Politics
Year Two
Module Title:
HLC Volunteering and Experience 1

Module Convenor:
Dr Anthony Sinclair

Broad description of module content:
In this module you can explore what it is like to work for an external organization or placement provider, whilst gaining progressive knowledge about what professional development means.

You select a placement opportunity from a list of providers within the Merseyside region. The HLC Placement Officer helps you make an appropriate choice. The aim of the placement (minimum placement time: 24hrs overall) is to enable you to find out more about the type of professional work that you may like to undertake in your career, and to have structured experience of working environments that have a connection with your subject area.

Workshops (co-organized with the C&ES) help you evaluate your skills and professional practice. Assessment following the placement involves a presentation and reflective portfolio (based on placement experience).

Module code:
HLAC211

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Placement Presentation; 50% Portfolio
Module Convenor:
Dr Anthony Sinclair

Broad description of module content:
In this module you can explore what it is like to work for an external organization or placement provider, whilst gaining progressive knowledge about what professional development means.

You select a placement opportunity from a list of providers within the Merseyside region. The HLC Placement Officer helps you make an appropriate choice. The aim of the placement (minimum placement time: 24hrs overall) is to enable you to find out more about the type of professional work that you may like to undertake in your career, and to have structured experience of working environments that have a connection with your subject area.

Workshops (co-organized with the C&ES) help you evaluate your skills and professional practice. Assessment following the placement involves a presentation and reflective portfolio (based on placement experience).

Module Title:
HLC Volunteering and Experience 2

Module code:
HLAC212

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
50% Placement Presentation; 50% Portfolio
Module Title: American Politics and Society

Module Convenor: Professor David Dolowitz

Broad description of module content: American Government and Politics will acquaint you with the US constitutional system. This will help you understand how governmental actors, non-governmental actors, and institutions interact to shape the nature and outcomes of the US political process.

Module code: POLI205

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 10% In-lecture Quiz; 10% In-class Article; 10% Critical Book/Article Review; 70% Exam
Module Title:
Aspects of Media and Politics

Module Convenor:
Dr Neil Gavin

Broad description of module content:
This module aims to provide students with an appreciation of the relationship between the mass media, politicians, and the public; to make students aware of the different aspects of the communication process; and to explore how the media contribute to (or compromise) democracy.

Module code:
POLI208

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
30% Coursework; 70% Exam
Module Title:
International Political Economy

Module Convenor:
Dr Alex MacKenzie

Broad description of module content:
This module examines the interplay between politics and economics and the way this relationship is influenced by domestic and international forces. It examines the social underpinnings of economic transactions, the political frameworks that shape economic activity at national, regional and global levels, and the economic imperatives that impinge upon political decision-makers.

During the module, you will be introduced to influential perspectives, theories and ideas that have been advanced to explain and anticipate events and developments in political economy.

The module covers the most important issue-areas in international political economy and examines recent developments, including the global financial crisis of 2008, challenges to the Western liberal order, and international trade negotiations, such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

Module code:
POLI209

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title: Comparative Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

Module Convenor: Dr Hannes Baumann

Broad description of module content:
This module provides you with the tools to analyse the region’s politics in its richness. You will critically engage with key concepts and debates in the study of Middle East comparative politics. These include the role of oil and the “rentier-state”, democratisation and authoritarian resilience, and the role of religion in politics.

The course will introduce you to the history of state-society relations since the emergence of Middle Eastern states in early 20th century. As you build up your knowledge of Middle Eastern countries, you will compare different cases within the region and draw on your knowledge of other regions to explain outcomes such as authoritarian resilience or the rise of political Islam.

In the seminars, you will not only engage with the secondary literature but will also critically assess primary sources such as wikileaks cables or local media reports.

This is an introductory course to Middle East politics and no prior knowledge of the region is required.

Module code: POLI215

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Comparative Politics

Module Convenor:
TBC

Broad description of module content:
This module introduces students to the key approaches and tools associated with the comparative study of political systems and political behaviour. It examines how core political concepts have been translated into contrasting constitutional and electoral arrangements internationally and assess how political scientists have sought to study the diversity of political systems which have emerged as a result. Particular attention is given to two core comparative politics traditions: the study of large numbers of countries using quantitative methods versus the study of a small number of countries as detailed case studies. With a focus on classic studies of both types, the module covers a range of core concerns in comparative politics, such as how states emerge, the growth and consolidation of democratic traditions, political cleavages and party systems, the implications of electoral systems for party politics and political representation, the growth and retrenchment of the state, and the dynamics of policy transfer.

Module code:
POLI222

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Contemporary Populist Politics: Britain in comparative perspective

Module Convener:
TBC

Broad description of module content:
In recent years, there has been a dramatic rise in support for populist political parties and movements, on both the right and the left of the political spectrum, across a large number of western democracies.

This module examines the growth of populist politics in Britain, represented primarily by UKIP and the 2016 Brexit referendum, placing these developments in a comparative international perspective.

It examines the distinctive features of populist movements, considers the distinctive national conditions and common global factors that have spawned them, and considers the implications for the future of party politics and representative democracy.

In addition to Britain, the module includes case studies of populist politics in a range of countries internationally.

Module code:
POLI223

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
International Institutions

Module Convenor:
Professor Erika Harris

Broad description of module content:
You will explore international institutions and their impact on international politics in our world. The particular focus will be on how institutions (such as the UN, EU, IMF, World Bank, etc.) shape and are shaped by the politics of nation-states and the notions of sovereignty, good governance and political cultures.

The module is approached from historical, theoretical and policy-based perspectives.

Module code: POLI225
Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15
Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Devolution in the UK

Module Convenor:
Professor Jon Tonge

Broad description of module content:
This module analyses the impact of devolution in the UK across different parliaments and assemblies, assessing how politics in the different parts of the UK has changed. After a theoretical overview of the concept of devolution, students will explore the roles of the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Ireland Assembly and also consider the 'English Question'.

Module code:
POLI227

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
40% Essay; 60% Exam
Module Convenor:
Dr Andrew Crines

Broad description of module content:
Where does power reside? The institutions that govern Britain have emerged from the near ‘collapse’ of the Westminster Model, as power is moved from the central to the regional.

This module explores the institutional functions of those institutions of political power. Beginning with the House of Parliament, it looks outwards towards the London Assembly, Holyrood, the Welsh Assembly, the Northern Ireland Assembly, amongst others.

The purpose of this module is to give you an institutional awareness of the Parliamentary processes of the governance of modern Britain.

Module Title:
Governing Britain: Westminster, Whitehall and beyond

Module code:
POLI230

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
50% Research Brief; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Security in a Globalised World

Module Convenor:
Dr Alex MacKenzie

Broad description of module content:
Security in a Globalised World explores a range of Security Studies theories in a world that is becoming more socially, economically, and politically integrated.

This module builds on much of what students learnt in POLI104 (Foundations in International Politics), but it also goes beyond the traditional theories involved in the study of security, from Realism and interstate war to Post-Structuralism and how US security is 'written'.

Module code:
POLI231

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title: Varieties of Democracy

Module Convenor: 
TBC

Broad description of module content:
This module introduces students to the wide variety of models of democracy, found both in political theory and in political practice, and considers their relative merits and shortcomings. The first part of the module traces the development of democratic ideas and practices, highlighting the emergence of distinct conceptions of participatory, associative, direct and representative democracy. The second part of the module takes a comparative approach to studying democracy today, with a particular focus on the criteria that are typically used to define whether countries can be classified as democracies at particular moments in time and on attempts to compare the quality of democracy in the contemporary world and includes a number of case studies of countries where recent democratic advances appear to have been reversed.

Module code: POLI232

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 2

Balance of assessment: 50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Democratisation: from Ancient Athens to Southeast Asia

Module Convenor:
Dr Nicholas Lees

Broad description of module content:
This module provides a tour of the struggle for democracy across the globe and across history, from ancient Athens to the present day. It will challenge you to reflect on why a particular variety of democracy, representative government, has become one of the dominant political systems in the modern world. It explores the circumstances under which dictatorship gives way to representative government, and the conditions under which representative systems have the best chance of surviving.

We will examine the prospects for democracy in South East Asia, asking whether the region will follow in the footsteps of Europe and Latin America or whether new hybrid political systems might consolidate themselves.

The course will assist in the development of students' skills, specifically in conducting case studies and performing straightforward statistical analyses using a spreadsheet.

Module code: POLI235

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Convenor:
Dr Nicholas Lees

Broad description of module content:
This module examines foreign policy decision-making, asking why states pursue particular foreign policy goals and adopt certain strategies for handling international challenges, threats and crises.

During the module, foreign policy will be examined from a series of different analytical perspectives: starting by examining the whole international system, we will move to focus on the internal politics of different states, before examining the psychology of decision-making.

Thematically, the course will examine key moments in international history such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the outbreak of the First World War.

The last part of the course will explore the ways in which inter-state relations are connected to wider processes in world politics, including electoral competition, revolutions and contests between rival ideologies.

Module code:
POLI236

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
75% Student Project; 25% Exam
Module Title:  
British Political Ideologies

Module Convenor:  
Dr Kevin Hickson

Broad description of module content:  
British Political Ideologies has two main aims. The first is to examine several theoretical issues relating to political ideologies in Britain. These include what meanings can be attached to the concept of ideology itself and the relationship between political debate and ideology. The second aim, which will be the focus of the majority of the module, will be the changing content of the main ideologies themselves.

Module code:  
POLI237

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:  
15

Semester available (2017-18):  
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:  
40% Essay; 60% Exam
Module Title: British Party Politics and Public Policy

Module Convenor: Dr Andrew Crines

Broad description of module content:
This module aims to develop students’ knowledge of British political parties and the way in which they shape the development of key public policies. It examines the range of factors which shape the policies adopted by political parties, including ideological traditions, relationship to think-tanks, intra-party debate, electoral strategy and inter-party competition.

In addition, the module examines how governing parties seek to use public policy as a means of retaining power, through techniques such as statecraft and reputation for competence on key policy issues. There is a particular emphasis throughout on economic and social policy and the module also examines the growing impact of devolution on political parties and policy formation.

Module code: POLI239

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
From the IRA to ISIS: understanding political violence in the contemporary world

Module Convenor:
Dr Alex MacKenzie

Broad description of module content:
This module aims to acquaint students with terrorism and counter-terrorism in today's world. There are two sections to this module. The first section examines definitions, typologies, and threats. The second section assesses whether terrorism works, the extent of the threat, and how states have responded. In particular, this module is intended to help students think critically about the state, international relations, and the nature of contemporary terrorism.

Module code:
POLI240

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
30

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1 and 2

Balance of assessment:
10% Poster Presentations x 2; 22.5% Essay 1; 22.5% Essay 2; 22.5% Exam 1; 22.5% Exam 2
Module Title:
Liberalism and its Critics 1

Module Convenor:
TBC

Broad description of module content:
This module examines contemporary political thought and the debates between a range of philosophies. The concepts under discussion will include (but are not limited to) egalitarian and libertarian liberalism; Rawls and the veil of ignorance; the relationship between individual freedom and the role of the state; and the challenges posted by more conservative thinkers such as Burke. This module will equip students with the theoretical frameworks required to understand and criticize contemporary political thought.

Module code:
POLI241

Other modules frequently taken with this module:
Must be taken with POLI242

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Liberalism and its Critics 2

Module Convenor:
TBC

Broad description of module content:
This module examines contemporary political thought and the debates between a range of philosophies. The concepts under discussion will include (but are not limited to) egalitarian and libertarian liberalism; Rawls and the veil of ignorance; the relationship between individual freedom and the role of the state; and the challenges posted by more conservative thinkers such as Burke. This module will equip students with the theoretical frameworks required to understand and criticize contemporary political thought.

Module code:
POLI242

Other modules frequently taken with this module:
Must be taken with POLI241

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam