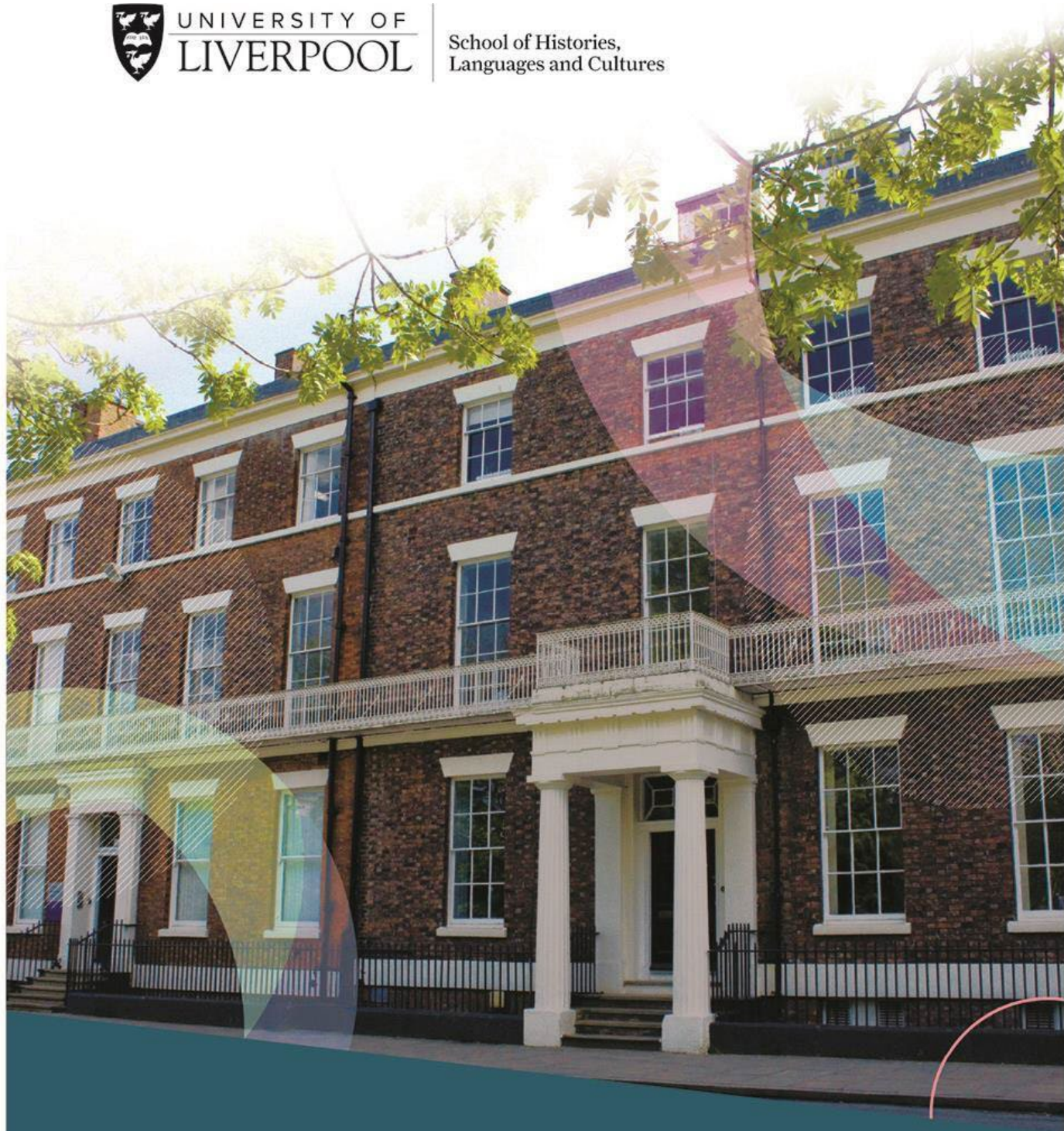




UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

School of Histories,
Languages and Cultures



Politics

PGT Module Catalogue

2025/26

Guidance Notes

This catalogue provides key details of PGT modules offered in all PGT programmes by the Department of Politics in 2025/26 to help inform your choices.

In all cases, please check your programme structure carefully to ensure you are only choosing modules which are available to the programme and pathway you are registered on – or will be registered on in 2025/26. All students must register for 180 credits of modules for their PGT course. For full time students this equates to 60 credits in each semester, plus the 60-credit Dissertation. For part-time students please refer to your individual programme structure

For further information on individual modules, please contact the module convenor directly.

Note that students cannot register directly for the following modules. Please contact Laura Gallon (lgallon@liverpool.ac.uk) to express an interest:

- POLI500

PGT



Module Code and Title:

POLI116 RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Ulrich Petersohn

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Analysing and interpreting events and data in political science requires a proper understanding of epistemology, methodologies and methods. Social science research can be conducted in many different ways; depending on the epistemological stance, research aim, and stage of the research process different tools are required and appropriate. A researcher may tend more towards a neopositivist position, while another prefers an interpretivist approach, which may lead to very differently constructed truth claims. Moreover, depending on whether the goal is theory-centered (theory is used to advance a general theory), or case-centred (theory is instrumental to explain a specific case), different research strategies are appropriate.

Finally, the research process may be required to gather new data (methods for data gathering are required), or it may draw on existing data ('only' methods supporting data analysis are required). Due to the size of the field, POLI116 will be highly focused and cannot claim to comprehensively cover all possible methods. The goal of POLI116 is meant, firstly, to provide a guidance on how conduct research project aimed at detecting regular causal relationships through theory-centered (hypothesis testing) investigations. Against this backdrop, this module will familiarise students (PGT and PhD) with descriptive statistics and qualitative case study design. Secondly, the module is meant to provide support for the dissertation (POLI119), assist students in designing a viable research project, and choose appropriate methods.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI119 MASTERS DISSERTATION

Module Convenor:

Ulrich Petersohn

Delivery Period:

Summer Vacation

Credits:

60

Module synopsis:

The dissertation gives students on the International Relations and Security MA the opportunity to produce a lengthy piece of work (12-15,000 words) on a topic of their choice.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI130 THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Module Convenor:

Hannes Baumann

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module looks at the international politics of the Middle East, focusing primarily on identity and security issues. At a general level, it seeks to provide a comprehensive account of the issues on the security agenda of governments and international organizations at a time of turbulence and change in the Arab world. It takes the broader view of security as understood within the field of International Relations. Thus, in addition to the study of causes of conflict and co-operation, it is concerned with a wider range of issues that have the potential to bring greater political stability or instability. The nature of regimes and the significance of democratisation efforts for regional stability are central concerns of the module. It involves analysis of state structures, the pattern of relations between states, the political economy, new transnational movements, the role of identity and belief systems and the involvement of external powers. Special attention is paid to the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional conflicts.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI130 THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Module Convenor:

Hannes Baumann

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module looks at the international politics of the Middle East, focusing primarily on identity and security issues. At a general level, it seeks to provide a comprehensive account of the issues on the security agenda of governments and international organizations at a time of turbulence and change in the Arab world. It takes the broader view of security as understood within the field of International Relations. Thus, in addition to the study of causes of conflict and co-operation, it is concerned with a wider range of issues that have the potential to bring greater political stability or instability. The nature of regimes and the significance of democratisation efforts for regional stability are central concerns of the module. It involves analysis of state structures, the pattern of relations between states, the political economy, new transnational movements, the role of identity and belief systems and the involvement of external powers. Special attention is paid to the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional conflicts.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI131 CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

Module Convenor:

Chelsea Johnson

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

30

Module synopsis:

IR theory has traditionally presumed that states are the main actor in the international system, particularly in the study of war. Although this notion is not entirely misguided, it applies only to a short historical time period. It was not before the beginning of the 19th century that violent non-state actors were increasingly delegitimized and pushed out of the business of waging wars. For the subsequent two hundred years, the state established its predominant role, yet since the second half of the 20th century this framework has undergone substantial change. In many accounts, non-state actors have become increasingly important to our understanding of global order and security. This module will explore this trend, and the way it has impacted the study of conflict in IR.

Balance of assessment:

80% coursework and 20% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI132 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORIES

Module Convenor:

Ulrich Petersohn

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

30

Module synopsis:

This module surveys the main theories in the academic discipline of International Relations (IR). It adopts a quasi-chronological approach, beginning with the philosophical roots of IR theories and ending with contemporary theoretical debates. Attention will be paid throughout to the historical and social context from which theoretical developments emerged, and how these are relevant or useful in our understanding of contemporary security issues. The aim is to equip students with the necessary conceptual and analytical tools that can then be applied to their own specific areas of interest or field of research. By the end of the module students should be able to understand the key theoretical debates in the subject of IR.

Balance of assessment:

90% coursework and 10% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI133 COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES

Module Convenor:

Jonathan Tonge

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Comparative Peace Processes examines the similarities and differences between peace processes. What common features can be identified in terms of how and why peace processes develop? What aspects of threat removal are most common, such as decommissioning, disarmament and reintegration? What political tools, such as consociation, partition, secession, devolution or integration, might be used? After a short overview, the module addresses these questions via a series of case studies, including Northern Ireland, Lebanon, Israel-Palestine Bosnia and the Basque region.

Please note that POLI133 cannot be chosen if a student has previously completed POLI336 at Undergraduate level.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework and 50% exam.

Module Code and Title:

POLI305 AFRICA-CHINA RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

Module Convenor:

Obert Hodzi

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This third year module examines how burgeoning economic, political and security relations between Africa and China are contributing to changes in the global order. Challenging framings of states in Africa as 'system ineffectual', inconsequential to global politics, and lacking material and ideational capabilities to structure their foreign relations, the module, through critical IR theories, examines how these states', the rise of China and the dynamics in China-Africa relations are impacting, shaping and reframing the norms and practices of development and global security governance.

Balance of assessment:

90% coursework and 10% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI306 HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

Module Convenor:

Imri Schattner-Ornan

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The geopolitical changes resulting from the end of the Cold War, the 'War on Terror' and the 'Arab Spring' have profoundly changed the environment in which humanitarian action takes place. These changes have triggered heated debates on ethical, analytical, programmatic, and operational issues within the humanitarian community.

This class will introduce students to a broad range of research and evidence that constitutes our collective knowledge on humanitarian action in complex emergencies, key ethical and policy debates, and the practical dilemmas that surround contemporary humanitarian action.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI310 PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION

Module Convenor:

David Dolowitz

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module explores the theories, ideas and concepts that underpin the development of contemporary public policies.

Balance of assessment:

70% coursework; 30% practical

Module Code and Title:

POLI321 INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

Module Convenor:

Birte Gippert

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module examines the different ways in which states intervene in the domestic affairs of other states or territories such as humanitarian intervention, invasion, annexation, peacekeeping, and colonial interventions. It explores how intervention has changed and developed historically, especially during and after the Cold War. It analyses whether state-practice has out-run the rules and norms that guide international state behaviour, particularly the legal framework of the United Nations and other relevant bodies of international law.

Balance of assessment:

50% practical and 50% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI324 FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

Module Convenor:

Alexander MacKenzie

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module aims to acquaint students with terrorism and counter-terrorism in today's world. It starts by examining key concepts, theories, and history and then moves on to looking at a range of issues that have been the subject of particular debate, such as whether terrorism works, whether there are regularities in how campaigns end, and the necessity and contributions of literature on 'Critical Terrorism Studies'. The module concludes by looking at whether we are at the end of the religious wave of terrorism and what we might expect to occur next.

Balance of assessment:

80% coursework and 20% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI332 CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF NATIONALISM

Module Convenor:

Mate Subasic

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The principal aim of this module is to analyse the political significance of national and ethnic identity in international politics. This involves the examination of the interrelationship between national identity, territory, sovereignty and democracy within the nation-state from historical and ideological perspectives, and in the context of current political developments. Module deals with cultural diversity, the role of the nation-state in international system, ethnic conflict, migration, diasporas, neo-nationalism and the European Union.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI349 GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Sarah Elmammeri

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module provides alternative perspectives on global politics, drawing on feminist theory and gender analysis, with a focus on conflict and peace, and the implications for global politics and International Relations (IR). The module will engage with theoretical concerns (how are women affected differently by conflict and peace, how do we engage feminist methodologies) to practical concerns (conflict, security, participation, sexual violence, human rights). Theories and concepts will be illustrated with relevant global case studies and examples. The module aims to encourage engaged, critical reflection on feminist approaches to our understanding of issues in world politics.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI352 PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL THEORY

Module Convenor:

Samantha Ashenden

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module focuses on selected core problems in political theory, examining how these have been treated in both classic and contemporary arguments. The module offers students the opportunity to practice close reading of selected original texts, giving detailed critical attention to the contexts and methods of argumentation of chosen thinkers.

In the social sciences, responses to questions of sovereignty, legitimacy, obligation, property, justice, revolution, and so on, are usually framed in terms of the analysis of agents' particular political agendas, and social and economic conditions and processes. These debates often assume that we know what is meant by sovereignty, legitimacy, obligation, etc. In political theory we suspend such assumptions to inquire into the nature of concepts and the work that they do to construct plausible political worlds. This involves both attention to the internal logic of arguments and to the contexts of claims.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI353 THE PUZZLE OF CIVIL WAR

Module Convenor:

Mate Subasic

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Please note: this is a theory and method heavy course and the application of both will be a mandatory requirement for the assignment(s). Students should be prepared to devote considerable time to familiarize themselves with methods and theory.

Civil war is the most common form of armed conflict today. While around thirty interstate wars have been fought since World War II, over one hundred civil wars have been recorded. Scholars have long focused their attention on civil conflict, producing a large body of literature on different aspects of civil war, e.g. exploring onset, duration, strategies, outcomes and termination, the formation of rebel groups, and the various forms of intervention in civil war. The module will introduce students to this body of research.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI500 POLITICS IN ACTION ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHEME

Module Convenor:

David Jeffery

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module provides an opportunity for students to gain credit from experience acquired in a placement, usually off campus, and outside their immediate academic context, in a setting that matches their academic and possible career/industry interests. During this placement students will have the chance to develop materials and/or undertake tasks within a practical or vocational context; to apply academic knowledge from their degree, and to develop their personal and employability skills within a working environment. Students will also be encouraged to critically reflect on their time on their placement, and tie their experiences into a broader theoretical understanding of what constitutes 'politics'.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework and 50% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI501 EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Module Convenor:

Ozge Zihnioglu

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module provides an in-depth analysis of the external policies of the EU in the current context and critically analyses the role of EU in international affairs. The module will trace the evolution of the EU as an international actor, scrutinize the EU's external action in different policy areas and its relations with its regional and global partners.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI502 EUROPEAN NATION-STATE AND POLITICS OF NATIONALISM

Module Convenor:

Mate Subasic

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The history of the nation-state formation and disintegration reflects the history of modern Europe which has been formed and often torn by these processes. While the nation-state is the most successful political organisation of modernity and a focus of peoples belonging, its design and its inherent association with a particular national group and its identity is not without controversy. The principal aim of this module is to analyse the political significance of the nation-state in European politics from 19th Century to the present. It covers waves of nationalism (1848, 1917, 1945 and 1989) and provides academic tools for understanding politics of national identity, minorities, immigration and citizenship in the past and in our time.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI510 QUANTITATIVE METHODS AND WORLD POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Nicholas Lees

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module introduces students to the quantitative study of international relations, security studies and comparative politics. Much of the most important research on topics such as the foreign relations between states, public attitudes towards global issues, and violent conflict within societies is quantitative. The module provides a guide to navigating these areas of research.

Beginning at an introductory level with descriptive statistics, it will introduce students to the most frequently-used tools for the statistical analysis of politics. Using statistical software, students will replicate existing studies and familiarise themselves with some of the major datasets in the fields of comparative politics, international relations, and security studies.

By the end of the module, students should have the confidence to replicate existing research in political science, make use of quantitative datasets in the study of politics conduct their own quantitative empirical investigation. Having studied statistics in a previous university degree is not a requirement for the module as we start from an absolute beginner's level.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI516 ANTICOLONIAL LEGACIES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Amal Abu-Bakare

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

30

Module synopsis:

This module explores a series of dissident perspectives in international politics which evaluate how the study of international affairs exists as part of a continuum of empire. Examining the core features of different knowledge traditions emanating from postcolonial theory, decolonial methodologies and non-western thought, and critical positions in geography, history, sociology, and legal studies; this module situates the study of international politics with each of their epistemic stances, methodologies, and distinctive themes. We will evaluate what are often regarded to be the core concepts of International Relations theorisation (e.g., the treaty of Westphalia, liberalism, realism) and topical events like far- Right extremism, climate change, the Migrant Crisis, and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, with the diverse socio-political and ethical commitments that exist within the interdisciplinary field of anti-colonialism. This includes ideas of decolonization, abolitionist thought, reparative justice, and world repair.

Balance of assessment:

70% coursework and 30% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI518 ADVANCED TOPICS IN ELECTORAL RESEARCH

Module Convenor:

Raul Gomez Martinez

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module examines some of the most crucial topics in contemporary electoral research, and aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the factors explaining people's political preferences and electoral behaviour in different contexts. The module takes an interdisciplinary approach that combines sociology, psychology and political science. Geographically speaking, this is a comparative module that focuses on full democracies, and students are encouraged to think about how the mechanisms covered in the different sessions may(or may not) work in other democratic contexts.

Balance of assessment:

65% coursework and 35% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI521 MODERN SLAVERY, FORCED LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Module Convenor:

Wendy Asquith

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module requires students to engage with the politics around efforts to tackle contemporary forms of exploitation often categorised as 'slavery', to consider the origins and human experience of such activities, to assess policies for combating them, and to apply this to an independent research project. Seminars will challenge students to analyse the major themes in legal and political responses to trafficking, forced labour and other forms of human rights abuse analogous to slavery. Students will develop strategies for researching practices and policies relating to contemporary 'slaveries' and they will develop an independent study of a particular aspect.

Balance of assessment:

80% coursework and 20% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI522 BREXIT AND BEYOND

Module Convenor:

Kevin Hickson

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module analyses the process leading to Britain's withdrawal from the European Union and the form it took (referendum and withdrawal agreement) as well as the ongoing implications for British politics, society and culture.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI526 ANTI-COLONIAL LEGACIES IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Amal Abu-Bakare

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module explores a series of dissident perspectives in international politics which evaluate how the study of international affairs exists as part of a continuum of empire. Examining the core features of different knowledge traditions emanating from postcolonial theory, decolonial methodologies and non-western thought, and critical positions in geography, history, sociology, and legal studies; this module situates the study of international politics with each of their epistemic stances, methodologies, and distinctive themes. We will evaluate what are often regarded to be the core concepts of International Relations theorisation (e.g., the treaty of Westphalia, liberalism, realism) and topical events like far- Right extremism, climate change, the Migrant Crisis, and the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, with the diverse socio-political and ethical commitments that exist within the interdisciplinary field of anti-colonialism. This includes ideas of decolonization, abolitionist thought, reparative justice, and world repair.

Balance of assessment:

60% coursework and 40% practical.

Module Code and Title:

POLI530 POLITICAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Module Convenor:

Mariaelisa Epifanio

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Research methods in social science encompass a vast array of techniques meant to guide research of social, political and human behavior. This is a challenging and exciting enterprise. This module will introduce you to some of the most used methods in social science. We will start by defining the research process and the fundamental features of research design before covering a number of qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of political phenomena. The aim is to equip you with the vital skills required to conduct research in political science and international relations and to provide the advanced knowledge required to undertake a dissertation at Masters level.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework and 50% exam.

Module Code and Title:

POLI531 POLITICAL SCIENCE DISSERTATION

Module Convenor:

Alexander MacKenzie

Delivery Period:

Summer

Credits:

60

Module synopsis:

The dissertation will enable students on the Political Science and International Relations MA to demonstrate their research skills and knowledge in a single substantive independent piece of study. Students will select their chosen topic under the umbrella of 'political science and international relations', thereby affording students with a wide range of potential topics upon which to research. The opportunity to conduct this piece of research will enable students to focus on a topic they are intellectually interested in, and so motivated to conduct the research.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI550 POLITICS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DISSERTATION

Module Convenor:

Andrew Roe-Crines

Delivery Period:

Summer

Credits:

60

Module synopsis:

The dissertation will enable students on the Public Administration and Policy MPA to demonstrate their research skills and knowledge in a single substantive independent piece of study. Students will select their chosen topic under the umbrella of 'Public Administration and Policy', thereby affording students with a wide range of potential topics upon which to research. The opportunity to conduct this piece of research will enable students to focus on a topic they are intellectually interested in, and so motivated to conduct the research.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI551 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY RESEARCH SKILLS AND METHODS

Module Convenor:

Felix Wiebrecht

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module introduces the key methods and skills for the study of public administration and policy.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework; 50% exam

Module Code and Title:

POLI552 UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

Module Convenor:

Andrew Russell

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module introduces the key themes and issues for the study of public administration and policy.

Balance of assessment:

80% coursework; 20% practical

Module Code and Title:

POLI553 NAVIGATING NORMATIVE ISSUES IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Module Convenor:

James Hickson

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module will introduce students to the useful theoretical resources and frameworks that can help us to critically assess public policies, and the processes through which they're developed, from a normative perspective. Policymaking is rarely value-free, and many of society's most pressing contemporary challenges require us to navigate deeply normative questions. Identifying, and carefully reflecting upon, the normative 'stakes' associated with policies and policymaking is therefore of critical importance to effective public administration. What are the ethical responsibilities that we should expect of politicians and public servants? What kinds of political values are promoted, or undermined, by different policies? And do the ends always (or ever!) justify the means in public policy?

This module will explore how applied approaches to political theory can help us to better understand and navigate such questions. Adopting a problem-led approach (oriented around the exploration of key case studies), students will be introduced to a range of theoretical tools that can help them to better consider, and bring alternative perspectives to, real-world public policy dilemmas and debates.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI554 INNOVATIONS IN PUBLIC POLICY

Module Convenor:

Catherine Durose

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module engages with the demand for new approaches to public policy-making to address the chronic problems, complex crises and emerging challenges we face as a society. It examines a range of different approaches that have secured a degree of traction within policy and administration from behavioural public policy to design and systems thinking, and considers why innovation in policy-making can be hard to achieve.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI555 WHEN GOVERNMENT FAILS: PUBLIC POLICY FAILURES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

Module Convenor:

Stuart Wilks-Heeg

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module explores the phenomenon of policy failure in contemporary government and encourages students to construct alternative frameworks for policy making in order to promote better outcomes. The module uses a combination of UK cases and international examples of policy failure.

Balance of assessment:

70% coursework; practical 30%

Module Code and Title:

POLI556 CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE

Module Convenor:

Andrew Russell

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Managing in crises is an essential part of public life in the contemporary world and yet is an under-researched theme in the study of institutions, governance, administration and public policy. This module explores the impact of crisis on the ability of actors to manage as normal in particular contexts. The module looks at themes such as institutions, democracy and crisis, democracy and non-democracy crises, the expectations of management in public life and leadership styles and approaches. The module analyses several types of crisis – economic (the impact of the sub-prime housing crash of 2008), political (the outcome of the 2016 Brexit referendum in the UK, institutional conflict such as the US Supreme Court vs federal government) global pandemics (Covid19) disasters (the Fukushima incident, an incoming tropical storm) and the threat of terrorism.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

POLI557 THE FORMAL AND INFORMAL INSTITUTIONS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
AND GOVERNANCE

Module Convenor:

Michael Cole

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

To enable students to reach a critical understanding of the operation of formal institutions;

To enable students to reach a critical understanding of the operation of informal institutions;

To enable students to critically evaluate the differences and similarities amongst formal and informal institutions in different contexts and countries;

To enable students to develop a theoretically-informed understanding of these issues.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework; 50% exam

Module Code and Title:

COMM748 GLOBAL JOURNALISM AND POLITICS

Module Convenor:

Rosalynd Southern

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module will offer a cross-national comparative perspective on the state of journalism around the world, journalists' perceptions of their role in society and the contextual factors that influence journalistic roles and performance. Only 14% of people in the world live in countries with free media so it is important to appreciate that the news media might play different roles based on the nature of the political system, the respective media systems and the relevant cultural and societal differences. The extent to which the news media can act as the fourth estate is to a large extent determined by these contextual factors but also by audiences' expectations about the role of journalists in their society. A range of case studies will be used throughout the module.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework

Module Code and Title:

COMM752 BIG DATA AND SOCIETY: FOUNDATIONS, POLITICS, AND POLICY B

Module Convenor:

Aliaksandr Herasimenka

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module will be of particular interest to students interested in big data and how it is collected and used in modern society; in the politics and policy questions around social media; and in the interactions between media, platforms, and citizens. It will introduce students to the study of online media and platforms, with a particular focus on 'big' social trace data. As well as developing their understanding of how Internet-based media systems work, students will learn about the strengths and weaknesses of using big data for social science research, and engage with key online political communication policy questions.

Balance of assessment:

90% coursework; 10% practical

Module Code and Title:

COMM763 MEDIA AND POLITICS: ECONOMY AND SOCIETY B

Module Convenor:

Antal Wozniak

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module explores the relationships between politics, economics, and mainstream media. The traditional, 20th century business models of news media have collapsed, prompting news organisations to make redundancies and to consider new ways of financing their activities. As a result, significant concerns have been raised about their sustainability as well as the wider role that news media (should) play in democratic societies. Furthermore, social media platforms and search engines have become the new gatekeepers, directing attention to news (and the knowledge, understandings, and attitudes shaped by news consumption) based on algorithms and audience members' self-selection into disparate groups. In this module we will be looking at the ways in which media content across a variety of platforms and channels is being shaped by economic considerations and neoliberal ideology and how this creates tension, and sometimes outright contradiction, with the public and democratic role of mass media (including social media platforms) in open societies.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework

Module Code and Title:

COMM765 MEDIA AND POLITICS: THEORIES AND CASES B

Module Convenor:

Emily Harmer

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module examines a range of interconnected issues concerning the politics/media relationship. It offers a critical overview of the ways in which the media have been studied and discussed in relation to political processes and explores the key aspects of contemporary theory and research in politics and media. Part one is devoted to theories and debates about the politics and media relationship. It examines different ways of making sense of the relationship between the state, the public, and the media and questions surrounding media power and media audiences. Part two focuses on specific cases and controversies in the media-politics relations. It explores the changing relationships, representational forms, power dynamics, and impacts of media performance in selected forms of contemporary 'conflict'.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework

Module Code and Title:

ENGL488 WAR WRITING

Module Convenor:

Niall Carson

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

30

Module synopsis:

War Writing addresses the ways that wartime and peacetime are imagined by writers in the 20th and 21st centuries. We consider the topic by looking at a diverse range of texts that address war directly or indirectly. We ask our students to ask exactly what it is that war means and the ways in which writers have attempted to answer that question. We actively look to expand our definition of war writing and to include a wide spectrum of writers and writing.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

ENGL750 LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE

Module Convenor:

Andrew Duxfield

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

At the end of the sixteenth century, England was making its first attempts to build a tradition as a nation of travellers and unsuccessfully attempting to establish colonies in north America. By the end of the Eighteenth century the European Grand Tour was a standard part of a British aristocratic education, and the British Empire was a global force actively participating in the international slave trade. This module looks at both literary and non-literary records of and responses to: the relationship between the 'old world' or the Mediterranean and the 'new world' of the Americas; the encounter with unfamiliar people and lands; the rise of and debate about the international slave trade, from the perspective of both the enslaver and the enslaved; the literary and cultural importance of these developments for the city of Liverpool.

Balance of assessment:

100% practical

Module Code and Title:

ENGL750 LITERATURE, SLAVERY AND EMPIRE

Module Convenor:

Andrew Duxfield

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

At the end of the sixteenth century, England was making its first attempts to build a tradition as a nation of travellers and unsuccessfully attempting to establish colonies in north America. By the end of the Eighteenth century the European Grand Tour was a standard part of a British aristocratic education, and the British Empire was a global force actively participating in the international slave trade. This module looks at both literary and non-literary records of and responses to: the relationship between the 'old world' or the Mediterranean and the 'new world' of the Americas; the encounter with unfamiliar people and lands; the rise of and debate about the international slave trade, from the perspective of both the enslaver and the enslaved; the literary and cultural importance of these developments for the city of Liverpool.

Balance of assessment:

100% practical

Module Code and Title:

ENVS434 CRISIS AND CHANGE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Module Convenor:

Muhammad Ayyaz Mallick

Delivery Period:

Semester 1 and 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module examines the dynamics between space, power and culture through drawing upon topics denoting crisis and change in human geography. Drawing on academics' specialist expertise, students learn about space and power through different themes including migration, land, labour, gender and sexuality. Themes can change according to ongoing crises, topical issues, and debates in the discipline – each taught session allows us to focus on one pertinent field of study in the discipline.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework

Module Code and Title:

ENVS470 BUSINESS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Module Convenor:

Urmila Jha Thakur

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Environmental issues are of growing importance to businesses both large and small. Companies and organisations have to comply with a burgeoning body of environmental legislation and environmental considerations are becoming more prominent in relations with industrial partners and clients, suppliers, customers, banks, insurers and local communities. Whilst such pressures are forcing businesses to pay more attention to the environmental implications of their actions, some businesses which are forward looking, perceive the environmental agenda as a great business opportunity. This module is designed to explore some of these issues more fully.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework; 50% practical

Module Code and Title:

ENVS525 POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Module Convenor:

Weikai Wang

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

Increasingly recognition of the environmental threats that we all face means that responding to this crisis affects the decisions we all make at a variety of different scales. This module explores the extent to which environmental concerns are taken into account in various decision-making processes involving the public (government), private and third sectors at a variety of different scales, global, European, national and local. The module is assessed by an essay coursework and a written exam, which provides students with significant choice to explore those parts of the module they find most interesting.

Balance of assessment:

50% coursework; 50% exam

Module Code and Title:

HIST561 INTERNATIONAL RECORD KEEPING

Module Convenor:

Michael Reilly

Delivery Period:

Semester 2

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module provides an overview of record keeping developments from an international perspective. It introduces students to record-keeping structures, traditions and practices throughout the world, and to the legislative, cultural and political traditions which affect those practices. In doing so it enables students to approach record-keeping theory and practice in their home country both critically and comparatively. The module considers the role that records and archives have played over time, particularly, from 1945, in the area of human rights.

Balance of assessment:

100% coursework.

Module Code and Title:

HLAC505 IDENTITY, POWER AND SOCIETY: CONTEMPORARY CRITICAL THEORY AND DISCOURSE

Module Convenor:

Alison Smith

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

This module is designed to introduce students to the range and diversity of current research in languages and cultures. In individual sessions, students will be encouraged to consider the range of theoretical and methodological approaches which they could adopt in approaching their individual research projects. This module aims to provide students with an awareness of the key theoretical issues central to cultural studies, and to develop in them an understanding of current methodologies.

Balance of assessment:

75% coursework and 25% practical.

Module Code and Title:

LAW353 PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Module Convenor:

Antal Berkes

Delivery Period:

Semester 1

Credits:

15

Module synopsis:

The module provides students with in-depth specialist knowledge of the principles and structure of international law, with a special emphasis on law-making processes. It offers a selected introduction to the field by placing the issues covered into the political and historical context of international relations. The module features discussions of some of today's most debated theoretical and practical international legal issues against the backdrop of multiple international, regional and domestic legal and policy frameworks. They include the evolving role of international law in international affairs, the forms of law making, the ever increasing number of actors involved, the expansion of international adjudication, the creation of states, the various faces of sovereignty, and the impact of international law on domestic systems.

Balance of assessment:

85% coursework and 15% practical.