Year Three
Module Convenor:
Professor David Dolowitz

Broad description of module contents:
This module examines the reasons for and theories underpinning state intervention in society and economy via the public policy process. A major component of this will involve linking ideas of power and policy paradigms to the theories of the state studied during the first and second years.

The idea will be to show how state theory can illustrate how policymakers come to decisions while engaged in the policy process; who controls this process; in whose interest policies are developed, implemented and reformed; and what difference this makes to the shape and functioning of contemporary societies.

Module code: POLI310
Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15
Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
10% Academic Article and Summary (10%); 15% In-class Quiz; 25% Critical Book Review; 50% Exam
Module Title:
Politics of Development

Module Convenor:
Dr Hannes Baumann

Broad description of module contents:
What are the institutional prerequisites of economic development? Global development institutions such as the World Bank or UNDP have proposed the concept of “good governance" as an answer to this question.

This course critically engages with this concept by juxtaposing it with various historical institutionalist accounts of the state, including the East Asian developmental state, Africa’s failed states, and the Middle Eastern rentier state.

You engage with key debates about the role of the state, democracy, corruption, and the “resource curse" in economic development. The course will familiarise you with the historical development of the state in the global south, and the developmental trajectories of key states in Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

Module code:
POLI314

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:
Theories of Poverty and Wealth

Module Convenor:
Professor David Dolowitz

Broad description of module contents:
The course concerns the theories and philosophies surrounding the development and operation of contemporary welfare systems. As such, the module begins with an exploration of poverty and welfare and how one's understanding of this helps inform their view of what society should do about it. From here the course will move onto an examination of the major theoretical schools associated with poverty alleviation. It concludes with an exploration of where poverty alleviation may go in the future.

Module code:
POLI316

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
10% In-class Quiz (10%); 10% Journal Article; 30% Critical Book Review; 50% Exam
Module Title: The Media, the Internet and Political Science

Module Convenor: Dr Neil Gavin

Broad description of module contents:
This module introduces you to the ways in which contemporary notions of what constitutes political science have a bearing upon what we think we know about conventional and new media.

On this module, you will explore a range of themes that connect the new media to its conventional counterparts (including the political economy of journalism, web-based political mobilisation, citizen journalism, media spin and coverage of immigration).

We will look at political power, how the media figure in how it is exerted, and also at contemporary developments in things like concentration of ownership, journalistic misbehaviour, and fake news.

Module code: POLI319

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
10% Group Presentation; 20% Essay; 70% Exam
**Module Title:**
Comparative Voting Behaviour

**Module Convenor:**
Dr Raul Gomez

**Broad description of module content:**
Why do people vote the way they do? What explains election outcomes? How does electoral change take place? And, how can we answer these questions using survey data?

This module discusses classic and current topics of electoral politics from a comparative perspective, covering voting behaviour in advanced industrialized democracies and beyond. The focus of the module is both theoretical and empirical. Topics are first introduced in lectures and then explored further in guided PC sessions where students are invited to analyze survey data using the statistical package SPSS.

This module provides essential knowledge for any student interested in voting behavior and for potential political advisors, data analysts, research officers, campaign managers, etc. No advanced statistical skills are required.

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<th>Module code:</th>
<th>POLI322</th>
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<td><strong>Other modules frequently taken with this module:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Semester available (2017-18):</strong></td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<td><strong>Balance of assessment:</strong></td>
<td>50% Report; 50% Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Student quote:</strong></td>
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<td>“This module has improved my skills in interpreting survey data and using SPSS, which is crucial for the social sciences”</td>
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Module Title:
Rhetoric in British Politics

Module Convenor:
Dr Andrew Crines

Broad description of module content:
We live in fascinating times. British political figures are faced by an ever skeptical electorate, who are less and less impressed by the political mainstreams. To counter this, political outsiders are gaining more and more attention, and, ultimately, electoral support.

But how does this happen? This module looks at the communication techniques of political insiders and outsiders; it deconstructs the art of political rhetoric and manipulation' and shines light upon the techniques which work (and those that don’t). It explores how politicians can convince an audience of their arguments, and ultimately show how political success can be achieved.

Module code:
POLI323

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
40% Written Speech; 60% Essay
Module Title:
Labour and the Environment in the UK: research project

Module Convenor:
Dr Vivian Price

Broad description of module content:
Trade unions have been identified as pivotal actors in developing environmental strategy by Agenda 21 adopted in Rio at the 1992 Earth Summit, but little research has examined how unions are engaged in this arena. After reading key texts on unions’ advocacy for sustainability in Britain in a comparative context, students will conduct interviews with union representatives, observe public events, and produce images and narratives drawing from their research.

The module takes a participatory and collaborative approach, in which students work with trade unions and the community to document and analyse union campaigns for sustainability nationally and locally.

It will culminate in organizing the research materials for an exhibit and programme to facilitate public dialogue around these issues.

Module code:
POLI325

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
80% Continuous Assessment; 20% Exam
Module Title:
Labour Thinkers

Module Convenor:
Dr Kevin Hickson

Broad description of module content:
This module analyses the political, social and economic thought of the major thinkers within the Labour Party from the 1920s. Teaching is in the form of a 2-hour workshop each week (excluding reading week) consisting of a standard lecture introducing the topic and a range of group activities.

Module code:
POLI326

Other modules frequently taken with this module:
POLI237 and POLI327

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title: Conservative Thinkers

Module Convenor: Dr Kevin Hickson

Broad description of module content:
This module provides you with a critical understanding of a selection of key Conservative Party thinkers by examining the arguments they have made. It enables you to develop an understanding of how Conservative thinkers have contributed towards the success of the party over the course of the twentieth century. To do this it explores the tenets of various strands of conservatism such as One Nation, Traditional, Liberal, and New Right conservatives.

Furthermore the module discusses the links between conservatism and the flows of economic capital, social conservatism, and the promotion of the individual as an autonomous actor.

Module code: POLI327

Other modules frequently taken with this module: POLI237 and POLI326

Credit value: 15

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 1

Balance of assessment: 50% Essay; 50% Exam
Module Title: Identity in Contemporary International Politics

Module Convenor: Professor Erika Harris

Broad description of module contents: The module deals with the role of identity (ethnic and national) and its significance in international politics. You will examine the inter-relationship between national identity, territory, sovereignty and democracy.

Using examples from around the world, you will develop an understanding of issues surrounding minorities, ethnic politics, ethnic conflict, Diasporas and other forms of transnational identities and the role of states in mitigating or aggravating inter-ethnic relations within and beyond states.

Module code: POLI332

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 15

Balance of assessment: 50% Essay; 50% Exam

Semester available (2017-18): Semester 2
Module Convenor: 
Professor Jon Tonge

Broad description of module contents: 
This module examines the idea of a "peace process" using a comparative approach. It identifies the essential features of peace processes before turning to look at case studies of Northern Ireland, the Middle East (Israel-Palestine), Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Basque region. It asks whether peace processes work and what we can learn from each other in a comparative context.

Module code: 
POLI336

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value: 
15

Semester available (2017-18): 
 Semester 2

Balance of assessment: 
40% Essay; 60% Exam
Module Convenor:
Dr Kevin Hickson

Broad description of module content:
The aim of the module is to allow you to work with an MP in the Houses of Parliament. The placement enables the development of subject knowledge and allows students to relate theories of the legislative process with direct practical experience. Moreover, the scheme should increase the employability of students who participate in it.

Note that placements are allocated following an application process and interview and POLI342 cannot be chosen in the same way as other modules.

Module code:
POLI342

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
45

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
100% Coursework
Module Title:
Media and Climate Change

Module Convenor:
Dr Neil Gavin

Broad description of module content:
On this module, students will be introduced to the realities of climate change as they are currently understood, focusing on the most up-to-date assessments. It also explores the (ugly) politics of climate change, PR and the manipulation of public opinion in this domain, journalistic practice, the coverage of the topic across a range of conventional and new media, plus public opinion about global warming (and its drivers) and the impact of media coverage on those exposed to reports. The module will explore the social and political implications of media (under) representations of climate change, and what this tell us about democracy.

Module code:
POLI345

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
10% Presentation; 20% Essay; 70% Exam
Module Title:
Troubled Times: the politics of conflict in Northern Ireland, 1960-the present

Module Convenor:
Dr Kevin Bean

Broad description of module content:
This course looks at the development of political conflict and political violence in Northern Ireland from the beginning of ‘The Troubles’ in the late 1960s. It not only looks at the role and the contribution of the key political actors including the British and Irish governments, unionist and loyalists, nationalists and republicans, but it also considers the underlying causes and consequences of both state and paramilitary violence.

It also looks at the development of the Peace Process from the late 1980s, the Good Friday Agreement and the successes and failures of devolved government after 1998, asking how far ‘the new dispensation’ can provide a long-term stable government for this still-divided region.

Module code:
POLI815

Other modules frequently taken with this module:

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 1

Balance of assessment:
10% Seminar Presentation; 25% Essay; 65% Exam
Module Title:
Understanding the Northern Ireland conflict: interpretations and solutions

Module Convenor:
Dr Kevin Bean

Broad description of module content:
This course looks at the various explanations that have been put forward to explain the outbreak and continuation of political conflict and political violence in Northern Ireland since the late 1960s.

We not only look at the arguments advanced by the political actors in the region such as the British government, Ulster unionists and Irish republicans, but also consider how others have analysed the causes of the conflict. How far were the Troubles the products of economic and social deprivation?

What role does religion play in causing community division and conflict? These are just some of the issues we investigate along with a discussion of the various attempts that have been made at reaching a political settlement since the 1970s, including the Peace Process and the Good Friday Agreement.

Many students take this module alongside IRIS315, but this is not essential. The course does not require any previous knowledge of Northern Irish politics.

Module code:
POLI816

Other modules frequently taken with this module:
Irish Studies and Politics

Credit value:
15

Semester available (2017-18):
Semester 2

Balance of assessment:
10% Seminar Presentation; 25% Essay; 65% Exam