



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY

2021-22

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, beginning on [page 15](#).
- The combination of courses which you can take **depends upon your degree programme**. Please see [page 6](#) 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.
- General note: courses classified as **POL count as Politics**, courses classified as **IR count as International Relations courses**, courses classified as **POL/IR count as either Politics or International Relations courses**.

How to submit your course option choices.

You will be able to pick your course choice options from Monday 26 April (i.e. the first week of the summer term), and you will be able to do so via Moodle.

Everyone will be emailed further details about how to submit your choices at the start of the summer term.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS WILL BE THURSDAY 6 MAY 2021

Who to contact for further advice?

Query Type	Who?
Individual course query	Please contact the Course Convenor during one of their office hours
General advice	Your personal tutor https://intranet.royalholloway.ac.uk/politicsandir/informationforcurrentstudents/home.aspx

Please remember:

- We will make every effort to ensure that your course choices are met. However this may not be possible for every student, especially if some courses are over-subscribed.
- Courses may be withdrawn if there is insufficient demand for them
- Additional/new courses will be advertised if/when they become available
- For joint honours please speak to liaison PIRP Personal tutors.

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DEGREE PROGRAMME STRUCTURES:

BA POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Year 2

Students must take:

- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice) – mandatory (pre-requisite for this course is PR1000)
- **Either** PR2440 (International Relations Theory – 30 credits) and at least 1 module in POL (30 credits)
Or PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits) and at least 1 module in IR (30 credits)
Or PR2560 (Modern Political Thought – 30 credits) and at least 1 module in IR (30 credits)
- Plus a further 30 credits designated as Politics/IR courses (Pol, IR, 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)
- **Either** PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits)
Or PR2560 (Modern Political Thought – 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 POLITICS WITH PHILOSOPHY

Year 2

Students must take:

- PR2000 (Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice – 30 credits)
- **Either** PR2490 (Contemporary Political Theory – 30 credits)
Or PR2560 (Modern Political Thought – 30 credits)
- 30 credits designated as Philosophy modules (PY)
- 30 credits designated as Politics courses (Pol or Pol/IR).

Year 3

Students must take:

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

BA POLITICS AND LAW

Year 2

Students must take:

- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)
- 60 credits from Law (LL2003 International and Comparative Human Rights Law & LL2005 Public International Law)

Year 3

Students must take:

- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)
- 60 credits from Law (LL3001 European Union Law & LL3007 Jurisprudence)

BA POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PHILOSOPHY

Year 2

Students must take:

- At least 30 credits from the following modules:
 - PY2001 Kant (15 credits)
 - PY2002 Mind and World (15 credits)
 - PY2202 Empiricism and Rationalism (15 credits)
 - PY2900 Race, Gender and Queer Philosophy (15 credits)
- The remaining Philosophy credits from any other optional Philosophy module (PY) (credits in PY modules overall to amount to 60 in total)
- 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:
 - PR3107 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
 - PR3930 – Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
 - PR3105 – Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)
 - PR3540 – Radical Political Theory I: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche (15 credits – Autumn term)
 - PR3541 – Radical Political Theory II: Critical Theory and Poststructuralism (15 credits – Spring term)

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:
 - PR3107 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
 - PR3930 – Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits)
 - PR3105 – Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits)
 - PR3540 – Radical Political Theory I: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche (15 credits – Autumn term)

- PR3541 – Radical Political Theory II: Critical Theory and Poststructuralism (15 credits – Spring term)
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR).

BA POLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MODERN LANGUAGES

Year 2

Students must take:

- 30 credits from mandatory modules in Modern Languages

AND EITHER

- A further 30 credits from Modern Languages
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)

OR

- 90 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)

Final year

Students must take:

- 30 credits from mandatory modules in Modern Languages

AND EITHER

- A further 30 credits from Modern Languages
- 60 credits from Politics and International Relations (Pol, IR or Pol/IR)

OR

- 90 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: 30 credits in Politics (Pol or Pol/IR) and 30 credits in International Relations (IR or IR/Pol).

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_c 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_c POLITICS, PHILOSOPHY AND ECONOMICS

Year 2

Students must take:

- At least 30 credits, but no more than 60 credits from each discipline of Politics, Philosophy and Economics.

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/progspeccs/repository/pir/ug/politics-philosophy-economics-from-2016-ug-programme-specification-latest.pdf>

LLB LAW WITH INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Year 2

Student must take:

- LL2001 (Land Law – 30 credits)
- LL2002 (The Law of Torts – 30 credits)
- 2 LL2503 (Criminal Law – 30 credits)
- 30 credits from Politics (IR or Pol/IR).

Year 3

Student must take:

- LL3001 (European Union Law – 30 credits)
- LL3001 (European Union Law – 30 credits)
- 30 credits from Politics (IR or Pol/IR)
- 30 credits from Politics (IR or Pol/IR) OR from Law.

LLB LAW WITH POLITICS

Year 2

Student must take:

- LL2001 (Land Law – 30 credits)
- LL2002 (The Law of Torts – 30 credits)
- 2 LL2503 (Criminal Law – 30 credits)
- 30 credits from Politics (Pol or Pol/IR).

Year 3

Student must take:

- LL3001 (European Union Law – 30 credits)
- LL3001 (European Union Law – 30 credits)
- 30 credits from Politics (Pol or Pol/IR)
- 30 credits from Politics (Pol or Pol/IR) OR from Law.

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),
- PY2202 (Empiricism and Rationalism – 15 credits),
- PY2900 (Race, Gender and Queer Philosophy – 15 credits)
- A further 60 credits from Philosophy options,
- 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:
 - PR3107 – Freedom of Expression(15 credits),
 - PR3540 – Radical Political Theory I: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche (15 credits),

- PR3541 – Radical Political Theory II: Critical Theory and Poststructuralism (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:

- At least 30 credits from the following modules:
 - PY2001 Kant (15 credits)
 - PY2002 Mind and World (15 credits)
 - PY2202 Empiricism and Rationalism (15 credits)
 - PY2900 Race, Gender and Queer Philosophy (15 credits)
- The remaining Philosophy credits from any other optional Philosophy module (PY) (credits in PY modules overall to amount to 60 in total)
 - 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:
 - PR3107 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits)
 - PR3540 – Radical Political Theory I: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche (15 credits),
 - PR3541 – Radical Political Theory II: Critical Theory and Poststructuralism (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:

- 30 credits in Philosophy
- 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.

SECOND YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

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. (PR1000 is a pre-requisite for this course).

Course Description – PR2000 continues to introduce 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 Janina Beiser-McGrath and Dr Cassilde Schwartz

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment– Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Problem sets – 30%; Open-book exam (1200 words) – 20%.

PR2410 – 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

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

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) except for LLB Law with International Relations.

Course Description – This course explores key debates in IR theory, moving a step beyond the paradigms introduced in PR1500: Introduction to International Relations. In so doing, the course asks students to consider a variety of ways of thinking about international politics. Students will critically examine the nature of power, identity and ethics, as well as how consideration of different perspectives can reveal new aspects of these phenomena. The course is divided into two parts. Part one explores mainstream theories and key concepts, including realism, liberalism and constructivism, as well as power, institutions and identity. 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 key thinkers' original writings, rather than summaries or distillations of their thought. What problems and issues did these thinkers confront during their era? How well are their concerns and approaches reflected in contemporary politics? Which theories best help us understand the practice of international politics?

Course Leader – Dr Adam Lerner

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Portfolio: reading diary (2000 words) – 25%; Essay (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

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 Antara Datta

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

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 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 – Prof Nicholas Allen and Prof John Bercow

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars.

Assessment – Précis exercise (500 Words) – 10%; Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Portfolio: assessment of learning outcomes and activities (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 40%

PR2490 – CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY

POL

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – Underlying policy debate in contemporary states are ideals and theories about how we should organise the state, how much people should participate in politics, whether we should redistribute wealth; 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 course will examine these and other key ideas and the thinkers who have developed them, and in doing so provide a broad survey of the state of political theory today. Specific topics will likely include political obligation, punishment, civil disobedience, democracy, community, utilitarianism, human rights, freedom, equality, gender justice, and global justice, as well as others besides. The course aims to show how abstract ideas have practical relevance, and conversely how current debates in politics are illuminated by thinking about them theoretically.

Course Leaders – Dr Jonathan Seglow and Dr Gauri Wagle

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 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 and Dr Liam Beiser-McGrath

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminar. *Formative assessments* – seminar presentation 10 min and seminar presentation write up (1000 words)

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

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 then analyse a wide variety of international security issues in-depth, including nuclear weapons, genocide, and gun control.

Course Leader – Dr Michelle Bentley

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

PR2560 – MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

POL

30 credits – Autumn and Spring terms

Course Description – This course introduces students to major political thinkers from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, including the works of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, and Douglass. The ideas set out by these thinkers continue to underpin debates about the nature of freedom, pluralism, 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

discussion, even where that discussion does not make reference to them.

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

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 – Prof Ben O’Loughlin and Dr Sofia Collignon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and activity-based seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 25%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 25%; Open-book exam (2400 words) – 50%.

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 2021/22 will NOT be listed for 2022/23.

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 2021/22, you should not 'save' a course that you may want to take for the following year (2022/23), 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!

PY2001 – KANT

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Mandatory for single-honours 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 – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (3000 words) – 75% and textual analysis (1,000 words) – 25%

PY2002 – MIND AND WORLD

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Mandatory for single-honours BA Philosophy

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 (2000 words) – 50% and take-home exam (2hrs) -50%.

PY2202 – EMPIRICISM AND RATIONALISM

PY

15 credits – Autumn term

Mandatory for single-honours 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. We will begin by looking at George Berkeley’s radicalisation of Locke’s empiricism before moving on to consider Leibniz’s development of rationalism in his *Monadology*. We will conclude by looking at some of the most important arguments developed by the empiricist David Hume.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

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

PY2900 – RACE, GENDER AND QUEER PHILOSOPHY

PY

15 credits – Autumn term

Mandatory for single-honours BA Philosophy

Course Description – This module aims to introduce students to a number of key fields in value-philosophy: race theory, feminist theory, and queer theory. These discourses have had a lot to say about philosophy and have provided much needed scrutiny of both social structures and philosophy itself. This module will provide an introduction to some of the many ways in which race theory, feminist theory, and queer theory have attempted to combat forms of oppression in domains as diverse as politics, ethics, language, and how we acquire knowledge. The module will cover topics such as how we might understand what race, gender, and queerness are from a philosophical perspective, by examining key texts from the literature in the philosophy of race, gender, and queerness. Throughout, the module will reflect on what the critiques from such theorising might mean for how we do philosophy today.

Course Leader – Dr Suki Finn

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

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

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

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

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

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

PY2219 – 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. It will examine (in translation) texts originally written in Greek, Arabic, and Latin

Course Leader – Dr John Sellars

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Extended Essay (4,000 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 cognitive character of self-consciousness, and the essentially ethical character of recognition.

Course Leader – Dr G. Anthony Bruno

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2,000 words) – 50% and Essay 2 (2,000 words) – 50%

PY2003 – 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 skeptical 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 1 (1500 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (2000 words) – 70%.

PY2223 – PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: THE EUROPEAN TRADITION

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – The aim of this course is to introduce students to philosophical approaches to religion in the European tradition, and to enable them to understand and critically evaluate the arguments and approaches underlying this tradition. We will look at three central figures in the European philosophical tradition that exemplify the kinds of approaches to religion developed in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The philosophers studied on the course will be determined by the research interests of the course leader, but indicative figures would be Friedrich Schleiermacher, Soren Kierkegaard, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Barth, or Paul Tillich. As well as giving students a grounding in the philosophy of religion, the course will also enable students to develop their abilities to understand and evaluate arguments, and to interpret complex philosophical texts.

Course Leader – Dr Henry Somers Hall

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (1,000 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (3,000 words) – 70%

PY2208 – PRAGMATISM AND PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD

PY

15 credits – Autumn 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 (1,000 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (3,000 words) – 70%

PY2224 – AESTHETICS

PY

15 credits – Spring 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 Daniel Whistler

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Essay (2,000 words) – 50%; take-home Exam (2 hrs) – 50%

PR-CODED COURSES

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 (FULL YEAR)

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 Thomas Stubbs and Dr Ursula Hackett

Course Delivery – Dissertation workshops and individual supervision.

Assessment – Dissertation proposal (1500 words) – 5%; Dissertation (8000 words) – 95%.

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

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 Dan Whistler

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 are required to contact Professor Sloam, stating their interest with an attached CV prior to registering on this course (to be put on the placement mailing list and be invited to introductory sessions on how to find a placement in the summer term). Students secure placements on their own initiative or through collaboration of the Careers Office. The placements must be agreed by Professor Sloam and a formal agreement must be signed with the placement provider by 1 September 2021. If students do not gain a placement by 1 September 2021 at the latest, they should contact the Law and Social Sciences Office and ask to be reallocated for the 30 credits onto their next preferred course(s).

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 – Prof 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%; Placement report (4000 words) – 60%.

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

THIRD YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES (AUTUMN TERM)

PR3002 – EUROPEAN UNION PUBLIC POLICY

POL/IR

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – The European Union is the world’s largest single market with regulations that have global reach in terms of energy, climate change, and recovery from Covid-19. This module is open to those who are new to the EU, as well as those who have taken ES2001 in the second year. We start with a brief history of the EU and of its institutions during the first two weeks before moving onto the policies themselves. These cover competition between corporations, energy policy, climate change, immigration and asylum, counter-terrorism, defence and security, agriculture and food security, the budget, and the EU’s anti-Covid-19 response worth 2 trillion euro. The module will appeal to those with interests in international public policy, international organizations, or European politics.

Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

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

Assessment – Briefing paper (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3105 – POLITICAL THEORIES OF FREEDOM

POL

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course examines different theoretical understandings of freedom, and how these bear on issues relating to pluralism, gender, identity, race, and democracy. It does so by examining the work of figures from the history of Western political thought such as Mill and Berlin, and contemporary writers including Young, Reed and Pettit.

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

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

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

PR3155 – POLITICS OF THE LAW AND RIGHTS

POL

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course describes and analyses the many ways in which politics affects the law, and in particular the decisions made by judges on top courts. It looks at some of the big divides between legal systems in their attitudes to judges and judicial discretion, and the different rights which judges are asked to guarantee. It looks at different ways in which judiciaries vary, from more to less active, more to less independent, and more or less collegial or confrontational. It also hints at advanced debates in political science about the study of judicial behaviour, in particular the kinds of

explanations offered for why US Supreme Court Justices decide the way they do -- and whether these explanations travel outside the United States. The course is targeted at final year undergraduates doing either Politics (in combination with other subjects). Over the term, Politics students will get a grounding in the analysis of judicial decisions. Conversely, law students will get a grounding in techniques of political analysis applied to the courts. Because the course is an advanced (i.e., third year) course, there will be no set text. There will however be a selection of essential readings for each week, which will include (in every other week) two chosen cases which demonstrate the week's topic in two different jurisdictions.

Course Leader – Prof Chris Hanretty

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) – 50%, Portfolio (2000 words) – 50%.

PR3190 – COMPARATIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

POL/IR

15 credits – Autumn term

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 world 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 – Engagement/participation – 10%; Essay workshop (1000 words) – 40%; Video and script (15min) – 50%.

PR3440 – MILITARY CHANGE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

IR

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – Defence budgets comprise a significant proportion of national wealth, while decision-making in defence has profound implications for the lives of citizens in the country concerned, as well as people at the receiving end of military operations. Military power also forms a central dimension of states' power and influence in the international system. However, the post-Cold War era has witnessed significant variation in the extent to which states' defence reforms have delivered a strategic advantage, with a number of cases of inappropriate or faulty military innovation and/or emulation.

This module analyses the content and sources of change in defence policy during the post-Cold War era. It will focus on changes to the objectives of defence policy, military procurement, force structures, and doctrines of the world's major military powers, including Britain, China, Germany, Russia and the US. In doing so, it will analyse the extent to which these reforms have helped the state concerned to meet its central security challenges. In its examination of the sources of military change, the module also looks at the factors which facilitate effective learning, innovation, emulation and adaptation within military organisations. It also explores the challenges and implications of academic engagement with the armed forces, through a case study of the role of academics in contributing to US counterinsurgency doctrine and to the Human Terrain System in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, the module uses the literatures on public diplomacy and strategic narratives to examine the tools used by core executives to sustain public support for conflict. The module is informed by the insights of political science and IR approaches to the sources of military change.

Course Leader – Dr Tom Dyson

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Portfolio assessment of learning outcomes (1000 words) – 30%; Moodle quiz – 10%; Essay (2500 words) – 60%.

PR3540 – RADICAL POLITICAL THEORY I: HEGEL, MARX, NIETZSCHE

POL

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course aims to introduce students to key questions and arguments concerning the relationship between identity, power, meaning and knowledge, through close examination of texts from GWF Hegel, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Nietzsche. It should lead students to appreciate critiques of modern Western societies and their values, which not only underpin recent “postmodernist” or “post-structuralist” thought but also form crucial theoretical elements in debates about gender, multiculturalism, nationalism, post-colonialism, new social movements, etc., across the social sciences. It aims to develop in students the ability to critically reflect about the nature and scope of politics and ethics through engagement with texts that have sought to provide insights and new ways of thinking about these realms.

Course Leader – Prof Nathan Widder

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 50%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 50%

PR3600 – 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 Mohammad Kalantari

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

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

PR3620 – US FOREIGN POLICY - HISTORY, IDEAS AND CASES

IR

15 credits – Autumn 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 analysis goes back to the founding fathers and America's initial rise to power (up until the end of World War II) to explore the key themes that shape US foreign policy today, before looking at the development of US foreign policy right up to the current President. The course 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%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 50%.

NOTE: This course also runs in the spring term. Students can only take it one of the terms.

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 and current environmental activism. 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 – Prof James Sloam

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Briefing papers (2 x 500 words and presentations of 5-10 minutes) – 20%; Essay (3500 words) – 80%.

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 – Prof Nicholas Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Blog-style essay (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3890 – AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

POL

15 credits – Autumn 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, two pieces of assessed coursework, and an unseen examination. 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 public policy development, the welfare state, and religious history and politics, alongside the institutional arrangements of Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court; the operation of the federal bureaucracy, the party system, elections, and state and local 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 – Written PowerPoint Presentation (10 Slides) – 15%; Essay (4000 words) – 85%. 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 introduces students to key developments and topics in the politics of post-communist Russia and Eastern Europe. It is divided in two parts: Part I (5 weeks) focuses on how communist legacies and post-communist transition shaped the region's politics and societies. Students will engage with current debates on Europeanisation, democratisation, transition to market economy, nationalism, and democratic backsliding in Central and Eastern Europe. Part II (5 weeks) zeroes in on the Russian Federation, from Yeltsin's presidency in the 1990s to Putin's 20+ years in power. Students will learn about Russian domestic and foreign policy. Throughout the course, each student will become a "country expert", following the news on a specific country, and discussing them in class in the weekly "Newsroom".

Course Leader – Dr Licia Cianetti

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Book review (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (2000 words) – 50%; Newsroom portfolio (1000 words) – 20%.

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

Assessment – Portfolio (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3957 – POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF AFRICA

POL/IR

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This course examines theoretically and empirically the evolution of politics and statehood in sub-Saharan Africa since the 1960s. It examines the material institutions, resources and capacities of states, alongside ideas of political authority and the imagination of statehood. In particular, the course explores how states have been realised through a web of relationships, including Africans' relations to the colonial state and its legacies, and the way relations between state elites and societies have evolved since independence. Many theoretical approaches have evolved to address issues in African politics - we'll critically examine some of these. The module has a strong interdisciplinary element that introduces students to novels, art, and film produced by African authors, artists and directors (as well as music in some instances). Students will develop an understanding of how African literature, art, and film can enhance the way we think about politics and government with a view to presenting Africa in a much more holistic way beyond popular images of poverty, health, and starvation. Part of the course assessment will involve a poster presentation where students will be encouraged to develop their interests in any aspect of African politics, literature, culture, art, and music relating to a given theme. The preliminary theme for Autumn 2021 is: 'the body'.

Course Leader – Dr Lyn Johnstone

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Book/Article Review (1000 words) – 25%; Poster Presentation (1000 words) – 25%; Essay (2000 words) – 50%.

PR3965 – POLITICS OF SOUTH ASIA

POL/IR

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – The politics of South Asia – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh – are central to understanding some of the themes at the core of modern politics: poverty and development, security and warfare, migration and transnationalism, decolonisation and postcolonialism, the international economy and globalisation. This course deals with the social and political development of these countries since independence from British rule in 1947. We will analyse issues including caste politics, the role of religious violence and the place of women in politics and society. Sources will come from a range of disciplines – politics and IR, history, sociology, anthropology, novels and films. We will study regional cooperation and conflict including the troubled relationship between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and their nuclear status. By the end of the course you will have a specialised understanding of the major social, economic and political developments in the region.

Course Leader – Dr Dishil Shrimankar

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

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

PR3967 – GENDER AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

POL

15 credits – Autumn term

Course Description – This module examines the contemporary literature on gender and politics, with a particular focus on women’s participation and representation in British politics. It introduces students to feminist theories of representation, debates over women’s interests, and feminist institutionalism. It applies these frameworks to consider why the number of women in our parliaments might matter and what difference – symbolic, substantive and affective – sex and gender make to elected political institutions, the policy process, political outcomes, and healthy democracies. Discrete topics include women’s descriptive representation in national legislatures and executives; gendered political leadership and gendered political styles; strategies for increasing women’s descriptive representation; violence against women in politics; ‘standing and acting’ for women in masculinized institutions; and the media’s representation of political women. The module will introduce key theoretical research on gender and political representation; introduce current empirical research regarding women’s participation and representation in electoral politics in the UK; and examine extant empirical and theoretical literature on women’s representation across its various dimensions: descriptive, substantive and symbolic, and to introduce newer research on affective representation.

Course Leader – Prof Sarah Childs

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay plan (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

THIRD YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES (SPRING TERM)

PR3103 – PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course description – PR3103 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.

Course Leader – Prof Sarah Childs

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars and external visits

Assessment – Moodle quiz – 15%; article review (500 words) – 15%; Research report (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3107 – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: CONCEPTS AND CONTROVERSIES

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course description – The aim of this course is to give students an in depth understanding of the nature and limits of freedom of speech from the perspective of normative political theory. It is not a course in the free speech situation in China, or Russia, or anywhere else. We shall investigate the values, norms and principles at issue in contexts where free speech is promoted, regulated, or denied- especially contexts where that choice is contentious, as in hate speech for instance. In so doing, we shall touch on the law of free speech and draw on real life examples of controversial speech, especially from the UK and US. Students 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, students should be able to interrogate their own and others' intuitive reactions in cases of controversial 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); hate speech; offensive speech; Holocaust denial; pornography; No Platforming in universities; and fake news.

Course leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow

Course delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) – 50%; Portfolio: readings and topics: (5 x 400 words, 2000 words in total) – 50%

PR3108 – LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring 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 introduces the major themes of contemporary Latin American politics and, consequently, democracy and political development. 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. 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 race and racism, vote buying and corruption, drugs, informality, protests, and revolution. Each topic will be discussed in theoretical terms before we delve into case studies that offer concrete illustrations from contemporary Latin America. The course does not assume that you already have any knowledge of the region, and instead, tries to help students to specialize in a particular country throughout the course.

Course Leader – Dr Cassilde Schwartz

Course Delivery – weekly seminars

Assessment – Country report (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3430 – DEFENCE AND SECURITY GOVERNANCE

IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – The international security environment has undergone a number of radical changes since the collapse of the Soviet Union. The end of bi-polarity raised questions about how to tackle a host of new security challenges, which include dealing with and preventing state failure; international terrorism and crime; the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the implications of the changing balance of power. These phenomena have fostered increasing levels of cooperation between states at the regional level (for example through ASEAN, the AU, CSDP, ECOWAS, MERCOSUR, NATO, the OAS, and UNASUR). They have also led to a growing influence of non-state actors, such as NGOs and Private Military Companies (PMCs), on security policy agenda-setting and a reliance on these actors in policy implementation.

Hence the objectives of the module are to examine the increasingly multi-level nature of defence and security policy and the implications of this fragmentation for the delivery of effective, accountable and legitimate defence and security policy. It will analyse the 'vertical' fragmentation of defence and

security policy to regional institutions. The module also examines the extent to which it is possible to speak of a 'horizontal' distribution of competencies in defence and security by analysing the role of NGOs and PMCs in the provision of defence and security. In addition, it examines the role of international organisations as vehicles for policy transfer in defence and security. The module approaches these issues by critically examining the insights provided by the literature on strategic and security studies, as well as a broader range of literature drawn from political science. The focus is on an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of security, specifically on identifying the linkages between the disciplines of political science, international relations and history.

Course Leader – Dr Tom Dyson

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Portfolio assessment of learning outcomes (1500 words) – 40%; Moodle quiz – 10%; Open-books exam (1200 words) – 50%.

PR3492 – THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF RACIAL INJUSTICE

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – Who wins and loses in the economy? How do racial and gender inequalities persist because of the way we buy homes, pay tuition, or govern banks? This course studies the ways that inequality and unfreedom are sustained in institutional arrangements and everyday practices. We study how the organization and governance of the economy has played a role in limiting access for women, people of colour, and other marginalized groups. We study the history of the global economy but with an attention to the kinds of domination and exploitation that made “progress” possible for some.

The aim of this course is to help you be a more engaged and more circumspect political actor, consumer, and member in your political community. You will be able to pick up a newspaper article about the stock market's triumphs and understand the subtle dynamics of winning, losing, and exploitation that make this “success” possible. You will also have the chance to develop your skills as a reader, writer, and colleague. These analytical and collaborative skills will be paramount in any career and certainly as you face the challenge of communicating with people who think differently than you.

Course Leader – Dr Gauri Wagle

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay plan (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%

PR3496 – NARRATIVE IN WORLD POLITICS

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – “Whose story wins?” has become a popular phrase in politics. This module introduces students to the role of narrative communication in world politics. All political institutions and organisations in all countries have no choice but to communicate. They use this communication to offer direction, on any policy sector, or about the identity of the nation or community. Narrative is

essential when facing difficult pasts and generating accountability. Narrative is a form that institutions and organisations now invest in. Narrative provides a sequence of events that can generate a feeling that politics should move in a certain direction. Projecting a narrative is difficult in politics because not all parties or supporters will agree with that narrative. Yet this opens up forms of disagreement and conflict that allows us to identify and explain how core political dynamics unfold, including authority, legitimacy, and memory. It also helps students explain fundamental questions in International Relations: they will be able to explain the role of narrative in generating cooperation or conflict, producing alliances or enemies, and creating expectations about how problems can be solved. Students will be asked to consider narrative in different historical moments, from different countries, and in different policy sectors. They will explore how digital media now allow citizens to produce and share their own narratives – digital storytelling has become central to many activist and citizen-led movements. The course also covers a range of theories of narrative in politics, specifically around a spectrum from ‘thin’ rationalist approaches that largely focus on narratives as ‘roadmaps’ used by political elites to ‘thick’ studies that use feminism, race and ethnicity, and formal linguistics as lenses. With each theory introduced, the students will also learn what methods different approaches use. This helps students with their final year dissertation.

Course Leader – Prof Ben O’Loughlin

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

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

PR3541 – RADICAL POLITICAL THEORY II: CRITICAL THEORY AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This course aims to introduce students to key questions and arguments concerning the relationship between identity, power, meaning and knowledge, through close examination of texts from Theodor Adorno, Jean-François Lyotard, Michel Foucault, and Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari. It should lead students to appreciate critiques of modern Western societies and their values, that not only form part of the philosophical movements of critical theory and poststructuralism but that in turn have informed crucial debates about gender, multiculturalism, nationalism, post-colonialism, new social movements, etc., across the social sciences. It aims to develop in students the ability to critically reflect about the nature and scope of politics and ethics through engagement with texts that have sought to provide insights and new ways of thinking about these realms.

Course Leader – Prof Nathan Widder

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 50%; Essay 2 (2000 words)

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 analysis goes back to the founding fathers and America’s initial rise to power (up until the end of World War II) to explore the key themes that shape US foreign policy today, before looking at the development of US foreign policy right up to the current President. The course 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%; Essay 2 (2000 words) – 50%.

NOTE: This course also runs in the autumn term. Students can only take it one of the terms.

PR3631 – WHY AND HOW PEOPLE VOTE

POL

15 credits – Spring 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 focusses on the various ways in which individuals directly or indirectly influence political choices at various levels of the political system. It examines the relationship between voters and political parties, and considers the theory and practice of how electors decide whether to vote (or not) and 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%; Research assignment (1500 words) – 50%

PR3632 – IDENTITY, EMOTIONS AND TRAUMA IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – As populist movements flourish across the globe, inspiring a range of policies in direct contradiction to expert advice, scholars and pundits alike have begun to realize how irrational international politics can be. Populist or nationalist leaders like Donald Trump in the US, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in Turkey, and Vladimir Putin in Russia have all drawn on intense public anger to revive historical grievances and justify foreign policies that deviate substantially with what predominant International Relations (IR) paradigms like neorealism and neoliberalism might predict. In the last few decades approaches within the constructivist and post-positivist traditions of IR scholarship have increasingly turned to new types of variables to explain this otherwise aberrant international political behaviour, including identity, emotions and trauma. But while these variables offer the potential of explaining many otherwise confounding international phenomena, their inclusion raises numerous questions. Can IR theory simply analogize from individual emotions to macro-level national or state emotions? Can nations and states truly be thought of as possessing identities, if so, do these identities resemble those applying to human beings? How do these identities, emotions, and trauma interact with other interests in foreign policymaking like security, wealth-maximization or drives for power?

This module introduces students to this cutting-edge research in IR theory. It builds on the constructivist and critical IR scholarship students will have encountered in their first two years of IR coursework and offers new approaches to topics examined in other courses on political psychology, nationalism and populism. Though most readings are primarily theoretical, they include numerous empirical applications of the theories discussed in class and class discussions will draw on contemporary politics to illustrate theoretical points. Students will leave the course not only with a deeper understanding of recent IR literature, but also a greater appreciation of the successes and limitations of more mainstream theoretical approaches.

Course Leader – Dr Adam Lerner

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Portfolio: reading diary (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3633 – ETHNIC POLITICS AND ETHNIC CONFLICT

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – Ethnic identities can play an important role in politics. In some states, voting decisions, political representation and the distribution of state resources are viewed through an ethnic lens. Ethnic relations can also become contentious and in some civil conflicts, armed groups mobilise support and recruit fighters along ethnic lines. This course examines the role that ethnic identities can play in political life, contestation and conflict. The first part of the course will focus on the origins of ethnic identities and their political salience. The second part will focus on ethnic politics and consider issues such as ethnic representation in government, ethnic voting and the ethnically biased distribution of resources. The third part will focus on ethnic conflict and the role that ethnic grievances and identities can play in collective violence.

Course Leader – Dr Janina Beiser-McGrath

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Response paper (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) - 70%

PR3634 – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – Climate change is one of the most pressing problems facing the world today. Yet countries often fall short in making meaningful progress in protecting the environment, in spite of the unified recommendations of scientists. Both domestic and international efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change are often hindered by politics. The politics of climate change, are thus essential to understand past, present, and future efforts to deal with this, potentially existential problem. This course examines both the domestic and international politics of the environment. The first part of the course consists of defining the environmental problems faced globally, highlighting similarities and differences to other issues. This part also identifies the key actors, interests, and institutions that are necessary to understand the politics of climate change. The second part of the course focuses on prominent theories of environmental politics: collective action problems, distributional politics, and ideational conflict. The third part then examines a variety of topics in environmental politics, building upon the analytical approaches outlined in the first two parts of the course.

Course Leader – Dr Liam Beiser-McGrath

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – Op-ed (1000 words) – 30%; Essay (3000 words) – 70%.

PR3810 – VISUAL POLITICS

POL/IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – Visual Politics is interested in the political way meanings are layered into images and in how our perception is socially constructed and political. We will learn methods of visual analysis, such as semiotics, representation, intervisuality, iconography, visual economies and discourses and the module includes training in image research and image management. We will then use these methods to analyse different artefacts, such as photographs, illustrations, comics, memes, data visualisations and films. We will also explore wider political processes that are manifested in ways of looking, like racialisation and its relationship with vision, as well as technological developments like machine vision and artificial intelligence and their relevance to how we see and how we are seen.

Course Leader – Dr Yoav Galai

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Visual Analysis (1000 words) – 30%; Portfolio (4 x 250, words, 1000 words in total) – 20%; Essay (2000 words) – 50%.

PR3930 – ISSUES IN DEMOCRATIC THEORY

POL

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This course examines theoretical understandings of democracy and the conceptual issues and controversies arising from them. Modern political thought is characterised by an uneasy relationship with democracy. While the values of freedom and equality are related to – and often thought to entail – democratic government, political theorists have identified various issues that democracy raises in relation 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; and democratic ‘realism’.

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay (2000 words) – 50%; Open-book exam (1200 words) – 50%

PR3963 – GENDER AND NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

IR

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – This course looks at the role of gender in nationalism during the colonial and post-colonial period across the Middle East and South Asia. Students are introduced to key readings that challenge our conventional understanding of gender in international relations and look at how empire influenced our understanding of gendered roles. The course then moves to specific locations and examinations the role of gender in specific political debates in Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, India, Palestine and Iran. The course will challenge students to think beyond conventional understandings of debates about the veil, honour killings and the role of women in violent conflicts. We will examine the ways in which women in particular, seek out zones of agency for themselves, within both the domestic and political spheres in the post-colonial period, and the challenges that arise from this development. We will examine whether revolutions and political movements created spaces in which women could carve out specific political spaces for themselves, and how and why those opportunities might have been lost. By the conclusion of the course students should not only be familiar with key debates on gender and nationalism in the Middle East and South Asia, but also be able to analyse current affairs pertaining to gender in the region, in a critical perspective.

Course Leader – Dr Antara Datta

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

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

THIRD YEAR PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PY3001 – DISSERTATION IN PHILOSOPHY

PY

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.

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

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

Assessment – Essay 1 (2000 words) – 50% and Essay 2 (2000 words) - 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. It will examine (in translation) texts originally written in Greek, Arabic, and Latin

Course Leader – Dr John Sellars

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Extended Essay (4,000 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 cognitive character of self-consciousness, and the essentially ethical character of recognition.

Course Leader – Dr G. Anthony Bruno

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (2,000 words) – 50% and Essay 2 (2,000 words) – 50%

PY3204 – 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 skeptical 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 1 (1500 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (2000 words) – 70%.

PY3223 – PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: THE EUROPEAN TRADITION

PY

15 credits – Spring term

Course Description – The aim of this course is to introduce students to philosophical approaches to religion in the European tradition, and to enable them to understand and critically evaluate the arguments and approaches underlying this tradition. We will look at three central figures in the European philosophical tradition that exemplify the kinds of approaches to religion developed in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The philosophers studied on the course will be determined by the research interests of the course leader, but indicative figures would be Friedrich Schleiermacher, Soren Kierkegaard, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Barth, or Paul Tillich. As well as giving students a grounding in the philosophy of religion, the course will also enable students to develop their abilities to understand and evaluate arguments, and to interpret complex philosophical texts.

Course Leader – Dr Henry Somers Hall

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (1,000 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (3,000 words) – 70%

PY3208 – PRAGMATISM AND PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD

PY

15 credits – Autumn 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 (1,000 words) – 30% and Essay 2 (3,000 words) – 70%

PY3224 – AESTHETICS

PY

15 credits – Spring 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 Daniel Whistler

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Essay (2,000 words) – 50% and take-home Exam (2 hrs) – 50%

PR-CODED COURSES

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

- PR3105 – Political Theories of Freedom (15 credits – Autumn term)
- PR3107 – Freedom of Expression (15 credits – Spring term)
- PR3540 – Radical Political Theory I: Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche (15 credits – Autumn term)
- PR3541 – Radical Political Theory II: Critical Theory and Poststructuralism (15 credits – Spring term)
- PR3930 – Issues in Democratic Theory (15 credits – Spring term)

EN-CODED COURSES

The following English module is also available to single-honours and joint-honours philosophy students as part of their 30-credits of non-PY modules:

EN 3106: Literature and Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle

15 credits – Spring term

Course description – The ideas of Plato and Aristotle have shaped lives, communities and cultures for well over two millennia. This course shows that literature is a way into their central ideas and living legacy, and explores what they have to say about stories, poems and plays in the context light of their whole work. Plato is for 'Truth'. In one of his densest dialogues, *The Sophist*, the main speaker attacks what previous thinkers have said because every one of them "seems to tell us a story, as if we were children" rather than explore the truth. And most famously, in *The Republic*, Socrates says he would exile the poets, as they "have no place in our city, being forbidden by our code": their stories, poems and plays are not true and do not help people to become wise or good, despite the fact *The Republic* is a great work of dramatic art and despite, as we'll see, Plato's frequent use of images and metaphors to aid in understanding. Aristotle is for 'Wonder'. He writes at the start of his book *Metaphysics* that we all naturally "desire to understand" and the origin of this desire, the origin of philosophy, is wonder. The early thinkers "wondered at those puzzles that were to hand such as the affections of the moon and events connected with the sun and the stars and about the origins of the universe". Because of wonder, Aristotle thinks that "the lover of stories is, in a way, a lover of wisdom, since a story is composed of wonders".

Course Leader – Prof Robert Eaglestone

Course Delivery – 2-hour seminar

Assessment – Essay 1 (2,000 words) – 50% and Essay 2 (2,000 words) – 50%

