SCHOOL OF POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY

2019-20

Course Information Booklet
Dear Students....

What is this document about?

- At this time of the year, we ask you to indicate your selection of course options for next year; details of which courses are running are listed in this document.
- The combination of courses which you can take depends upon your degree programme. Please see page 37 onwards for further information.
- The information contained in this booklet is provisional and subject to change.
- New courses being offered by new members of staff will be advertised later in the year.
- Please read the information below carefully and take time to consider your courses fully before making your choices.

How to submit your course option choices.

- Please submit your course option via an OPTION FORM – to be circulated on 14/15 February via email.
- Once complete, please email the form to: PIRP-options2019@rhul.ac.uk by FRIDAY 15 MARCH 2019
- PLEASE RANK ALL OPTIONS IN CASE YOUR FIRST OPTIONS ARE FULL

Who to contact for further advice?

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Please remember:

- We will make every effort to ensure that your course choices are met, however this may not be possible for every student
- Courses may be withdrawn if there is insufficient demand for them
- Additional/new courses will be advertised if/when they become available
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SECOND YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

ES2001 - UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICS AND THEORY

POL/IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms
Mandatory - BA European and International Studies
Course Description – This unit analyses the contemporary politics of the European Union and its institutions, amid the challenges of the triple crisis of economics, migration and Brexit. The first term will begin with an introduction to the European Union as a political system (weeks 1 and 2) followed by an overview of the European Union’s historical development (weeks 3 and 4). The remainder of the first term will then focus on the European Union’s political institutions (executive, legislative and judicial) and on the democratic deficit. The second term will focus on contestation of the European Union in its first half and on theory in the second half, in order to explain how the EU developed and the challenges that it faces. Sessions in the first half of term 2 comprise party politics (week 11), public opinion (week 12), European Parliament elections (week 13), and Brexit and EU-UK relations (weeks 14 and 15). The final weeks cover the theories that explain European integration before the revision session in week 20.
Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Essay 1 (25%), Essay 2 (25%), Exam (50%)

Note: this course is a prerequisite for studying the following third year courses: ES3002 Public Policy in the European Union and PR3106 Power and Money in the European Union.

PR2000 – RESEARCHING POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: ANALYSIS, DESIGN AND PRACTICE

POL/IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms
Mandatory – BA International Relations, BA Politics, BA Politics and International Relations; BA Politics with Philosophy.
Course Description – PR2000 continues to expose students to the academic study of Politics and International Relations. Following on from PR1000 this course further exposes students to a range of approaches and methods commonly used in the study of Politics and IR, and equips them with the skills to successfully study and analyse a wide range of political phenomena. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think about issues in Politics and IR in an informed, critical and rigorous way. The course is designed to encourage students to ask questions about the world around us and think about how we can provide meaningful and robust answers to these questions. In doing so the course provides students with skills that will be useful for their entire degree, thoroughly prepares students for their undergraduate dissertation they write in their third year and in addition provide students with important transferrable skills that are highly valued in the job market.
PR2000 focuses on the practical issues of research in Politics and IR: the principles that guide scholars in Politics and IR as they conduct research, the kinds of questions they ask and the
variety of decisions that they must make in order to answer them. Analysing these issues will provide a strong platform to judge the merits of different arguments presented in academic literature and help students to be able to distinguish the good from the bad or unconvincing.

**Course Leader** – Dr Kaat Smets and Dr Cassilde Schwartz

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 25%, Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%, multiple choice tests (overall mark is average of bi-weekly tests) - 10% and exam - 40%.

**PR2440 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY**

**IR**

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

**Mandatory** – BA Politics and International Relations, BA International Relations, International Relations as a minor component (e.g. BA Multilingual Studies with International Relations).

**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?

**Course Leader** – Dr Lyn Johnstone

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars


**PR2460 – POLITICS OUTSIDE THE WEST**

**POL/IR**

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

**Course Description** – PR2460 This course is a key bridge between the first year courses in comparative politics and international relations and the third year courses in the politics of Africa, China, Latin America, the Middle East, and South Asia. It is designed to equip students with an understanding of the most important features of the history of the development of the non-West, the distinctive political dynamics (putatively) characterising the contemporary non-West, and the thought of prominent non-Western political thinkers.

**Course Leader** – Dr Will Jones and Dr Ibrahim Halawi

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars; formative assessments: class discussions (verbal) and class presentations (verbal)

**Assessment:** Wiki article (2000 words) 25%, Essay (2000 words) and exam (50%)
PR2480 - DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN
POL
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – PR2480 Democracy in Britain explores the theory and practice of modern British politics. It is designed primarily to familiarise students with the ways in which British democracy has evolved, how it operates today and some of the challenges that confront it. Students taking the course will gain knowledge of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the political system. They will learn about how and why the system operates in the way it does, as well as the quality of contemporary democratic governance. Students studying PR2480 will be encouraged throughout the course to be mindful of the relationship between theory and evidence. The first half of the module tends to focus on Britain’s ‘traditional’ democratic system, including its origins, development and institutions. The second half tends to address some of the recent and not-so-recent developments that have challenged the system, including the rise of career politicians, human rights, Europe, devolution and ‘anti-politics’.

Course Leader – Dr Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars. Please note the course leader will be trialling a 2-hour lectures for this module for 2019-2020.

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 25%, essay 2 (2000 words) – 25% and exam (50%).

PR2490 - CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY
POL
30 credits – 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 people beyond our borders. 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, Nozick, Okin, Williams, Shelby, and Mouffe. 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 Nat Rutherford

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay plan (formative – 0%), essay (4000 words) – 50% and exam - 50%.
PR2500 - INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
IR
30 credits – 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 – Dr Thomas Stubbs
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminar. Formative assessments – seminar presentation 10 min and seminar presentation write up (1000 words)

PR2550 - WAR AND SECURITY IN WORLD POLITICS
IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms
Course Description – This module provides a comprehensive overview of Security Studies as a sub-field of International Relations. The module will start by examining the issue of war and how war is/should be fought. It then moves on to look at more general theories of security and how these have changed, especially in an age of terrorism. The module will analyse a wide variety of security issues in-depth, including nuclear weapons, drone warfare, genocide, and gun control.
Course Leader – Dr Michelle Bentley
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

PR2560 - MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
POL
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms
Course Description – This course will introduce students to major political thinkers from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and including the works of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Mill, Marx and Nietzsche. The ideas articulated by these thinkers continue to underpin contemporary debates about the nature of freedom, human rights, value pluralism, popular sovereignty, state legitimacy, and the modern condition. The course aims to introduce students to the themes, argumentative strategies, and critical interpretations of these thinkers, and to help them develop the skills to critically assess these interpretations against the texts themselves. It also aims to show how study of these thinkers illuminates contemporary debates even where these debates no longer make reference to them.
Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
PR2580 - INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

IR

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – This course will help students develop an understanding of the scope and limitations of global governance. They will learn how to discuss the creation of international organisations and the role of states in this process, how different organisations are designed, and the effectiveness and functioning of different types of organisation. Through the exploration of specific examples the course will enable students to critically evaluate different theoretical models and develop their own perspectives on major debates. The course will also examine the actorhood of international organisations such as their role in creating policy, pursuing organisational interests/objectives, and altering the relations between actors at various levels.

Furthermore, students will also begin to consider some major challenges and will be given the opportunity to debate the significance of major for the future of global governance – for example, economic challenges that require intimate regional and cross-border cooperation or the threat of climate change leading to questions of institutional competency and design. The end of the Cold War has also ushered in a host of new security challenges that states are unable to tackle alone. These include the prevention and management of state failure, countering international terrorism, policing organised crime, and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Do these challenges to the international system imply or require a shift away from traditional conceptions of state sovereignty and action? Is the central political authority of the state still the principal locus of policy development and implementation, or should we be looking at the diffusion of power and competencies to a range of new actors and institutions? This course will examine governance and the diffusion of competencies ‘horizontally’ to private actors like international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and transnational corporations (TNCs), and ‘vertically’ to regional and international organisations.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

PR2600 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

POL/IR

30 credits – 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. Seminars are centred on practical activities that allow students to apply the knowledge presented in the course to contemporary real-world examples of political communication in action. Examples include analysis of political speeches, advertisements, candidate debates, campaign strategies, and news coverage of political issues.

Course Leader – Dr Yoav Galai and Dr Sofia Collignon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and activity-based seminars


PR2XX0 – GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF THE UNITED STATES

POL

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – This module introduces students to the institutions and politics of the United States. It offers a thorough, entry-level grounding in the empirical and theoretical literature on American politics, and requires students to evaluate that literature critically through seminar discussion and oral presentations, two pieces of assessed coursework, and an unseen examination. Starting by building up students’ basic historical knowledge of the development of American politics, the course covers the Constitution, Congress, the Presidency and federal bureaucracy, separation of powers, federalism and state governments, the Supreme Court, elections, political parties and interest groups. By the end of the course students are prepared to engage knowledgeably with American political news and to tackle advanced courses in American Political Development and/or US Foreign Policy. This course provides a good all-round introduction to one of the world’s most influential democracies.

Course Leader – Dr Ursula Hackett

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY COURSES

HOW PHILOSOPHY OPTIONS WORK:
The main thing to note about the optional courses that are listed in this booklet is that those taught by Philosophy staff (i.e. those coded as ‘PY’ courses) run every other year, so (with one or two exceptions) all the optional courses listed for 2019/20 will NOT be listed for 2020/21.

This system allows us to give you a far greater range of options to choose from over your degree covering all areas of philosophy. We think that it’s thus a fantastic way to allow you to personalise your degree experience with exactly the courses that are right for you.

This means that, if you are entering the second year in 2019/20, you should not ‘save’ a course that you may want to take for the following year (2020/21), as you won’t be able to take it then. Please do just choose now the courses that you most want to take. And next year there will be a completely different set to choose from!

PY2XX1 – RATIONALISM AND EMPIRICISM
PY
15 credits – Autumn term
Mandatory for BA Philosophy

Course Description – This course will explore the central developments in modern philosophy occurring between the foundation of modern empiricism and rationalism by Locke and Descartes in the 17th century, and the emergence of Kant’s philosophical system in the late 18th century. The course will look at three of the key figures from the two traditions, exploring the key theories they expound, and the arguments used to support these theories. The figures covered will depend on the research specialisms of the course convenor, but a typical syllabus would involve reading works by Spinoza, Leibniz, and Hume. Looking at these philosophers over a number of weeks will allow students to develop their close reading skills, and to see how the arguments put forward by these philosophers work together to produce a systematic metaphysical worldview.

Course Leader – Dr Daniel Whistler

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay – (2000 words) - 50% and Exam (2hr) -50%.

PY2001 – KANT
PY
15 credits – Autumn term
Mandatory for BA Philosophy

Course Description – The course looks at key texts by Immanuel Kant and which are the foundation of Modern European Philosophy. These texts raise questions concerning the status of human knowledge and the nature and justification of human action that have concerned philosophers ever since. The course considers Kant's Critique of Pure Reason. The core theme of the course is how philosophy responds to the situation in which it can no longer rely on theological support for its claims about truth and morality. This raises questions about the nature of the human subject that are evident in the conjunction of the massive success of the modern natural sciences with an abiding worry as to whether sceptical objections to establishing true knowledge can be overcome. Kant sees these issues in terms of ‘transcendental philosophy' establishing the limits of knowledge by seeing
what the necessary conditions of knowledge are. The questions raised by the course recur in most of the main Philosophy courses studied from the second year onwards.

**Course Leader** – Dr G. Anthony Bruno

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay (2000 words) - 50% and exam (2hr) – 50%

**Note:** this course is a **prerequisite** for PY2204 and PY3204 _The Critique of Idealism._

**PY2002 - MIND AND WORLD**

**PY**

**15 credits** – **Spring term**

**Mandatory for all Philosophy degrees**

**Course Description** – This course examines some of the major metaphysical and epistemological problems that arise when attempting to understand how mind and language figure in human interactions with and in the world. It centres on attempts to conceptualise, solve, or avoid mind-body related problems in the analytic tradition and aims to contrast these with phenomenological and existential investigations of cognate phenomena.

**Course Leader** – Dr Neil Gascoigne

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay (2500 words) - 50% and exam (2hrs) -50%.

**PY2204 - THE CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM**

**PY**

**15 credits** – **Spring term**

**Course Description** – Kant’s critical turn aims to restrict the use of pure reason to possible experience. While this avoids the dogmatic enthusiasm of rationalism and the sceptical consequences of empiricism, it imposes a distinction between the appearances we know in experience and the thing in itself lying beyond experience. It thereby inspires post-Kantian idealism to prove reason’s absolute capacity for explanation, a capacity unrestricted by an unknowable thing in itself and unthreatened by mechanistic systems like Spinoza’s. Fichte and Hegel thus defend reason’s absolute freedom as a way of perfecting Kant’s critical turn. The critique of post-Kantian idealism that emerges in the work of Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Marx raises important questions. What sort of insight into reason can we have? Can reason fully explain its own possibility? Can an account of reason be wholly objective? Can reason overcome all presuppositions? Is absolute knowledge sufficient to change the world? After an introduction to the idealist systems of Fichte and Hegel, we will trace the critique of idealism through these questions and evaluate the positive accounts offered by post-idealist critics.

**Course Leader** – Dr G. Anthony Bruno

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay (1500 words) -30% and Essay 2 (2500 words) – 70%.

**Note:** **PY2001 is a prerequisite** for this course.
PY2008 – PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This module will bring philosophical analysis and literary reflection into conversation: you will be encouraged to take this opportunity to reflect on the connections and disjunctions between the practice of literary criticism and philosophical activity. We will look in particular at themes such as the recourse to island imagery in both literature and philosophy, different ways of writing philosophy (dialogues, confessions, meditations, etc.), as well as the question of whether novels can ever ‘do philosophy’. Our concern will be with philosophy as literature and literature as philosophy, so as to think critically about what it means ‘to read’ and ‘to philosophise’.

Course Leader – Dr Daniel Whistler

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures, seminars and student-led workshops.

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) – 50%, Textual analysis (1000 words) – 30% and one group oral presentation – 20%.

PY2217 – ANCIENT METAPHYSICS

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This module will focus on the metaphysics of Plato and Aristotle, concentrating on Plato’s theory of Ideas and Aristotle’s response to it. The first part will look at Plato’s theory of Ideas as developed in his middle period dialogues and his own criticisms of it in his later works, drawing on dialogues such as the Phaedo, Republic, Sophist, and Parmenides. The second part will look at Aristotle’s criticisms of Plato and his own theory of hylomorphism, developed in response (in the Metaphysics, Physics, and elsewhere). Central philosophical themes will include the ontological status of ideas, the role of universals, causation, the nature of matter, and problems relating to knowledge. The metaphysics of Plato and Aristotle are foundational for the subsequent history of philosophy, some of which will be explored in the companion module ‘Medieval Philosophy’, although each module is designed to stand without the other. Although focused on historical texts, the module will be primarily concerned with the philosophical problems that they raise.

Course Leader – Dr John Sellars

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) – 50% and exam (2hr) – 50%

PY2219 – MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This module will examine a range of key thinkers and themes in medieval philosophy, from the fourth to the fourteenth century, telling the story of the development and transmission of philosophical ideas along the way. It will begin in late antiquity, with Augustine and Boethius, showing the ways in which medieval thought was built on the ancient Greek philosophical tradition. It will outline the transmission of Greek thought to the Arabic-speaking world, examine a number of Arabic philosophers (Avicenna, al-Ghazali, Averroes), and consider the impact of Arabic
thought on medieval philosophy in Paris (Thomas Aquinas). It will conclude with philosophy in fourteenth century Paris and Oxford (Duns Scotus, William Ockham). Topics discussed will focus on problems in metaphysics, such as the nature of existence, universals, the mind, and time. The relationship between philosophy and theology (or reason and faith) will be a continuing theme. The primarily metaphysical content will make this course a companion to 'Ancient Metaphysics', although each module is designed to stand without the other. It will examine (in translation) texts originally written in Greek, Arabic, and Latin.

**Course Leader** – Dr John Sellars

**Course Delivery** – Workshop

**Assessment** – Essay (4000 words) -100%

**PY2206 – HEGEL**

**PY**

**15 credits – Autumn term**

**Course Description** – German idealism sets itself the task of satisfying three main aims: systematizing Kant’s philosophy by finding necessary premises for its conclusions; providing a rigorous demonstration of the laws of thought; and ensuring that satisfying these aims satisfies the third aim of proving that reason is not the product of a purposeless, mechanistic world, but is itself an absolutely free purposive activity. This course investigates Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit as an attempt to satisfy these aims. We will explore Hegel’s distinctive and influential criticisms of Kant, his development of dialectic as a method of deriving the laws of thought, and his argument that reason is absolutely free. We will pay special attention to his successive, unfolding theses for the essentially self-conscious character of consciousness, the essentially recognitive character of self-consciousness, and the essentially ethical character of recognition.

**Course Leader** – Dr G Anthony Bruno

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars


**PY2XX2 – THEMES FROM CONTEMPORARY EPISTEMOLOGY**

**PY**

**15 credits – Autumn term**

**Course Description** - There has been a sharp revival of interest in fundamental questions relating to knowledge in recent years. These include the status of testimonial knowledge; the extent to which possession of knowledge requires one or more virtues; the suggestion that knowledge can be a group rather than an individual achievement; the idea that it is unjust to place people in positions where they cannot acquire knowledge that might empower them; the relationship between knowing how to do something and that something is the case; the role of bias, discrimination and presupposition. Building on the first year course on epistemology, this course focusses on one or more of these and investigates them in depth.

**Course Leader** – Dr Neil Gascoigne

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay 1 (1000 words) and Essay 2 (3000 words)
PY2208 – PRAGMATISM

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description - Once considered a rather parochial product of American exceptionalism, pragmatism has become an increasingly powerful voice in contemporary philosophy with its emphasis on the problem-solving nature of philosophical inquiry. This course offers an introduction to the work of classical (Peirce, James, Dewey) and contemporary (Rorty, Brandom, Price) pragmatists, focusing on their criticism of traditional concepts like ‘truth’, ‘objectivity’, ‘good’ and ‘experience’ and exploring the ways in which their attempts to change the vocabulary of philosophy is a way to change the world for the better.

Course Leader – Dr Neil Gascoigne

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (1000 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (3000 words) – 70%

PY2212 – PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND BIOETHICS

PY

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description - We will draw on issues in philosophy of science and ethics to understand and attempt to solve conceptual problems arising in medicine and the biomedical sciences. Among other things, we will consider what a disease is, whether we own our bodies (and body parts), what is involved in informed consent, and what is properly involved in decision-making in medicine.

Course Leader – Dr Rebecca Roache

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars


PY2213 – PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHIATRY

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description - This course considers ethical and metaphysical issues arising from the understanding and treatment of mental illness. Topics will include: Are delusions beliefs? What makes mental illness different from other sorts of illness? Is psychiatry scientific? Under what conditions (if any) is it permissible to treat someone without their consent?

Course Leader – Dr Rebecca Roache

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

PY2XX3 – AESTHETICS

**PY**

15 credits – Autumn term

**Course Description** - The aim of this course is to consider the main directions of eighteenth-century and post-Kantian aesthetics, in particular the issues that have arisen about what it means to consider objects—whether art or nature—aesthetically, and an analysis of concepts bound up with this “aesthetic attitude”, such as disinterestedness, beauty and the sublime. Each week will focus on one issue surrounding the question of taste, of judgements of beauty and the sublime and of the aesthetic experience, from Hume, through Kant, to the present day. Particularly attention will be paid to non-artistic aesthetic experiences, such as those of the natural world.

**Course Leader** – Dr David Preston

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Essay (2000 words)- 50% and Exam (2hr) – 50%

Second year single-honours and joint honours Philosophy students are also permitted to take 30 credits of the following PR-coded courses:

- PR2490 - Contemporary Political Theory (30 credits)
- PR2560 - Modern Political Thought (30 credits)
THIRD YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

PR3000 - DISSERTATION IN POLITICS AND/OR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POL/IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring Terms
Mandatory – BA Politics and International Relations, BA Politics, BA International Relations, BA Politics with Philosophy.
Course Description – In the third year of your degree course you are required to write a Dissertation of 8,000 words in length. It is an opportunity for you to examine, in greater depth, an area of interest to you. Each student will have a member of staff to act as a supervisor. The role of the supervisor is to help and guide you with your Dissertation. A series of Dissertation workshops is held, attendance at which is compulsory.

Course Leader – Dr Cassie Schwartz

Course Delivery – Dissertation workshops and individual supervision.

Assessment – Dissertation – (8000 words) - 95% and dissertation proposal – (1500 words) -5%.

NOTE: This course is not offered to Liberal Arts or Minor student.

PE3000 - ADVANCED SEMINAR AND DISSERTATION IN PPE

PPE
30 credits – Autumn and Spring Term
Mandatory – BA/BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Course description – In the third year of your degree course PPE students are required to write a dissertation of 8,000 words in length. It is an opportunity for you to examine, in greater depth, an area of interest to you. Each student will have a member of staff to act as a supervisor. The role of the supervisor is to help and guide you with your dissertation. A series of dissertation workshops is held, attendance at which is compulsory.

Course leader: Dr Michael Bacon

Course delivery: Dissertation workshops and individual supervision.

Assessment: Dissertation (8,000 words) - 100%.

NOTE: This course is only offered to PPE students.
PR3100 - POLITICS IN ACTION
POL/IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring Terms
Students should have already registered an interest by the end of 31 January 2019. Students who interrupted their studies or have been on international study year, please liaise with the Course Leader.

Course Description – A university degree opens many doors to careers but the experience and skills enhanced during a placement provide extra dimension to the qualification. The Politics in Action placement scheme is a third-year undergraduate, assessed, full-unit module. It has a novel structure which combines participation in a workplace environment for one day a week during term time (and three days a week for each term’s reading week) with scholarly reflection on the nature of the organizational, professional, and policy contexts of the placement.

Course Leader – Dr James Sloam

Course Delivery – Work Placement/Internship – 176 hours of placement; seminar and independent guides study

Assessment – Reflective log – (2500 words) mid-module skills report -25%, presentation – (15 minutes) -15% and placement report (4000 words) -60%.

NOTE: This course is not offered to Liberal Arts or Minor students.

ES3002 - PUBLIC POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
POL/IR
15 credits – Autumn term
Mandatory - BA European and International Studies

Course Description – This half unit has the objective of introducing students to political science and international relations approaches for understanding the EU’s Single Market. It focuses on areas of public policy and includes regulation of the market, the Euro and its crisis, Justice, Home Affairs, Immigration and Counter-Terrorism, Social and Environment policies, and the role of interest lobby groups.

Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – One essay (50%), exam (50%)

NOTE: ES2001 Understanding the European Union: Politics and Theory is a pre-requisite for this course.
PR3105 - POLITICAL THEORIES OF FREEDOM

POL
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course critically examines different theoretical understandings of freedom, together with their strengths and limitations. It falls into two parts. Part 1 examines liberal understandings of freedom, and part 2 looks at contrasting non-liberal and republican accounts. It does so by considering the contributions of important recent and contemporary political theorists. From the liberal tradition these include Berlin, Hayek, Hirschmann and Gray. From the non-liberal tradition, writers will include Taylor, Honneth, Pettit and Skinner. Animating the discussion of these figures is the apparently simple but ultimately complex question of whether political freedom is a matter of the ability to act unimpeded by others, or whether it requires forms of social activity?

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery - weekly lectures, seminars and guided independent study.

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 50% and Essay 2 (2000 words) - 50%.

PR3106 - POWER AND MONEY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

POL/IR
15 credits – Spring term

Course Description - Without the Vote Leave bus promising £350 million a week for the NHS, a sum of money gained through no longer contributing to the EU’s budget, the Brexit result in the EU referendum of 2016 would not have been secured. This half unit introduces students to what the EU’s budget does and why it is controversial, and how an agreement made in 1970 before Britain joined the EU secured the UK’s eventual departure. The half unit covers the history of key periods of the budget, how it was expanded, what rules it has, where the money actually comes from, how it is spent, and the power that national governments, the European Commission and the European Parliament exercise over it. Finally, the unit looks at reform proposals both on the spending side of the budget and on how the money could be raised through new EU taxes on banks, CO2 emissions or transnational companies. This half unit will be of use to those students with interests in how international organisations make policy, or in understanding how this important issue affected the UK’s membership of the EU. The half unit is recommended for those students who have taken ES2001 or ES3002.

The assessment consists of two written papers and no exam. The first paper is a standard academic essay. The second is a policy briefing for a politician or policy-maker written in the style of a think tank.

Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 50% and essay 2 – a policy paper (2000 words) - 50%.

NOTE: ES2001 Understanding the European Union: Politics and Theory is a pre-requisite for this course.
PR3190 - COMPARATIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

POL/IR
15 credits – Autumn

Course Description: Party leaders, and their public image, are increasingly considered important for a party’s electoral success, for the smooth running of government and for regime legitimacy. Perhaps the most important variable for successful politicians is their ability to effectively communicate and connect with their audiences. This course will first, show students the techniques most frequently used by politicians, communicators and speechwriters to effectively deliver their messages in different contexts and settings. Next, students will analyse how these techniques have been used by the greatest leaders in the word to justify their regimes. By the end of the course students will be able to evaluate leadership styles during and after elections and design communication strategies that will deliver political messages effectively.

Course Leader – Dr Sofia Collignon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Oral presentation (10min) – 10%, essay (2000 words) – 50% and video and script (15min) – 40%.

PR3300 - THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

IR
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description - Despite growing total economic affluence, the world continues to be characterised by persistent poverty and inequality. To briefly illustrate this reality, close to one billion people globally still lack daily access to sufficient food, more than three billion people live on less than 2.5 USD a day, and more than 22,000 children die each day due to poverty (World Development Indicators, 2018). In theory, ‘development’ should resolve these problems – but what is development and how can it be achieved? This course explores key development challenges faced across developing countries and is divided into three sections. The first critically examines some of the major concepts, paradigms, and theories, which have attempted to define what development is, how and why it occurs (or does not), and to whose benefit. The second focuses on some of the key development challenges faced by developing countries: economic (poverty, inequality, unemployment), political (democracy, human rights, role of elites), social (religion, race/ethnicity/caste, and urbanisation), and natural (climate change, pollution, resource extraction, extermination of species). The final section explores possible remedies to these issues through international cooperation (trade, aid, finance, South-South cooperation), national policies (welfare schemes, laws and regulations), and micro and informal solutions.

Course Leader – Dr Ivica Petrikova

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures, seminars and formative assessment: class presentation 30mins, final essay in draft peer assessed (2,500 words)

Assessment – Blog entry (1000 words) – 30% and research essay 2 (3000 words) - 70%.
PR3570 - SOCIAL JUSTICE: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE
POL
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – The idea of social justice concerns the fair distribution in society of benefits and burdens in society. Political theorists debate how these should be distributed, using ideas such as equality, meritocracy, desert, need and utility. The first half considers fundamental ideas of social justice and examines a number key theoretical debates, including on egalitarianism, desert and equality of opportunity. The second half of the course applies the ideas and concepts from the first half to examine a number of pressing political controversies, including global poverty, immigration and climate change. Learning Outcomes: Identify the main issues involved in contemporary debates on social justice Understand the concepts and theories underlying the debates on social justice Apply arguments on social justice in a variety of settings Synthesise material from a range of sources, including philosophical texts

Course Leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow and Dr Nat Rutherford

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – TBC

PR3620 - US FOREIGN POLICY- HISTORY, IDEAS AND CASES
IR
15 credits - Spring term

Course Description – This course focuses on the foreign policy of the United States of America. It outlines the theoretical frameworks for understanding US foreign policy as well as the founding principles and ideas that underpin the US approach to international politics. This goes back to the founding fathers and America’s initial rise to power (up until the end of World War II) to analyse the key themes that shape US foreign policy today. The course then analyses the historical development of US foreign policy right to the present day. It also analyses foreign policy in key regions, such as the Middle East, as well as core issues. It concludes with a look at the argument on US decline and what US foreign policy may look like in the future.

Course Leader – Dr Michelle Bentley

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars.

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 50% and essay 2 (2000 words) - 50%.
PR3680 - YOUNG PEOPLE’S POLITICS
POL
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description The course begins by investigating issues of youth, citizenship and democracy, exploring the theoretical and empirical issues that define citizenship in contemporary democracies, focussing on issues that particularly effect young people (e.g. jobs, education, crime, mental health) as well as their civic and political engagement (from voting, to demonstrations, internet activism) – from Obama, to Occupy and the Spanish Indignados, to Jeremy Corbyn. The course also considers how the relationship between the state and the citizen (and young people, in particular) has changed in recent years in the aftermath of the global financial crisis (e.g. the increasing costs of higher education, closure of youth centres, insecure jobs), and looks how this has shaped young people’s values and engagement in democracy. The course also develops a focus on reform, investigating the influence of education, in particular, on youth politics. The final sessions will examine new data on Young Londoners, exploring the issues they care about (with a focus on ‘sustainability’) and their repertoires of civic and political engagement within an urban environment.

Course Leader – Dr James Sloam

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Assessed coursework (50%), exam (50%)

PR3720 - LEADERSHIP, POWER AND THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTERSHIP
POL
15 credits – Autumn term

This course enables final-year students interested in British politics to explore in depth the office of prime minister, its powers and its capacity for leadership. The prime ministership is one of the oldest headships of government and the single most important position in Britain’s political executive. We will examine its history, its relationship with other institutions and actors in the core executive, and its occupants’ capacity to influence domestic and foreign policy. We will also examine how prime ministers relate to other parts of the political system, how they might be and are held to account, and how we might evaluate styles of political leadership more broadly.

Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Blog-style essay (1000 words) - 30%, essay (3000 words) – 70%.
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 is by way of tradition written essay but students may choose to write about particular images or audio-visual content.

The course is structured as follows and opens with an introduction to visual political communication and moves on to explore producing images; consuming images; images, identity and power; and political icons. The course then examines quantitative and qualitative visual methods; environmental politics; welfare politics; nuclear politics; and global conflict and terrorism.

Course Leader – Prof Ben O’Loughlin

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 50% and Essay 2 (2000 words) - 50%. For each, select and answer on question from the student handbook.
PR3880 - REFUGEES AND MIGRATION IN WORLD POLITICS
IR
30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – This course presents an interdisciplinary, social science perspective on the central issues in the study of forced migration. Although rooted in International Relations, it takes an expansive view of the discipline, integrating perspectives from sociology, comparative politics, history, gender studies, critical race theory, and so on. It is designed to include material and academic voices from the Global South, as well as the voices of refugees themselves. The course focuses mainly on refugees, although it touches upon others areas of forced migration such as internal displacement and environmental displacement. Each week will introduce key examples from a diverse range of geographical contexts. Lectures and classes will start from real world problems, identify key underlying debates, and bring concepts and academic literature to bear on those debates. The course culminates in a simulation, where students will take on the roles of a variety of representatives from key states (in and outside the EU), European institutions, other inter-governmental agencies (IOM, UNHCR, etc.), civil society actors (MSF, etc.), and party political elites. The agenda (notwithstanding significant changes in real world politics between the time of writing and the simulation) will be to renegotiate the Common European Asylum Policy (CEAP), its attendant directives (on eligibility, reception, and so on), and the Dublin II Protocol. The hoped for result would include a response to the immediate humanitarian crisis, and a clearer vision on the long-term future of European asylum policy and refugee policy.

Course Leader – Dr Will Jones

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 – (2000 words) -25%, simulation review (2000 words) - 25%, and exam 40%.
PR3890 - AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This module provides students with an advanced understanding of the institutions, politics, history and culture of the United States. It offers a thorough grounding in the scholarly literature on American Political Development (APD) and requires students to evaluate that literature critically through seminar discussion and oral presentations, a substantial piece of assessed coursework, and a written PowerPoint presentation. Using diverse methodological approaches, students examine data sources alongside major scholarly works in APD. The course deploys the tools of historical institutionalism and APD to provide advanced knowledge of the domestic politics and history of the United States, with a particular focus upon the institutional arrangements of Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court; the operation of the federal bureaucracy, the party system, elections and state politics. By the end of the course students are prepared to engage in their own dissertation research in the field of US politics and to excel in the study of American politics, culture and history. This course locates one of the world’s most influential democracies in temporal and comparative context.

Course Leader – Dr Ursula Hackett

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (4000 words) – 85% and written PowerPoint presentation - 15%. We will hold a mini-conference in the penultimate week of each term at which students present their draft argument and give discussant feedback.

PR3910 - THE POLITICS OF RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

POL/IR

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course seeks to understand the politics and societies of post-communist Russia and Eastern Europe, through four inter-disciplinary thematic parts. Part I of the course focuses on how communist legacies and modes of post-communist transition shaped the region’s different political systems. Students will discuss Europeanisation processes in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the specific post-communist trajectory of the Russian Federation, from Yeltsin to Putin. Part II explores the building and running of post-communist states. It will introduce the students to the role of nationalism and the politics of memory in post-communist state-building, the varieties of capitalism that emerged in the region, elections and the peculiarities of post-communist party systems, and the role of corruption and informality. Part III zeroes in on post-communist societies, exploring key issues such as socio-economic inequality, gender politics, political participation, grassroots politics, and migration to and from the region. Part IV concludes the course by analysing current developments in the region and their wider relevance. It discusses Ukraine, as a complex case study that brings together many of the themes explored during the course; it introduces the students to the latest scholarly debates on democratic backsliding in CEE; it discusses the possibility of comparing East and West; and it wraps-up what we know and what we need to learn about the past, present and future of the region.

The course foresees a strong component of student participation. Students will work on case-studies that they will then present and discuss comparatively in class. They will also use their case-study research to write two substantial pieces of coursework. By the end of the course students will have a
nuanced understanding of post-communist politics and will be able to compare both within the region and with countries outside the region.

Course Leader – Dr Licia Cianetti

Course Delivery – Seminars

Assessment – Book/film review – (1000 words) - 30%, Newsroom portfolio – (1000 words) – 20% and essay (2000 words) – 50%.

PR3930 - ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIC THEORY

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – The course examines the theoretical understandings of democracy and the conceptual issues and controversies arising from them. Modern political thought is characterised by an uneasy relationship with democracy. Whilst the values of freedom and equality are widely related to – and often thought to entail – democratic government, political theorists have identified various problems that democracy poses to those values. The course will examine these issues, with topics including: forms of democracy; the relationship between democracy, freedom and equality; the role of participation and deliberation; multiculturalism and group rights; and global democracy.

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery - weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) - 50% and exam - 50%

PR3950 - GLOBAL HEALTH POLICY

IR

15 credits – Autumn Term

Course Description - Since the turn of the millennium, global health has received dramatically increased attention, both as an emergent academic discipline and in terms of heightened policy salience. This course serves as an introduction to global health policy, synthesising material from a range of disciplines such as political economy, social epidemiology, and public health. It examines the constellation of health actors involved in policy formulation, including international organisations, governments, public-private partnerships, non-governmental organisations, philanthropic foundations, and commercial actors. It tackles key contemporary policy debates surrounding the health effects of—for instance—rising economic inequalities, global trade, and austerity politics. Students are also taken through approaches to effective policymaking encompassed in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of policy responses to global health issues. Throughout the course, emphasis is placed on how health policies, systems, and outcomes are influenced by the so-called ‘social determinants of health’—the political, economic, social, and cultural factors that operate at both national and transnational levels.

Course leader – Dr Thomas Stubbs

Course delivery - Weekly lectures and seminars

PR3XX1 – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: CONCEPTS AND CONTROVERSIES

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course description - This is not a course in the free speech situation in China, or Russia, or anywhere else. Its aim instead is to give students an in-depth understanding of the nature and limits of freedom of speech from the perspective of normative political theory. We shall investigate the values, norms and principles at issue in contexts where free speech is promoted, regulated, limited or denied—especially contexts where that choice is contentious. In so doing, we shall touch on the law of free speech and use some examples from the UK and US. You will be encouraged to look beyond the headlines to explore the rich academic scholarship on free speech, and to offer critical analyses of that scholarship. By the end of the course, you should be able to interrogate your own and others’ intuitive reactions in controversial cases of e.g. hate speech, and to develop a reasoned, nuanced approach to these issues. Topics covered will likely include: free speech in politics, law and philosophy; foundations of free speech (autonomy, truth, and self-government); free speech in a democratic society; hate speech; blasphemy and religiously offensive speech; Holocaust denial; the right to privacy; commercial speech; the ethics of public shaming.

Course leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow

Course delivery - Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Case analysis (1500 words) – 30% and Essay (2500 words) -70%
PR3XX2 – WHY AND HOW PEOPLE VOTE
POL
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – The way in which people participate in politics is fundamental for the way political systems function. In classical and contemporary theories of democracy, political participation is seen as a way to protect private interests of citizens while simultaneously making sure that good government is practised by political leaders. It is, therefore, not difficult to guess why scholars of politics and international relations have and have had an interest in the question of how and why people come to participate in politics.

As the primary mechanism with which to implement the principle of popular sovereignty, electoral participation in particular has received attention of academics, policy makers and the media. Once the polling station doors close, the first two questions asked are usually how many people turned out and what did people vote? In this course we will deal with these questions extensively. More generally, this course focuses 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 for whom to vote.

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 – Prof Oliver Heath

Course Delivery - Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) 50% and Research assignment (1500 words) - 50%

PR3XX3- GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY
POL/IR
15 credits – Spring Term

Course Description – Food insecurity has always been and still continues to be one of the key global development issues. Close to one billion people around the world go to bed hungry every night, two billion people experience micronutrient malnutrition and almost the same number are overweight or obese. Global food security is predicted to worsen further in the near future as climate change hinders agricultural production, by inducing higher temperatures, more frequent droughts and floods, and land degradation, and global population continues to rise, topping nine billion by mid-century. This course will enhance students’ understanding of some of the complex issues and controversies that surround globalisation of agriculture and the global food chain, and review and discuss factors that influence food and nutrition security at the global, national, community and household levels.

Course Leader – Dr Ivica Petrikova

Course delivery - Weekly seminars

Assessment – Policy brief (1500 words) - 40% and Essay (2500 words) -60%
PR3XX4 – LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS
POL/IR
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description - Latin America is a natural laboratory of political and economic conditions. From Fidel Castro on the left, Pinochet on the right, and everything in between, the region has experimented with a wide array of ideologies, institutions, and varieties of democracy. It is a region where democracy is often threatened from many different directions, sometimes by radical revolutions but more often in subtle ways such as corruption, rigid or unstable party systems, vote buying, and informality. It is by studying such challenging circumstances where students can truly learn what makes democracies thrive, collapse, or change shape.

This course is designed to introduce advanced undergraduates to the major themes of contemporary Latin American politics and, consequently, democracy and political development. Although the course does not assume that you already have knowledge of the region, you are expected to be familiar with basic concepts of comparative political analysis. While the course stresses the political aspects of the developmental process, its objective is to show the linkages between economic, social, cultural, and political variables--both at national and international levels.

We will begin by introducing students to Latin American political institutions – executives and legislatures, courts, and political parties – and move onto special topics in challenges to democracy. For example, we will discuss political protests, vote buying and corruption, drugs, informality, and immigration. We will conclude by discussing democratic backsliding through coups and impeachment. For our seminars, we will introduce each topic from a theoretical perspective before we delve into specific case studies.

Course Leader – Dr Cassilde Schwartz

Course Delivery - 2 hour weekly seminars


PR3XX5 – FOUNDATIONS OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS
POL/IR
15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – The Middle East continues to be at the centre of global affairs. This final year half-unit course aims to equip future political scientists and IR experts with the necessary knowledge and analytic skills to discuss Middle East affairs with greater nuance, not as a region isolated from and exceptional to the modern world, but as being deeply connected with it. This course will survey key events in Middle East history, from the rise of Islam to the Arab Spring. During this journey, the course will encourage students to pause and delve into the broader questions of development: military authoritarianism, neoliberalisation, sectarianism, religious extremism, civil conflict, human and civil rights, gender and elite politics, among others.

The course will inspire students to ask and think critically of the Middle East, rather than labour on simplistic and definitive answers.

Course Leader – Dr Ibrahim Halawi

Course Delivery - weekly lectures and seminars

PR3XX6 – REVOLUTION AND COUNTERREVOLUTION IN THE MODERN WORLD

POL/IR
15 credits – Spring term

Course Description - PR3XXX Revolution and Counterrevolution in the Modern World is a final-year half-unit course which offers students the opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge on theories and practices of revolution and counterrevolution. During this course, students will learn how to academically evaluate the impact of revolutions on core features of the international system, which they have studied in previous courses. To do that, the course surveys the different theories of revolution, and, additionally, introduces the concept of counterrevolution, in order to understand the reaction of the international system to revolutions.

The course will begin by introducing the main schools of thought in revolutionary studies. Building on the theoretical introduction, the course then explores illuminating cases of revolution from around the world, and encourages students to apply theories of revolution and counterrevolution on those cases and evaluate them in comparative terms.

The course will be delivered through 10 weekly three-hour sessions. These sessions will involve conventional lectureship, as well as a variety of seminar activities, discussions, debates, exercises, and literary and film reviews. For each week, at least one hour will be dedicated to address student needs and respond to questions, as well as presenting complementary resources to ensure that all students meet the objectives of the week.

Course Leader – Dr Ibrahim Halawi

Course Delivery - Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Article/Film review (1000 words) – 30% and Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3XX7 – PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES

POL
15 credits – Spring term

Course description - PR3XXX Parliamentary Studies is a final-year half unit that offers students the opportunity to obtain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the British parliament and its place in British democracy. It will help students to evaluate the work and role of Parliament and parliamentarians, appreciate ongoing debates about contemporary legislative practice, and engage critically with previous academic scholarship in this area. It will also help students to develop their own awareness and experience of conducting research. The course covers Parliament’s development and place in the British political system, its internal organisation and operation, and the work and behaviour of individual Members of Parliament. It is co-taught with officials from Parliament, who will provide students with practical and vocational teaching about the work, processes and business of Parliament based on their own experiences.

PLEASE NOTE: Places on this module are capped, and priority will be given to students who have taken PR2480 Democracy in Britain.

Course Leader – Dr Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery - Weekly seminars and external visits

Assessment – Moodle quiz -15% and Research report (4000 words) – 85%.
THIRD YEAR PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PY3001 - DISSERTATION IN PHILOSOPHY

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms
Mandatory – BA Philosophy

Course Description – The dissertation is compulsory for all Philosophy students who are not taking a dissertation or similar piece of extended work in their combined subject. It presents the opportunity to demonstrate your skills as independent learners by embarking upon a substantial (8-10,000 words), significant piece of written work. Ordinarily, the dissertation topic will derive from a course already taken, or one the student has committed to take in their final year.

Course Leader – Dr Daniel Whistler

Assessment – Dissertation, 8,000-10,000 words (100%)

NOTE: This course is not offered to Liberal Arts or Minor students.

PY3003 - MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 2: FROM CRITICAL THEORY TO POSTSTRUCTURALISM

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This course introduces students to key developments in European Philosophy after the Second World War, which form the basis of contemporary debates in both philosophy and other subjects. Particularly at issue will be various responses following Heidegger to the question of technology in modernity, looking at debates over AI, instrumental reason, gender and technology and the nature of the modern age. The course will be run on the basis of independent study, guided by the course staff.

Course Leader – Dr Dan Whistler

Assessment – Essay 1 (1500 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (2,500 words) – 70%.

PY3204 - THE CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM

15 credits - Spring term

Course Description – Kant’s critical turn aims to restrict the use of pure reason to possible experience. While this avoids the dogmatic enthusiasm of rationalism and the sceptical consequences of empiricism, it imposes a distinction between the appearances we know in experience and the thing in itself lying beyond experience. It thereby inspires post-Kantian idealism to prove reason’s absolute capacity for explanation, a capacity unrestricted by an unknowable thing in itself and unthreatened by mechanistic systems like Spinoza’s. Fichte and Hegel thus defend reason’s absolute freedom as a way of perfecting Kant’s critical turn. The critique of post-Kantian idealism that emerges in the work of Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Marx raises important questions. What sort of insight into reason can we have? Can reason fully explain its own possibility? Can an account of reason be wholly objective? Can reason overcome all presuppositions? Is absolute knowledge sufficient to change the world? After an introduction to the idealist systems of Fichte and Hegel, we will trace the critique of idealism through these questions and evaluate the positive accounts offered by post-idealistic critics.
Course Leader – Dr G Anthony Bruno

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (1500 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (2500 words) – 70%.

PY3008 – PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE
PY
30 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This module will bring philosophical analysis and literary reflection into conversation: you will be encouraged to take this opportunity to reflect on the connections and disjunctions between the practice of literary criticism and philosophical activity. We will look in particular at themes such as the recourse to island imagery in both literature and philosophy, different ways of writing philosophy (dialogues, confessions, meditations, etc.), as well as the question of whether novels can ever ‘do philosophy’. Our concern will be with philosophy as literature and literature as philosophy, so as to think critically about what it means ‘to read’ and ‘to philosophise’.

Course Leader – Dr Daniel Whistler

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures, seminars and student let workshops

Assessment – Essay (2000 words), Textual analysis (1000 words) and one group oral presentation.

PY3217 – ANCIENT METAPHYSICS
PY
30 credits – Autumn term

Course Description - This module will focus on the metaphysics of Plato and Aristotle, concentrating on Plato’s theory of Ideas and Aristotle’s response to it. The first part will look at Plato’s theory of Ideas as developed in his middle period dialogues and his own criticisms of it in his later works, drawing on dialogues such as the Phaedo, Republic, Sophist, and Parmenides. The second part will look at Aristotle’s criticisms of Plato and his own theory of hylomorphism, developed in response (in the Metaphysics, Physics, and elsewhere). Central philosophical themes will include the ontological status of ideas, the role of universals, causation, the nature of matter, and problems relating to knowledge. The metaphysics of Plato and Aristotle are foundational for the subsequent history of philosophy, some of which will be explored in the companion module ‘Medieval Philosophy’, although each module is designed to stand without the other. Although focused on historical texts, the module will be primarily concerned with the philosophical problems that they raise.

Course Leader – Dr John Sellars

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words)-50% and Exam (2hr)-50%.
PY3219 – MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY
PY
15 credits - Spring term

**Course Description** - This module will examine a range of key thinkers and themes in medieval philosophy, from the fourth to the fourteenth century, telling the story of the development and transmission of philosophical ideas along the way. It will begin in late antiquity, with Augustine and Boethius, showing the ways in which medieval thought was built on the ancient Greek philosophical tradition. It will outline the transmission of Greek thought to the Arabic-speaking world, examine a number of Arabic philosophers (Avicenna, al-Ghazali, Averroes), and consider the impact of Arabic thought on medieval philosophy in Paris (Thomas Aquinas). It will conclude with philosophy in fourteenth century Paris and Oxford (Duns Scotus, William Ockham). Topics discussed will focus on problems in metaphysics, such as the nature of existence, universals, the mind, and time. The relationship between philosophy and theology (or reason and faith) will be a continuing theme. The primarily metaphysical content will make this course a companion to 'Ancient Metaphysics', although each module is designed to stand without the other. It will examine (in translation) texts originally written in Greek, Arabic, and Latin.

**Course Leader** – Dr John Sellars

**Course Delivery** – Workshop

**Assessment** – Essay (4000 words) - 100%.

PY3206 - HEGEL

**PY**

15 credits - Autumn term

**Course Description** - German idealism sets itself the task of satisfying three main aims: systematizing Kant's philosophy by finding necessary premises for its conclusions; providing a rigorous demonstration of the laws of thought; and ensuring that satisfying these aims satisfies the third aim of proving that reason is not the product of a purposeless, mechanistic world, but is itself an absolutely free purposive activity. This course investigates Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit as an attempt to satisfy these aims. We will explore Hegel's distinctive and influential criticisms of Kant, his development of dialectic as a method of deriving the laws of thought, and his argument that reason is absolutely free. We will pay special attention to his successive, unfolding theses for the essentially self-conscious character of consciousness, the essentially recognitive character of self-consciousness, and the essentially ethical character of recognition.

**Course Leader** – Dr G Anthony Bruno

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars.

PY3XX4 – THEMES FROM CONTEMPORARY EPISTEMOLOGY

**PY**

15 credits – Autumn term

**Course Description** – There has been a sharp revival of interest in fundamental questions relating to knowledge in recent years. These include the status of testimonial knowledge; the extent to which possession of knowledge requires one or more virtues; the suggestion that knowledge can be a group rather than an individual achievement; the idea that it is unjust to place people in positions where they cannot acquire knowledge that might empower them; the relationship between knowing how to do something and that something is the case; the role of bias, discrimination and presupposition. Building on the first year course on epistemology, this course focusses on one or more of these and investigates them in depth.

**Course Leader** – Dr Neil Gascoigne

**Course Delivery** – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

**Assessment** – Essay 1 (1000 words) - 30% and Essay 2 (3000 words) -70%.

PY3208 – PRAGMATISM

**PY**

15 credits – Spring term

**Course Description** – Once considered a rather parochial product of American exceptionalism, pragmatism has become an increasingly powerful voice in contemporary philosophy with its emphasis on the problem-solving nature of philosophical inquiry. This course offers an introduction to the work of classical (Peirce, James, Dewey) and contemporary (Rorty, Brandom, Price) pragmatists, focussing on their criticism of traditional concepts like ‘truth’, ‘objectivity’, ‘good’ and ‘experience’ and exploring the ways in which their attempts to change the vocabulary of philosophy is a way to change the world for the better.

**Course Leader** – Dr Neil Gascoigne

**Course Delivery** – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

**Assessment** – Essay 1 (1000 words) and Essay 2 (3000 words).

PY3212 – PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE AND BIOETHICS

**PY**

15 credits – Autumn term

**Course Description** – We will draw on issues in philosophy of science and ethics to understand and attempt to solve conceptual problems arising in medicine and the biomedical sciences. Among other things, we will consider what a disease is, whether we own our bodies (and body parts), what is involved in informed consent, and what is properly involved in decision-making in medicine.

**Course Leader** – Dr Rebecca Roache

**Course Delivery** – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

**Assessment** – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 50% and Essay 2 (2000 words) – 50%.
PY3213 – PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHIATRY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This course considers ethical and metaphysical issues arising from the understanding and treatment of mental illness. Topics will include: Are delusions beliefs? What makes mental illness different from other sorts of illness? Is psychiatry scientific? Under what conditions (if any) is it permissible to treat someone without their consent?

Course Leader – Dr Rebecca Roache

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) - 50% and Essay 2 (2000 words) - 50%.

PY3XX4 – AESTHETICS

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course considers ethical and metaphysical issues arising from the understanding and treatment of mental illness. Topics will include: Are delusions beliefs? What makes mental illness different from other sorts of illness? Is psychiatry scientific? Under what conditions (if any) is it permissible to treat someone without their consent?

Course Leader – Dr David Preston

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) and Exam (2hr).

Third year single-honours and joint honours philosophy students are also permitted to take 30 credits from the following PR-coded courses:

- PR3XX1- Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
- PR3930- Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
- PR3105- Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)
DEGREE PROGRAMME STRUCTURES:
BA POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**Year 2**

Students must take:

- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice) - mandatory
- Either PR2440 (International Relations Theory – 30 credits) or PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits designated as Politics course (Pol)
- 30 credits designated as Politics/IR courses (Pol/IR).

**Year 3**

Students must take:

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 90 credits, so that they take 60 credits in Politics (Pol or Pol/IR) and 60 credits in IR (IR or Pol/IR),
  - This will depend on the topic for PR3000.

**BA POLITICS**

**Year 2**

Students must take:

- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice – 30 credits)
- PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits),
- 30 credits designated as Politics courses (Pol or Pol/IR)
- 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

**Year 3**

Students must take:

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 60 credits designated as Politics (Pol or Pol/IR)
- 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

**BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**Year 2**

Students must take:

- PR2440 (International Relations Theory – 30 credits),
- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice – 30 credits)
- Another 30 credits designated as IR courses (IR or Pol/IR),
- 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).
Year 3
Students must take:

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 60 credits designated as IR (IR or Pol/IR),
- 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

BA EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Year 2
Students must take:

- ES2001 (Understanding the European Union: Politics and Theory – 30 credits)
- A further 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)
- 60 credits from Modern Languages

Final Year
Students must take:

- ES3002 (European Union Public Policy – 15 credits),
- A further 45 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
  - It is recommended that students take PR3106 (Power and Money in the European Union – 15 credits)
- 60 credits from Modern Languages

BA POLITICS WITH PHILOSOPHY
Year 2
Students must take:

- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice – 30 credits)
- PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits),
- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits) OR PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- 30 credits designated as Politics courses (Pol or Pol/IR).

Year 3
Students must take:

- 30 credits designated as Philosophy courses,
- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 60 credits designated as Politics (Pol or Pol/IR).
BA POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY

Year 2

Students must take:

- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits) OR PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Philosophy,
- 30 credits from the following:
  - PR2440 (International Relations Theory – 30 credits),
  - PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits),
  - PR2560 (Modern Political Thought – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

Year 3

Students must take:

EITHER

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
- 60 credits from Philosophy.
  - For Philosophy, students are permitted to take 30 credits from the following PR-coded courses:
    - PR3XX2 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
    - PR3930 - Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
    - PR3105 - Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)

OR

- PY3001 (Dissertation – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Philosophy,
  - For Philosophy, students are permitted to take 30 credits from the following PR-coded courses:
    - PR3XX2 - Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
    - PR3930 - Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
    - PR3105 - Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).
BA HISTORY, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Year 2
Students must take:

- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
- 60 credits from History.

Year 3
Students must take:

EITHER

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
- 60 credits from History.

OR

- History dissertation (30 credits)
- A further 30 credits in History
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

BA HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Year 3
Students must take:

EITHER

- PR3000 (Undergraduate Dissertation in Politics and/or International Relations – 30 credits),
- A further 30 credits from International Relations (IR or Pol/IR),
- 60 credits from History.

OR

- History dissertation (30 credits)
- A further 30 credits in History
- 60 credits from International Relations (IR or Pol/IR).

BS: GEOGRAPHY, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Year 2
Students must take:

- At least 30, but no more than 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
- At least 60, but no more than 90 credits from Geography.
Year 3

Students must take:

- At least 30, but no more than 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR),
- At least 60, but no more than 90 credits from Geography,
- From this selection, you must take a dissertation in either Geography (30 credits) or Politics and International Relations (PR3000 – 30 credits).

BS: ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Year 2 and Year 3

Students must take:

- 60 credits from Economics,
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

BA/BS: POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND ECONOMICS

Year 2

Students must take:

- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits) OR PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- At least 30 credits, but no more than 60 credits from each discipline of Politics, Philosophy and Economics. This must total to 120 credits.

Year 3

Students must take:

- PE3000 (Advanced Seminar and Dissertation in Politics, Philosophy and Economics – 30 credits),
- A further 90 credits across at least two of the disciplines of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

Further information regarding specific award requirements for PPE can be found here: https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere/progspecs/repository/pir/ug/politics-philosophy-economics-from-2016-ug-programme-specification-latest.pdf.

COMBINED HONOURS DEGREE WITH POLITICAL STUDIES AS A MINOR ELEMENT
(E.g. BA Music with Political Studies)

Year 2 and Year 3

Student must take:

- 90 credits in the major subject.
- 30 credits from Politics (Pol or Pol/IR).
COMBINED HONOURS DEGREE WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A MINOR ELEMENT
(E.g. BA Multilingual Studies with International Relations)

**Year 2**

Students must take:

- 90 credits in the major subject,
- PR2440 (International Relations Theory – 30 credits).

**Year 3**

Students must take:

- 90 credits in the major subject,
- 30 credits from International Relations (IR or Pol/IR).

**BA PHILOSOPHY**

**Year 2**

Students must take:

- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- A further 75 credits from Philosophy,
- Student are permitted to take 30 credits of the following PR-coded courses:
  - PR2490 - Contemporary Political Theory (30 credits)
  - PR2560 - Modern Political Thought (30 credits)

**Year 3**

Students must take:

- PY3001 (Dissertation – 30 credits)
- A further 90 credits from Philosophy
  - For Philosophy, students are permitted to take 30 credits from the following PR-coded courses:
    - PR3xx2 - Freedom of Expression (15 credits),
    - PR3930 - Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits),
    - PR3105 - Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits).
JOINT HONOURS DEGREE WITH PHILOSOPHY AS AN EQUAL COMPONENT
(E.g. BA History and Philosophy)

Year 2
Students must take:

- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits), OR PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- A further 30 credits from Philosophy,
  - Student are permitted to take 30 credits of the following PR-coded courses:
    - PR2490 - Contemporary Political Theory (30 credits)
    - PR2560 - Modern Political Thought (30 credits)
- 60 credits in the other subject (e.g. History).

Year 3
Students must take:

- 60 credits in Philosophy,
  - For Philosophy, students are permitted to take 30 credits from the following PR-coded courses:
    - PR3xx2 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
    - PR3930 - Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
    - PR3105 - Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)
- 60 credits in the other subject (e.g. History).

COMBINED HONOURS DEGREE WITH PHILOSOPHY AS A MINOR ELEMENT
(E.g. BA History with Philosophy)

Year 2
Students must take:

- PY2001 (Kant – 15 credits) OR PY2XX0 (Rationalism and Empiricism – 15 credits),
- PY2002 (Mind and World – 15 credits),
- 90 credits in the other subject (e.g. History).

Year 3
Students must take:

- 30 credits in Philosophy,
- 90 credits in the other subject (e.g. History).

INTERCOLLEGIATE COURSES
Students are able to apply for one intercollegiate course if they can demonstrate that they are unable to study the material at RHUL. The prerequisite for their being able to apply is that they have secured an average of a First or 2.1 in both their first and second years.