, ending in 2002 with the Godhra massacre.

By the end of the course, students should: be familiar with British–Gujarati history and its chief dynamics; have a grounded understanding of the interplay of economic and socio–political formations, identity and cultural conflict; understand the dynamics and character of past and present–day Indian migratory movements.

A feature of this course is the use of original accounts written by Britishers living in India; these are all available on the Course's Moodle site in PDF files, or on the Web.

Course Leader – Dr John Mattausch

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3560 THE POLITICS OF TOLERATION (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – Toleration is about not interfering with other people's freedom when you believe what they are doing is wrong. In contemporary societies marked by different cultures, religions, ideologies and convictions, toleration is an indispensable virtue for citizens. This course explores the political theory of toleration, examining its key concepts and the practical controversies associated with it. Topics covered include; the harm paradigm - J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*; the offence paradigm; freedom of expression (including 'hate speech'); freedom of association and illiberal minorities; the headscarves debate; freedom of religious conscience; the right to cultural survival; the justification of paternalism; and international toleration (human rights and cultural relativism).

Course Leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow

Course Delivery – Two hour weekly lecture/seminar

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%%, including 10% Moodle participation mark)

PR3610 COMPARATIVE DEMOCRACY (Half course unit Autumn Term)

Course Description – This course examines the different ways in which democracy has taken root around the world, how it is locally understood and practiced, and the factors that have shaped its development. Drawing on in-depth case studies and comparative analysis it critically examines how institutions, historical legacies, the social and economic context, and the relationship between voters and political parties shape democratic politics in different and sometimes hostile environments. In doing so it not only addresses issues about the sources of democratic survival and breakdown, but should lead students to question the universality of Western notions of Liberal Democracy, and to appreciate the global diversity of democratic experiences as they are practiced on the ground.

Course Leader – Dr Oliver Heath

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3630 ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIC THEORY (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course introduces students to theoretical issues concerning democratic government. Modern political thought is characterised by an uneasy relationship with democracy. Whilst the values of freedom and equality are widely related – and often thought naturally to entail – democratic government, many political theorists have identified various problems that democracy poses to individual freedom. The course will examine both the theoretical underpinnings of democracy and the issues and controversies arising from it. Topics include: forms of democracy; the relationship between democracy and other values such as freedom and equality; the role of participation; multiculturalism and group rights; and global democracy.

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (65%) and assessed coursework (35%)

PR3660 ADVANCED READINGS IN GLOBAL STUDIES (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – The course aims to provide an opportunity for students to study in detail key issues in global studies and key approaches to the study of globalization; to evaluate critically contending perspectives on globalization; to prepare students for a critical engagement with contemporary debates on the meaning and dynamics of globalization; and, to introduce students to cutting-edge thinking in Global Studies.

Course Leader – Professor Chris Rumford

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3670 COMPARATIVE FOREIGN POLICY (Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – Students will study the core concepts associated with foreign policy analysis (eg national interest, policy making processes, negotiation, etc) as well as the foreign policies of key selected states with a clear empirical emphasis on the post-Cold War period. The states selected are will include the UK, Germany, the Soviet Union/Russia, and India. Students will examine the influences on foreign policy in these different national contexts (for example, as public opinion) and through different case studies (such as recent Russian intervention in the Ukraine). The course will also explore how foreign policy is implemented through various policy instruments such as trade, diplomacy and military force.

Course Leader – Dr James Sloam

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (40%) tutorial assessment (10%)

PR3680 YOUNG PEOPLE'S POLITICS (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – This course introduces students to issues surrounding declining political participation and the changing politics of young people (15–25 year olds) in the UK and beyond. Students will examine both participation in conventional forms of politics (voting and party membership), and engagement in the alternative forms of action such as the global wave of youth protest that has emerged since the onset of the recent financial crisis. It will look at contending perspectives on young people's politics (Are the young less interested? Do they participate less? Why do they participate? What form does their political action take?), and at how youth politics has changed through, for example, demographic trends (i.e. an ageing population), value change (the individualisation of society), and a changing state (e.g. the withdrawal of state good for younger citizens such as free university education). The course will also examine possible solutions, to strengthen youth engagement, from citizenship education to the lowering of the voting age to 16.

Course Leader – Dr James Sloam

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (40%) tutorial assessment (10%)

PR3710 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course offers final-year students an opportunity to explore in depth topics that (i) relate directly to the course convenor's current research interests and/or (ii) are of current significance in contemporary British politics. For obvious reasons, the specific course content is liable to change periodically, if not annually. Topics to be covered in 2014-15 include the British prime ministership (autumn term) and the Labour party in opposition (spring term). Apart from providing students with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of these aspects of British politics, the course is designed to introduce students to a more focused range of scholarly research and debate and to develop students' own awareness of the political-science research process. For example, and where appropriate, students will be expected to consider how studies in other countries could be applied to the study of British politics. Students taking the course will also be expected to locate the detailed knowledge they acquire within a broader understanding of the British political system.

Course Leader – Dr Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3720 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS (Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – Please see description for PR3710 above. This half-unit will cover topics on the British prime ministership

Course Leader – Dr Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3730 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – Please see description for PR3710 above. This half-unit will cover topics on the Labour party in opposition.

Course Leader – Dr Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3770 DEFENCE IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This module aims to: (1) Develop students' understanding of the central changes which have taken place to the defence policies of the world's foremost military powers since the end of the Cold War; (2) Introduce students to the key systemic forces shaping the defence policies of the world's major military powers during the post-Cold War era. These forces include the impact of uni-polarity, new security challenges and the Revolution in Military Affairs; (3) Help students gain an understanding of the key domestic-level factors shaping the process and outcome of defence reforms, including strategic culture, domestic material power relations, bureaucratic politics, strategic management and economic factors; (4) Introduce students to theoretical approaches to the sources of change in defence, including political science approaches, such as public policy approaches, neo-institutionalism and governance approaches as well as I/R approaches, such as constructivism, realism, liberal thought and securitisation.

Course Leader – Dr Tom Dyson

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Final examination (50%), assessed course work (50%)

PR3810 VISUAL POLITICS (Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – There is an urgent need for critical examination of the role of visual media in politics. Many argue that 'the power of images' has policymakers, journalists and citizens spellbound. For others, thanks to media technologies it has never been easier for ordinary people to create, disseminate, play with and contest political images. This course examines the role of visual materials and practices in politics and international relations. Students will become familiar with research traditions in the discipline of Politics and IR that engage with visual media, how they conceptualise and conduct research, and the limitations of those traditions. The first half of the course covers core problems and theories and the second half covers methods and case studies. The course is comparative, examining how visual media have operated in different historical eras of politics and across policy issue areas. Assessment by way of traditional essay and online visual story (via Storify) will enable students to demonstrate their understanding of the course content.

Course Leader – Prof Ben O'Loughlin

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Coursework (100%)