



School of Government and Society

Guide to Module Choices for Incoming Exchange Students

2019/20

Introduction

This booklet contains information on all modules offered to exchange students visiting the School of Government and Society for the 2019-20 academic year. The information in this booklet is correct at the time of production, but please note that module information can change at short notice (e.g. the semester in which a module takes place) or a module could become full. This information applies only to students within the School of Social Policy; some modules may not be available to students outside the School, depending on demand.

Credits

If a student is here for one semester they must take 60 credits. If a student is here for a full year they should take 120 credits. Students who are here for a full year should aim to take 60 credits in each semester (a 60:60 split) although a 70:50 split can be agreed in exceptional circumstances.

Selecting Appropriate Modules

First and Second Year modules are appropriate for all students, regardless of their previous study. Final Year modules require a background in an appropriate discipline. If you are unsure whether a module is suitable, please see the module leader during their office hours when you arrive in Birmingham or contact them before you arrive via email.

Taking Modules from different Schools

At least 40 credits a Semester should be from the School of Government and Society, but a student can take up to 20 credits from outside the school each semester. It is the responsibility of the student to contact other schools if they are interested in other modules, and to check that these are compatible with their timetable.

YEAR 1 LC

23570 Research Skills and Methods

Term 1 and 2

About:

This module is designed to help students to develop the key research, writing, presentation and other academic skills needed to progress in an undergraduate degree in the social sciences (term 1); and to equip students with a solid foundation in understanding and applying the major theories and methods of the social sciences (term 2). The module primarily aims to complement other social science modules at all stages of the undergraduate level and to provide the basic skills and knowledge required to undertake the undergraduate dissertation, but it also offers an important set of practical, analytical and critical skills that can be successfully deployed in the workplace.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Oral Presentation (15%)
- 1 x 500 word reading review (10%)
- 1 x 1000 word reflection report (25%)
- 1 x 2000 word research proposal (50%)

26060 Understanding Politics

Term 1

About:

This module provides students with an introduction to the study of politics and power. It is designed to familiarise students with a broad spectrum of theories, approaches and issues related to the study of power and contemporary political ideas. The aim is to provide students with a solid foundation of key skills and knowledge upon which they can build their own perspectives on a number of themes and issues which they are likely to encounter over the course of their degree programme.

The module is divided into two main parts—the first part looks at different conceptions of politics and power, whilst the second half of the module examines a number of contemporary ideas and political issues

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word 'blog post' (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

26066 Politics as a Vocation

Term 1

About:

In his famous essay, 'Politics as a Vocation', Max Weber argues, there are two ways of making politics one's vocation: Either one lives 'for' politics or one lives 'off ' politics. In a contemporaneous essay, 'Science as a Vocation', he argues that it is the duty of the lecturer not to impose his or her views on students but to teach them to recognise 'inconvenient' facts. Inspired by these essays, this module introduces students both to a wide range of (possible) political vocations and to important political science research so that students can begin to reflect upon crucial political roles and the way in which to approach their study.

Learning outcomes

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word essay (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

27330 Introduction to International Relations

Term 1

About:

In this module, you are introduced to the study of international politics and the main approaches, theories and debates in the discipline of International Relations. The main aims of this module are both to introduce you to some of the main issues of international politics, such as war and peace, development, regional integration and security, and to make you familiar with different ways to conceptualise and analyse these issues.

This means that a substantial part of this module is devoted to the introduction of the main traditional theories of International Relations and the concepts they use. Studying international politics is theoretical, one of the central messages throughout the course is that different theoretical approaches generate different images of the world that build on particular assumptions.

Therefore, while you may think you know what the current problems of international politics are and how to solve them, one of the aims of this course is to alert you to other ways of seeing things. This should allow you to make a more confident decision about your own stance towards particular issues and to analyse these issues more thoroughly, but it should also make you question both your own as well as others' representations of the world.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word essay (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

Introduction to Modern Political Theory

Term 2

About:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to political philosophy through a selection of the central figures and developments in political thought from Plato up to Jean-Jacques Rousseau in the eighteenth century. Lectures and classes are organized around key thinkers and the way they addressed questions such as the following: what is 'justice' and what does it have to say about politics? Who should rule in political societies and on what basis, if any, are their subjects or fellow-citizens obliged to obey them? Is there a right to resist 'tyrannical' rulers? Is war ever morally justified? If it is, then for what and by whom? What is liberty and what institutions best achieve and protect it for citizens? Is democracy the best form of government (or even a good one)? Is political leadership subject to a 'special' moral code according to which political leaders are allowed to do things for the common good that private citizens wouldn't be allowed to do (such as lying, the use of violence, etc)?

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2,000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

20891 Introduction to Political Economy

Term 2

About:

Introduction to Political Economy enables students to become acquainted with the style of analysis and the subject matter of the classical political economists. Such work is set within the context of a general introduction to the discipline.

This module enables students to understand the challenge to classical political economy of neoclassical economics, while also studying twentieth century dissenters to neoclassical orthodoxy. This broadens the students knowledge of the language and concepts of political economy, set within the context of contemporary political and policy debates.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour examination (50%)

31317 Problems of World History

Term 2

About:

The course seeks to introduce students to some of the principal problems of the twentieth century in an international context. At the start of the course, the positions of the Great Powers are considered as a prelude to the First World War. The war's course and outcome are then considered, principally the rise of communism and fascism. The nature of the totalitarian state is reviewed in relation to Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. The debate on the origins of the Second World War, and especially the pursuit of appeasement lead up to the final theme: the Second World War and the rise of the superpowers. The course concludes with a consideration of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word case study (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

YEAR 2 LI

26957 Analysing Political Worlds

Term 1

About

This module uses classic and contemporary research about substantive political issues to introduce you to a range of key theories, concepts and debates within Political Science. The module thus allows you to consider a range of approaches to political analysis, to the nature and distribution of power, and to state-societal relations in the contemporary world.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1500 word essay (due in week 5) (25%)
- Take home test (2500 words, submitted via Canvas) (75%)

29356 Comparative Politics

Term 1

About:

This module will compare political systems across the globe, with a focus on different types of political system (democratic, authoritarian, etc.) including the distinction between majoritarian and consensus democracies, political parties, party systems and cleavage structures, electoral systems and voting behaviour, constitutions, legislatures, executives, political culture, pressure groups, public policy, and emerging issues, such as populism and anti-party sentiment.

20 credits

Assessment

- Mid-term paper (25% weighting, 1000 words)
- Final paper (75% weighting, 3000 words)

20895 International Political Economy

Term 1

About:

The course draws upon a range of theoretical perspectives to understand the contemporary international economic order and to explore the drivers of international economic change. Issues and problems covered across the modules include: the establishment and demise of the Bretton Woods system; the contest of ideas over economic reform; the causes and consequences of economic globalization; and how the globalized international political economy should be governed, issues and problems in international political economy.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 500 word essay plan and 2 minute recorded explanatory commentary (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word case study (75%)

20900 International Relations Theory

Term 1

About:

This module deepens students' understanding of International Relations Theory. It includes an overview of current theoretical debates in the discipline and in-depth discussion of some central problems, concepts and themes in IR such as sovereignty, boundaries, community, national identity and migration. It also focuses on theoretical accounts of global order after the end of the Cold War and normative debates on humanitarian intervention and the environment.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word book review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

31213 International Politics of East Asia

Term 1

About:

In this module, students will learn about key states involved in contemporary East Asian politics. Specifically, they will examine the role of the United States, Japan, China, South Korea and key regional institutions.

Students will explore core themes and issues in the international politics of East Asia: relevance of sovereignty forms of governance, role of regional NGOs, implications of political change for interstate relations and domestic and regional security, ethnic politics, regional hotspots, peacekeeping, fallout of Asian financial and economic crisis, forms of capitalism, and development of regionalism.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Presentation, 10%
- 1 x Essay 1500 words, 30%
- 1 x Essay 2,500 words, 60%

02684 Public Choice Theory

Term 1

About:

This module is a basic introduction to public choice theory. It provides an economic analysis of the reasons for the existence of the public sector, and uses a few elementary economic concepts to analyse some key questions concerning central and local government action. Why might it be rational to be ignorant of parties' policies in an election? How instructive is it to regard politicians as being akin to firms, but maximising votes instead of profits? Why does income redistribution often flow from the poor to the rich instead of the other way? What motivates bureaucrats? How can the relationship between collective and individual interests be analysed through game theory?

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 words essay (30%)
- 1 x 3000 words essay (70%)

31207 Exploring Europe: Politics, Economics and Culture

Term 1

About:

This module introduces students to anthropology through case studies focus primarily, although not exclusively, on Europe. The module begins with lectures that familiarise students with the origins of the discipline, its specific methodology (ethnographic approach) and central concepts in the discipline ('culture', 'society', 'ethnocentrism' etc). The remaining lectures will use social life; producing and consuming (economic activities); controlling and resisting (political relations); believing and celebrating (religion and ritual); and relating and belonging (the anthropology of kinship). Systems of inequality (including globalisation, a topic examined from the local perspective) are covered. Through these domains of social life and the case studies which are examples, students will also be introduced to different social science theories and the particular ways in which they are used in the anthropological discipline.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x visual essay 1500 words (25%)
- 1 x essay 2500 words (75%)

31336 Soviet Politics: Rise and Fall of a Superpower

Term 1

About:

From one of two superpowers, to fifteen separate states struggling for identity and survival - the rise and fall of the Soviet Union provides a unique case-study touching on many aspects of global political affairs in the twentieth century.

The module explores the developing political structure and culture of the Soviet Union and focuses on the Bolsheviks' rise to power in 1917, the development of the Soviet state and its key political features, and the establishment of the USSR's superpower status. The module also covers the government and ideology of the Soviet Union in its 'settled state' and identifies the reasons behind its collapse.

For much of this century the Soviet state was conceived by many as being on the cutting-edge of a new global political order. The module examines the tensions between ideology and reality, between the maintenance of domestic and international power and the declared aim of creating a new and fairer society. It is a case-study of a failed attempt to build a socialist utopia.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

31564 Controversies in Contemporary Democracies: Comparative Perspectives

Term 1

About:

This module studies a variety of developments that potentially challenge contemporary democracies, including the declining ability of the electoral process, political parties and welfare states to appeal to citizens, and the rise of alternative types of political protest in response.

The aim of the course is to provide students with an up-to-date survey of comparative research into these developments, and to enable students to use the comparative method to conduct their own inquiries within this area. Questions to be studied include:

- Do parties still play a role in democracy?
- Why is support for far-right parties rising?
- Has left-wing politics become redundant?
- Is the welfare state in terminal decline?
- Can representative democracy survive the rise of 'post-materialist' values?
- Why is political protest increasing? What effect does it have?
- What role do social movements play in contemporary democracy?

20 credits

Assessment

- TBC

9292 International Relations of the Middle-East

Term 1

About:

This module aims to provide an introduction to the contemporary Middle East through a rigorous engagement with theories of international relations. The module places the Middle East in its international context, exploring histories of empire and decolonisation, hegemony and resistance, conflict and cooperation, as well as identity and foreign policy. Attention will also be paid to key themes in international relations, such as transnationalism, globalisation and regionalism, security and threat, gender and ideology. The debate on the features of a regional sub-system and foreign policy analysis will be examined through the process of Arab regional integration and the Arab-Israeli conflict. By taking this module, students will be able to engage in more specialised study of the region, either in whole or in part.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1500 word essay (30%)
- 1 x 2500 word essay (60%)
- 1 x oral presentation (10%)

31392 Rebels and Revolutionaries: The Politics of Non-State Armed Groups

Term 1

About:

Most conflicts today take place within states and often involve rebel groups fighting the state or fighting each other. High profile examples from around the world today include FARC in Colombia, the PKK in Turkey, ISIS in the Middle East, the IRA in Northern Ireland, and various Tutsi groups in the Great Lakes region of Africa, highlighting the global nature of this phenomenon. Rebel groups may be driven by a variety of motivations (ethnic recognition, religious zealotry, class conflict, economic opportunism) but these 'non-state armed groups' represent a change in the traditional nature of conflict and the tactics used.

This module primarily draws on the tools of comparative politics to tackle some of the key questions posed by the rise of non-state armed groups, including: why do rebel groups emerge, what do they want, and why do some people join such groups; what are the different ways that states respond to non-state armed groups and what are the consequences of different state responses for conflict management and resolution; how and why do some non-state armed groups moderate and forsake violence. We will use a full range of both quantitative and qualitative evidence to tackle these questions.

Each week this course will provide an overview and critique of one key aspect of debates relating to non-state armed groups and highlight this with an in-depth discussion of one particular case. The module will comprise a one-hour lecture followed by a two-hour seminar. In the first hour of the seminar we will discuss the conceptual issues raised in the lecture while in the second hour we will discuss the case studies.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word case study (50%).
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Race, Empire and Modern Political Theory

Term 2

About:

This module aims to enhance student understanding of the historical relationship between conceptions of race, imperialism, and the development of modern political thought in Europe and America. It pays particular attention to the largely unnoticed role played by race and imperialism in key theoretical approaches to property, liberty, democracy, and revolution. By reading canonical works of European and American theory alongside canonical works of anti-colonial scholarship and criticism, the module explores topics such as: the connections between theories of property and the “unseeing” of colonial labor, the relationship between theories of civilization and modern notions of democracy, and the role play by supposedly empty geographic space in the liberal imagination.

20 credits

Assessment:

- 1 x 1000 word Contextualization paper (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word Essay (75%)

20896 Diplomatic History Post-1945

Term 2

About:

This course will focus on international relations and the changes in the international system from the outbreak of the Second world War up until the end of the Cold War. Students will look at the breakdown of the old European order and the emergence of a bipolar world divided into two opposing blocs, one led by the United States and the other by the Soviet Union. Topics to be considered here include the origins of WWII and the diplomacy of the grand alliance between 1941 and 1945; the origins of the cold war in the immediate post-war period in Europe; its extension to Asia; the European retreat from Empire in the immediate post-war period and the strategic balance between East and West in the 1950s.

Students will then concentrate on the period from the mid 1960s to 1989 when the domination of the two superpowers was being challenged not only within the blocs themselves but by the emergence of new centres of power. Here we will focus on decolonisation and its legacy; the end of empire and superpower involvement in the Third World; China's relations with the US and the USSR; the continuing conflict in the Middle East; the rise and fall of détente in the 1970s and the transformation of the postwar order in the 1980s with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word essay (25%)
- 1 x 3 hour exam (75%)

31208 European Union Politics

Term 2

About:

This module introduces students to the historical and constitutional development of the European Union, the conceptual and theoretical debates surrounding the EU and integration process, the institutional framework of the EU, and key internal and external policy activities.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word essay (25%)
- 1 x 3 hour exam (75%)

31212 Introduction to US Domestic Politics

Term 2

About:

This module provides students with an introduction to the nature of the U.S. Political system. This course examines the political thought underpinning the formation of the American Republic. It then examines the key institutions of this system. Finally, the image of American Politics is tested through the examination of several on-going political issues.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the module the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key institutions of US politics.
- Provide a critical understanding of the dynamic and unique nature of US politics.
- Realise the centrality of the US Constitution in US political processes.
- Understand the key role that Federalism plays in the dynamics of US politics.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word briefing paper (25%)
- 1 x 3 hour exam (75%)

20903 International Security

Term 2

About:

The module will examine a variety of theoretical and empirical material that will provide students with the basis for analysing pressing questions relating to issues of war, peace and security in the world today. Students will start by surveying the different theoretical and conceptual approaches to security. They will then focus on one major security topic each week, including terrorism, weapons proliferation, intra-state conflict and state failure.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

27732 Global Governance

Term 2

About:

Global Governance is a very salient issue on the international agenda: it refers to the rule making efforts to sustain cooperation in order to address global problems or concerns. Increasingly the world has to deal with security threats, financial breakdown, development concerns and deteriorating environmental conditions. States try to coordinate their efforts to respond to these challenges through the establishment of international institutions like the UN, the WTO and the treaties governing environmental change. However, states have enjoyed a varying degree of success in setting up institutions to govern common problems, and therefore non-state actors have increasingly been involved in providing intellectual and financial resources to deal with international problems. This course reviews both state and non-state structures and efforts to resolve common problems of mankind in the areas of security, economy, human rights, development and environment.

The first few weeks will be focused on conceptual and historical issues. How do we understand governance? How do international institutions and other actors contribute to the provision of governance? How can we judge their success in doing so? We then move on to examine specific areas of governance and focus on the drivers of progress and the constraints encountered by relevant stakeholders in the areas of security, economy, human rights, development and ecology.

Common themes throughout feature: conflict between North and South; the ability of institutions to contribute to successful cooperation between states; the rise of new powers and their effects on the management of governance; the role of non-state actors in contributing to governance solutions and their relationship to states.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word briefing paper (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

29303 Feminist Political Ideas

Term 2

About:

This module examines the historical development and diversity of feminist political ideas, concentrating on the way in which feminist thought has challenged traditional political theory. Attention will be given to the exclusion of feminist thinkers from the canon of Western thought and the specific ways in which feminist thinkers have revised and expanded understanding of significant political concepts (such as the political, gender, equality, justice, sex, reproduction, labour, property, contract, rights and capabilities, care, identity, emotion, reason, representation and the family). Students will analyse key traditions such as liberal feminism; Marxist and socialist feminism; radical feminism; care-focused feminism; postcolonial feminism; black feminism; social constructionism; queer theory and poststructural feminism. In so doing, students will consider the issue of what constitutes feminism, and who (or what) forms the proper subject of feminist analysis. In order to reflect that feminist theory is necessarily engaged, the module will also explore both the distinctive methodological and pedagogical practices proposed by feminists and the application of theory to a range of substantive areas.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1500 reflective paper (25%)
- 1 x 2500 word essay (75%)

23432 International Politics & Security in Russia & Eurasia

Term 2

About:

This module will examine a range of key issues in the international politics and security of Russia and Eurasia. The course comprises of six thematic blocks, beginning with a survey of the region since the collapse of the Soviet bloc and Cold War and post-Cold War theoretical approaches and current themes in international politics. Other topics covered include: regional security organisations; Russia's relations with Europe, US and China; US and EU policy in Central Asia and the Caucasus; energy politics; state-building and political regimes; conflicts, new wars and non-traditional security issues. Each theme will be explored in relation to specific cases and events in Russia and Eurasia. The course concludes by returning to the theoretical approaches discussed at the start of the course to examine their utility in understanding and explaining political and security dynamics in the region.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour examination (50%)

29918 Elections and Voting in Britain

Term 2

About:

Elections are the very core of democracy. Voting is the key activity that binds the individual to the political system and legitimizes the democratic process. The main aim of the course is to provide students with an understanding of psephological trends in Britain and contrast this with other modern democracies including the US, France, Germany and Australia. To this end, it will examine why electors behave the way they do through the exploration of competing theoretical and empirical explanations of both voting behaviour and political participation. Students will learn to critically evaluate the impact of social cleavages, social psychological, issue based and rational choice approaches to voting and assess how contextual influences such as election campaigning, electoral redistricting and local political cultures can influence the election outcome. They will also be able to critically examine the impact of the electoral environment, including the role of the media and polling, electoral system, party organisation, national and local campaigning, political marketing and advertising, and evaluate how they shape and influence elections and voting.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word article review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

31333 Public Policy Blunders and Bad Decision Making

Term 2

About:

Governments and politicians repeatedly make poor decisions resulting in blunders that are far removed from their original policy intention. They almost seem prone to making mistakes across all levels of governance, often with catastrophic and expensive consequences for society, individuals, economy or public services.

This module draws upon the increasing volume of literature that investigates accident prone politicians and decision makers producing poorly conceived policies and their difficulty at identifying poor performance and failing public services. Whilst an antidote is difficult to prescribe, the module will also discuss how politicians and decision makers can adopt systematic approaches using models developed by thinkers in public policy decision making analysis.

Theories of good and bad public policy making will be supported by case examples.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 words essay (25%)
- 1 x 3000 words essay (75%)

31339 War and Peace in Theory and Practice

Term 2

About:

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of the main theories of conflict and peace and to enable them to apply theory to historical and contemporary case studies of violent conflict and of peace processes.

Students will examine the key theoretical approaches to the study of conflict and of peacemaking. They will also explore examples from a number of case studies in Europe, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia. Finally, they will be challenged to devise potential solutions to the most intractable contemporary conflicts.

The module will employ a variety of approaches (lectures, small seminars, group projects, poster presentations) to tackle broad and crucial questions such as: What are the causes of violent conflict? Is there a 'perfect storm'? How does violent conflict affect state and group identity, legitimacy and leadership? What is the role of international actors (and donors) in fostering the resolution or the persistence of conflicts? What are the key challenges in negotiating the settlement of a conflict?

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Group Poster (40%)
- 1 x 1000 word reflection piece (25%)
- 1 x 1500 word essay (35%)

31391 Quantitative Political Analysis

Term 2

About:

Political scientists frequently use quantitative methods to study elections, legislatures, wars alongside salient issues (rise of radical right; Brexit etc.) and other important political phenomena. This quantitative methods course provides students with an introduction to vital concepts in statistical analysis, research design and causal inference as well as contemporary examples of how those concepts can be applied in the real world.

Students will be introduced to the sample survey and its role in social and political research and the basic theory that underlies the sampling process (examine how sample data can be used to make inferences about populations from which it is drawn).

Following this the focus will turn to the strategies and techniques of data analysis starting from simply describing data (including the concept of statistical significance and tests) to exploring relationships (cross-tabulation, correlation); comparing differences (t-test, ANOVA,) and finally the theory and application of regression.

The goal is to enable students to not only become sophisticated consumers of quantitative research in political science but to enable them to conduct their own research using computerized data and software (full statistical using SPSS/STATA is given) and to effectively present the results to others using tools and ideas from the course.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Group Presentation (15%)
- 1 x 1000 word write up/reflection piece (15%)
- 1 x 3000 word individual report (70%)

26043 The Political Economy of Energy & Energy Security

Term 2

About

This module provides critical appreciation of the role of energy and energy security in global political economy and will introduce students to the basic theoretical, historical and geopolitical contours of the political economy of energy today as an essential dimension of contemporary international political economy. The module consists of two parts; The first part will explore energy and energy security at the international level. The second part will examine how energy resources shape the domestic political economy of energy suppliers.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

FINAL YEAR

20911 Contemporary International Political Economy

Term 1

About:

In the first half of the course, we will address the theoretical aspect to the lack of change in the global political economy after the 2007 financial crisis. We will take a fairly comprehensive look at the state of IPE as a discipline to examine what it has or has not had to say as the financial crisis hit. We begin by asking big questions about what theory is, what an academic discipline is, and what role they should or should not play in shaping political and social change.

In the second half of the course we will apply some of these theoretical insights to empirical case studies (the EU and the UK). This part of the course seeks to examine the resilience of neoliberalism, an important factor explaining the type and degree of continuity and change. To re-emphasise, our overarching aim is to explore the role that a political economy analysis has and should have at the current historical conjuncture.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 500 word essay plan & 2 minute recorded explanatory commentary (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word case study (75%)

20912 Topics in British Politics

Term 1

About:

This module will allow students to develop a specialised interest in British politics. Students will examine key trends and 'topics' in British politics from an historical, conceptual and policy-related perspective.

The course opens with six lectures aimed at providing students with an overview of key developments in, and scholarship on, post-war British politics, prior to more focused seminar work on a range of topics.

The lectures cover key developments in postwar British politics, debates about state institutions and civil society in Britain and analytical approaches to studying topics in British politics.

In the seminars students will be asked to examine specific 'topics' in British politics through the lens of the key themes outlined in the lecture series. The topics are as follows: Political Change in Postwar Britain; 'Blairism' and New Labour; Cameron and the Transformation of the Conservative Party; Constitutional Reform in Contemporary Britain.

These topics are designed to allow students to focus on a range of issues relating to the state and civil society in Britain. The course is aimed at equipping students with an overview of key developments in British politics by focussing on issues such as change & continuity, power, policy developments and institutional change.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word blog (25%) (summative)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%) (summative)

27327 The Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Term 1

About:

The module is concerned with understanding the causes, dynamics and consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict, with focus on diplomacy and the role of third party mediation.

The first part of the module will deal with the historical origins and the development of the conflict to the establishment of Israel in 1948.

The second part will focus on approaches to conflict resolution and in particular mediation.

The final part of the module will examine in detail the role of third parties in the evolution of the conflict and the efforts to resolve it through various forms of third party intervention, from the first armistice agreements to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 X oral presentation (10%)
- 1 x 1500 word critical review (30%)
- 1 x 2500 word essay (60%)

23878 Issues in US Domestic Politics

Term 1

About:

Following from the philosophical and institutional debates investigated in the US domestic politics second year module, we turn to the study of several controversies in US politics. Some of these are stand-alone issues and others are linked. For example, gay marriage and the legalisation of drugs are linked because they appear to follow a similar trajectory of increasing voter support at the state level leading to federal government action (gay marriage being legalised by the Supreme Court) or potential action (the increasing numbers of states legalising both medicinal and recreational marijuana may lead to federal government intervention).

The issue of a 'Culture War' polarising the USA presents a very clear argument which claims to explain US domestic politics and is a very useful way to start investigating US political controversies. With this clear argument in mind one can then build upon the issue of an American Ideology (variously described as Constitutionalism or what it is to be 'American' or 'Un-American'), Religion and Economics as alternative or complementary interpretations of the dynamics of US domestic politics. An additional concept of long-term unseen change within US domestic politics, suggested by a concept called 'advocacy coalitions', is also studied.

Given that this is final year, if you wish to study alternative explanations of the dynamics of US politics not covered by the module, I would encourage you to do so with the strict proviso that you talk it over with me first. In previous year's students have examined 'Nativism', 'Gender politics', the rise of American Authoritarianism, Native American politics (a very different culture war perspective) and Woodard's concept of '11 Nations'.

I would also actively encourage you to try to engage with US politics from the point-of-view of Americans. While it is easy to criticise the USA from the 'outside', US citizens often engage in vigorous debate over the 'rights' and 'wrongs' within their own system. Yet they also have different perspectives upon concepts of legitimacy and illegitimacy in US domestic politics. For example, the US electorate may have far higher tolerance rates for lobbying and campaign finance than the UK voting public.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word briefing paper (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

22879 Gender in World Politics

Term 1

About:

There are a range of perspectives and related literatures on gender in international politics, which collectively provide novel approaches to and critical insights into a range of issues and areas conventionally regarded as falling within the domain of international relations and international politics. These include the state; citizenship, constructions of identities and boundaries of political community; ethics; war, peace and security; international institutions; political economy and development and human rights.

Contemporary constructivist and approaches in International Relations (IR), including feminist and queer theory have also expanded the field of study to include, for example, the role of emotion in politics and the significance of aesthetics and the visual in understanding the domain of world politics. In this course, an eclectic approach to gender that draws upon out a various strands of contemporary IR scholarship is utilised to interrogate a range of discrete areas and issues within the ambit world politics.

There are no lectures on this course. To begin with, seminars are tutor led. Each week, the tutor will provide a brief overview of the topic under discussion, followed by a focused discussion of key related readings. Later discussions will be student-led. Each week several students (depending on class size) will present a brief introduction and overview of the core readings for that week, followed by focused discussion based around key questions identified by the presenters.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word book review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

27839 Globalisation, Capitalism and Welfare

Term 1

About

This module will be at the intersection of comparative politics and comparative political economy. It will employ the comparative method and theories of analysing and classifying advanced economies (varieties of capitalism) and public policy (welfare models). Its focus will be global by focusing on advanced economies of the West (USA and EU) and non-western economies such as Latin American and Asian countries.

The module fills a gap in the existing offering of modules by providing an in-depth analysis of two key theoretical models of comparative political economy and comparative politics covering a wider range of case studies.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word book review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

27837 Law, Politics & the International System

Term 1

About:

That there are rules governing relations among states and other international actors is, today, almost taken for granted. International law - whether in the form of treaties, trade agreements, human rights norms or UN resolutions - seems pervasive. Yet, its very existence, let alone legitimacy, is not only contestable, but very much contested. This module is concerned with the complex interaction between law, politics and power in the international system. It is animated by the overarching question of whether power politics can ever really be subordinated to law, and, if so, how.

The module comprises three broad strands. Firstly, students will be introduced to the concept of international law. What exactly is it? How does it differ from other types of law? Where does international law come from? And, critically, how is it enforced? Secondly, we will analyse in more detail a major subfield of international law - human rights. Here too, truths often taken to be self-evident are, on closer inspection, much more ambiguous. Thus, we will look at the origins and evolution of the concept of human rights, examining questions such as who grants rights? On what authority? And are they universal? Finally, we will use the knowledge acquired through the first two strands to analyse key problems in international law and politics. Taking specific cases, such as the NATO intervention in Kosovo, Russia's annexation of Crimea and the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals, we will examine issues surrounding the legitimacy of war, the possibility for justice beyond the state, and the challenge of balancing the norm of state sovereignty with the notion of self-determination. Upon completion of the module, students will have a deep understanding of both the possibilities and limits of law as a tool for mediating power in the international system.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word book review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

29055 Conflict, Statehood & Sovereignty in World Politics

Term 1

About:

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of 'frozen' conflicts, i.e. unresolved territorial disputes without substantial armed confrontation, and how they relate to the concept of sovereignty in international politics. Arising from competing claims to statehood over the same territory, frozen conflicts help us explore how the concept of sovereignty 'shapes' confrontation, security and world politics today.

In order to do so, the module will look at a series of examples of frozen conflicts from around the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa, that raise a series of interesting questions: how has sovereignty developed as an idea through history and how does it frame our understanding of what is a state? What happens when, in the context of a frozen conflict, different groups claim statehood over the same territories? How can sovereignty be understood in the context of efforts to establish a new state, such as in the case of Kosovo? How effective are self-declared states structures and how does that impact their claim to statehood and sovereignty? What does the lack of diplomatic recognition of unrecognised states tell us about their sovereignty? What is the role of global actors in frozen conflicts, such as Russia in the former Soviet space, Turkey in Cyprus or the European Union and United Nations, and how it is affected by ideas about sovereignty? How does the international community engage (or not) with unrecognised states in those conflicts, like Palestine or Taiwan? In a discussion dominated by statehood and sovereignty, how can we debate the role of society and non-state actors in frozen conflicts, such as in Ukraine? What limitations do conventional notions of sovereignty pose to our understanding of world politics and to security? Is, after all, sovereignty socially constructed? And, can we get alternative, more constructive, conceptualisations of sovereignty?

Assessment

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word bibliography (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

31627 Environment, Politics & Society

Term 1

About:

The aim of the course is to give the student an understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of the environmental, social and political aspects of green issues.

Key aspects of the course will be to consider the nature and policy details of environmental issues, the ways that environmental policy is socially constructed and the role and limitations of science in the environment, the role of environmental interest groups, how sustainable development and related concepts can be applied, and green political and social theory. Some key topics will be studied including population policy, water privatisation, climate change and corporate social responsibility.

The course will be centred on both environmental theory and practice. The key focus of the environmental practice elements will largely cover international issues and developments.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word 'blog post' (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

29306 Politics, Music and the Arts

Term 1

About:

Our politics has always shaped – and been shaped by – music and the arts. This module allows you to explore the interaction between the political world and the arts world by studying works produced by musicians, photographers, architects, painters, authors, directors and entertainers in three key years in the political history of the Twentieth Century: 1937, 1968 and 1989.

More specifically, you will consider:

1. the political message(s) of particular works of art and whether these messages contribute to, or detract from it as a piece of art;
2. the broader political and socio-economic context within which the work of art was produced; and
3. the impact of the work of art, or its creator(s), on the political and social world.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x pre-recorded presentation with bibliography (25%, calculated at: 12.5% for the presentation and 12.5% for the annotated bibliography)
- 1 x 3500 word essay (75%)

27334 Global Capitalism & Migration

Term 1

About:

'Global Capitalism and Migration' focuses on neoliberalism as the driving force behind contemporary global processes and the impact of these processes on Europe. To begin with, the focus is on neoliberal policies - their nature and effects - and on the resultant changing balance of power between 'the market' and 'the state'. In this global reconfiguration of power and wealth, sites of production have been shifted across borders to more 'peripheral' locations, often outside Europe, thus resulting in the movement of people in the reverse direction, that is, to and within the European continent. Then, the focus shifts to looking at such mobility as a key response to neoliberal reforms.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 article review 1500 words (30%)
- 1 essay 3000 words (70%)

International Negotiations

Term 1

About:

This module focuses on the theoretical and practical aspects of international negotiations. It will first cover how international negotiations are conducted and link negotiation analysis to International Relations theories. It will then focus on particular conceptual issues in negotiations, such as power, leadership and justice, as well as negotiation tactics and strategies. These concepts will be explored in the context of case studies of real world negotiations in the fields of security, trade, development and environment. Finally, the course will include a practical element through a negotiation simulation, where students can get some hands-on experience with both formulating negotiating positions and engaging in a negotiation process. The negotiation simulation will be aided by a software package so that students can engage with the negotiation simulation both in class and outside.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1000 word summary (25%)

1 x 3000 word critical reflection Journal (75%)

31398 Understanding Brexit: Identity and Euroscepticism in Europe

Term 1

About:

This module analyses Brexit in a comparative European context. Firstly, it examines theoretical approaches to European integration and disintegration and the nature of recent EU crises. Secondly, it places Brexit in the broader socio-political context of diverse European societies, such as shifting and competing attitudes to European integration, national and European identities and a changing media landscape. Thirdly, it will examine British party-based Euroscepticism and the UK referendum campaign in relation to Eurosceptic parties and referendums in other EU countries.

Finally, by relating Brexit to other nationalist and Eurosceptic movements across Europe the module considers the implications for the future of European integration more generally. The main objective of the module is to help students understand the complex cultural and political dynamics behind Brexit as a peculiarly British as well as European phenomenon.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word review (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word summative essay (75%)

31387 Politics in Russia

Term 1

About:

The module introduces students to key developments and debates in post-Soviet Russian politics. The module starts with analysing the fall of the Soviet system and the key institutions of post-Soviet Russia. Then the module moves beyond how the political system is structured to analyse how the system works in practice. Thus, the role of political networks, corruption and contentious centre-region relations in Russia is examined. Finally, the module explores the search for a new, post-Soviet Russian national identity against the backdrop of relations with other post-Soviet states, including the conflict with Ukraine. Students will develop a knowledge of the specifics of the Russian polity and will become familiar with theoretically and historically informed analyses of the Russian political system.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1500 word policy brief (40%)

1 x 2500 word essay (60%)

30080 Politics and Challenge of Public Service Delivery

Term 1

About:

Public services are going through major and dynamic changes in response to a range of issues such as cuts to budgets, increased commercialisation, increased devolution, greater demands for service user voice and control, increased public expectations and a mixed economy of delivery. Such matters are central to both political and managerial debates on the future of services and what the public can expect to receive.

This module explores, via international and historical perspectives, the development of 'public services', the past, present and future role of the public sector in their delivery, and the development of new ideas about how best to manage the production and financing of these services.

The module is team taught with expert academics from INLOGOV providing you with lectures on detailed innovation and history of public service evolution and change. We will also draw upon practitioners from the field who have witnessed front line change

If you are seeking a career for government, a public sector or public service supplier then this module will provide you with a context on the recent rapid changes impacting public services. We will also be working with the Careers Service on possible future avenues of employment in this area of work.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x oral presentation (15%)

1 x 3000 essay (85%)

Exploring the Mekong

Term 1

About:

This module is designed to enable you to gain an advanced understanding of key actors and themes in the Mekong River region. It applies theories of International Relations and Development to examine different topics related to the Mekong, which will also form the basis of group documentary work throughout the module.

20 credits

Assessment:

- 1x reflective diary of group work (1000 words, 25%)
- 1 x report on one state or topic (different from group work topic) (1000 words, 25%)
- 1x group documentary (5-6 minutes, 50%)

Parliamentary Studies

Term 2

About:

This module aims to provide you with a detailed knowledge of how the UK Parliament works (in both theory and practice). Guest speakers from Parliament will complement traditional lectures and seminars to provide you with an in-depth knowledge of how the Houses of Parliament operates both in terms of formal procedures and in terms of informal cultures, traditions and relationships. The main focus of the module will be the UK Parliament but you will be encouraged to adopt a comparative approach when appropriate.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Blog/Vlog (25%)
- 1 x 3500 word research briefing (75%)

31332 Migration Diplomacy in the Middle East

Term 2

About:

The course offers students the opportunity to engage with a range of debates surrounding the politics of migration in a variety of manifestations prevalent in North Africa and the Middle East. It aims to understand and compare migratory movements from multiple perspectives — historical, socio-economic, and political — while also incorporating topic-specific literatures from international relations, comparative politics, and diaspora studies. The readings aim to complement a weekly lecture, classroom presentations and discussion, and fit broadly within the course's main objective: offering students with a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to engage with the complexity of the politics of population movements across the Middle East, and to contextualise these movements within wider debates and scholarship. To do this effectively, the course begins by presenting the necessary analytic tools and offering a historical overview of Middle East migration. It continues by examining migration through three specific perspectives (the economics of migration and the advent of neoliberalism; migrants as objects of politics and authoritarian regimes; migrants as political actors and the 2011 Arab uprisings). Finally, it emphasises in-depth analyses of migratory movements across Egypt and Maghreb, the Mashreq, as well as Iraq and the Gulf Cooperation Council states. By the end of the course, students will have acquired a strong understanding of the politics of migration across the Middle East and the ability to process and critically evaluate information, as well as to communicate their ideas and develop structures, reasoned argumentation.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x Presentation (10%)
- 1 x 1500 word essay (30%)
- 1 x 2500 word essay (60%)

28902 Security in Europe: Actors, Crises & Threats

Term 2

About:

The module examines the development of European security in the post-Cold War period. It does so by focusing on the key security institutions in Europe (NATO, the EU and the OSCE); by discussing leading international relations theories which have been used to make sense of European Security in the post-Cold War period (including realism, liberalism, constructivism and security governance) and by examining the most prominent security issues of our time, including cyber security, environmental security, energy security, organized crime and economic security.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1200 word article review (25%)
- 1 x 3 hour exam (75%)

29054 Strategy & Decision-Making

Term 2

About:

This module examines how individuals and groups make decisions and then uses these insights to explore how strategies are devised and implemented.

Strategy is considered both in its original military context (taking into account recent debates over grand strategy, the use of force and counterinsurgency) as well as civilian settings such as public policy, business and civil society (including groups like Occupy and Anonymous).

It will include guest speakers from government, the military and civil society who students will be able to question about their experience of strategy making.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

30141 New Media, Social Media, & International Politics

Term 1

About:

This is a unique academic/professional module. It combines the development of academic skills in examining and interpreting cases in media and international politics --- using new media and social media as well as books and journals --- with the professional skills to write, edit, and present those cases for a general audience.

The first half of the course uses academic research and skill for students to develop as observers and analysts of media, tracking the evolution of “news” and using case studies to establish critiques of international relations through their construction, projection, negotiation, and conflict.

The second half of the course trains students as participants in the media, from the collection and assessment of sources to the writing of reports and analyses for publication. Training includes not only content but also layout and dissemination of articles through electronic media.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1500 word case study (25%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

31322 Democracy & Authoritarianism in Contemporary Europe

Term 2

About:

This module offers a comparative study of the wave of democratisation that set off in the mid 1970s and has swept much of Southern Europe, Latin America and Eastern Europe during the past two decades. The module will analyse the theoretical literatures on contemporary democratisation and regime change and will compare the experiences of countries emerging from different types of non-democratic rule, focusing in particular on the post-authoritarian democracies of Southern Europe and post-communism in East-Central Europe. It provides an overview of the most salient of the democratisation literature, the basic issues at stake in the contemporary debates, and explores the concepts of 'democracy' and 'democratic consolidation'.

The topics investigated involve the socio-economic, political and international dimensions of democratisation; the different possible paths towards democracy their consequences and the consolidation of democracy; institution building in new democracies; the development of political parties and party systems; and the territorial, economic and cultural aspects transitions to democracy and democratic consolidation. These topics will be approached from a comparative perspective, whereby particular attention will be given to the scope of comparison and concept formation in comparative politics.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1000 word briefing paper (30%)
- 1 x 3000 word essay (70%)

31389 Body Politics: Security, Economy, Violence

Term 2

About:

This module provides students with an understanding how international practices, norms and institutions act on the body, and also vice versa—how micro-level and bodily practices and relationships can shape and impact on the international. The theoretical content and case studies together highlight how important the body is in international politics—as a material thing and the object of regulation, violence, security, development, and economics, but also as the subject of agency and resistance.

In terms of conceptual frameworks, the module will draw heavily on feminist political economy, as well as critical race, postcolonial and queer theories, to understand how the international acts on the body. It will also benefit from case studies including:

- LGBTQ+ rights movements
- Torture and political violence
- Sexual violence in and out of conflict
- Securitisation of global health
- Commercial sex and global sex industries
- Human trafficking and refugee movements
- Embodied forms of protest
- Labour and work
- Care economies
- Marriage and the nuclear family
- Borders, bodies and citizenship

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 1500 word review (40%)
- 1 x 2500 word essay (60%)

29298 Populism in Contemporary Politics

Term 2

About:

This module examines the definition and conceptualization of populism and its impact on different political systems across the world. It covers how populist parties should be understood and the reasons for their emergence and success; the distinguishing features of populist rhetoric and communication strategies; populist performance in government (or near government); the future of mainstream political parties and the crisis of representative democracy.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word portfolio (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

27850 Russian Foreign Policy

Term 2

About:

The module will cover Russian foreign policy from the Soviet period to today; Russian foreign policy thinking; Russian foreign policy-making in the UN, OSCE and other international organisations; Russia's foreign policy towards the US, EU, the big EU member states, the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, China, Japan, India, other Asian states, Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America; thematic aspects of Russian foreign policy, including global security issues, regional conflicts, non-proliferation/arms control, emerging security challenges, human rights and humanitarian issues, information provision and media activity, economic cooperation, energy policy, international legal issues, migration and visa issues. There will also be a two-hour case study session dealing with a topical foreign policy issue.

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

31586 The Political Economy of Russia

Term 2

About:

The institutions of the Soviet planned economy are reviewed, together with the system of economic planning and the non-market allocation of resources. The behavioural characteristics of the system are explored and its economic performance analysed. Attempts to reform the system, including the Gorbachev perestroika are investigated and the reasons for the economy's decline and ultimate collapse explored.

This understanding of the planned economy provides the basis for a detailed examination of post-communist economic transformation in Russia with some comparisons, when appropriate, with other economies in transition. Issues of macroeconomic stabilisation, domestic and external liberalisation and privatisation are analysed. The 1998 financial crisis and its aftermath is analysed, and the role of Western assistance and investment investigated. In conclusion, prospects for the creation of a viable market economy are explored, with comparisons with China, India and other large emerging economies: what kind of capitalism is evolving in Russia under President Putin and beyond?

20 credits

Assessment

- 1 x 2000 word (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

Nuclear Weapons in International Relations

Term 2

About:

The nuclear revolution remains one of the most consequential developments in international politics. Nuclear weapons are unique in their capacity to inflict genocide instantly, they alter the calculus of governments, proliferation risks are a constant source of anxiety (as well as part of our popular culture), and they consume significant resources. With new modernisation programmes from Washington to Moscow, and with relatively recent proliferation in Asia, the issue will not go away soon. And recent shifts in domestic politics are putting the question of nuclear possession and use back on the table of discussion. All students live in the shadow of the bomb, and British students have grown up in a nuclear armed state. Britain's largest scale war of the post 1945 period, the invasion of Iraq, was partly a war of counter-proliferation.

Yet within education, it remains largely a silent subject. Very few modules about nukes exist at the undergraduate level in the UK. This module provides a remedy. It acquaints students with the rich body of theory that has grown up around nukes, given that the prospect of nuclear exchange is still a possibility in the realm of conjecture rather history. And it challenges students to evaluate the question both empirically ("is") and normatively ("ought").

20 credits

Assessment:

- 1 x 2000 word essay (50%)
- 1 x 2 hour exam (50%)

29354 Social Justice and Politics

Term 2

About:

The aim of this module is to examine some of the most important and contested issues that animate contemporary politics. We shall approach the module by examining political problems through the prism of social justice. The aim of the module is to help us better understand the nature of social justice and its relationship with politics. The module will look a number of ethical problems in politics, including controversies relating to individual liberty, multiculturalism, the distribution of wealth and property, democracy and representative government and debates relating to prevailing injustices in modern societies. An examination of these issues through the texts of a number of important thinkers writing over the last thirty years or so will help us to understand and assess many of the complex debates in contemporary politics as well providing insight into how the idea of justice can clarify important policy issues and guide political action.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1000 word review paper

1 x 3000 word essay

20909 Contemporary US Foreign Policy

Term 2

About:

This module provides a survey of the foreign and security policy of the United States of America.

In the early sessions, it surveys the history, institutions, and driving forces of US policy. How important is America's past to understanding US policy today? How does the institutional context in which policy is made – the division of powers between the president and Congress, and the rivalry of different executive departments – shape the substance of policy? What impulses lie behind US behaviour on the international stage: power, security, wealth, political ideals.

We then look at some major policy issues facing the United States in the contemporary era and how it has sought to meet them. Topics covered include: the extent of US overseas military commitments; nuclear weapons proliferation; counterterrorism and Middle East intervention; the rise of China and the spectre of US decline; the NATO alliance and conflict with Russia; and cybersecurity.

The module includes opportunity both to analysis what US policy is and why, and to think critically about what it should be and how change might be brought about.

List of Indicative Lecture Topics:

- From the Foundation to World War II: the original American foreign policy tradition(s)
- Modern history: the Cold War and its end; 9/11 and the contemporary era
- The institutions of government, decision-making and the bureaucracy
- What drives US national behaviour? Security, Power, Wealth, Ideology
- America's posture in the world: 'deep engagement' vs 'restraint'
- Fighting nuclear weapons proliferation, key cases: Iran and North Korea
- Counterterrorism and US policy in the Middle East
- The 'rise of China' and US relative power
- The US in Europe, NATO and the problem of Putin's Russia
- Cyber threats, cyber security

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1000 word review paper

1 x 3 hour exam

31386 Rebuilding War-Torn States

Term 2

About:

Transitional justice is a field of practice and study that aims to confront and overcome legacies of conflict and authoritarianism. It has undergone three generations of evolution, and we will examine the field in its current state, as a core partner in peacebuilding and development. In this module, the conceptual framework of transitional justice as a method for dealing with legacies of conflict and authoritarianism will be examined and critiqued. Its coherence and value will be interrogated, as well as its ability to provide real-world solutions to complex and layered conflict legacies. We will examine the liberal paradigm and limitations of, and alternative perspectives to, transitional justice, as seen by theorists and as defined and practiced by key international actors such as the United Nations, the OHCHR, and large international non-governmental organisations. We begin by looking at the evolution of the field, moving on to key debates around the core principles of justice, peacebuilding, truth-seeking, institutional reform, and reconciliation. We critically interrogate the idea of who transitional justice is 'done for', who it is 'done by', and why. A particular analytical concern of the module is to address the implications of the 'transitional justice gaze', on developed global north societies, global south societies, and the links between the two.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1000 word review paper (25%)

1 x 3000 word essay (75%)

22991 Critical Approaches to Security

Term 2

About

This module investigates different critical approaches to analysing security dynamics and issues in International Relations. It seeks to encourage students to reflect on the analytical and ethical assumptions that shape the ways in which security is thought about and practiced in contemporary global politics. Furthermore, the module encourages students to think critically about how security functions in global politics. It explores the key concepts of critical security studies (security, community, emancipation and representation), and looks at a variety of critical perspectives on security (including the 'Welsh School', poststructuralist and feminist approaches). These insights are then examined in light of contemporary security issues (including war, intervention, WMD, environmental change, human rights, poverty and religion).

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1000 word Article Review

1 x 3 hour Exam

31390 Nationalism and Empires in Europe

Term 2

About:

Nationalism is at the heart of many of the challenges presented by a rapidly changing world. Yet its role has been curiously neglected. Indeed, despite its death having been pronounced frequently, it is not only on the rise, but disrupting the status quo. Nationalism is implicated in social conflict and chauvinism, yet also in constructive efforts at meaningful collective self-determination. Whether it is experienced as part of everyday life, or as a heightened form of political action, it is almost inescapable.

It is thus hardly surprising that normative positions range from its condemnation by those who see in it nothing but manipulation and aggression to those who argue for it as a necessary underpinning of the liberal democratic polity, social solidarity and a force against domination and aggression.

Theories of nationalism range from the primordialists, who see it as a manifestation of deep forces in the human psyche and history, to modernists, who insist that it is the fruit of socio-economic modernization and subject to construction and change.

We will explore these issues in a comparative perspective, considering the principal theories and examining instances of nationalism in Europe. We will focus on the pivotal, tangible consequences of disintegration of large multi-ethnic states (empires) in Europe. We will examine various manifestations of post-imperial identities and forms of nationalism: from the United Kingdom during Brexit, via France's state-centred identity and its implications for the Arab minority to Russia's struggle to re-define its own identity and to come to terms with the collapse of the multi-ethnic Soviet Union.

20 credits

Assessment:

1 x 1500 word policy brief (40%)

1 x 2500 word essay (60%)

27657 Development Theory and Practice

Term 2

About:

The module introduces many of the central issues in international development. In particular, it aims to:

- Dispel some of the commonly held myths about developing countries (relentless famine, poverty, misery, etc.).
- Give students an appreciation that in understanding present day development history matters
- Expose students to the key ideas/theories that have informed development studies
- Help students to understand some of the complexities of key themes in development today: aid, corruption, poverty reduction, fragile states, MDGs, and others.

The module has the overall objective of linking theoretical frameworks with the real world policy environment of developing countries. Students will be encouraged to develop the skills necessary to understand, analyse and draw conclusions on the current state of development thinking and its impact on people living in poor countries. Throughout, the emphasis is on students developing an understanding of the evolution of development theories over the last half-century or so and its implications for present day thinking about policy and practice for development.

20 credits

Assessment:

2 x 3000 word essay (50%)