

Programme Title: BA Politics



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	BA Politics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	3 Years FT
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L202
QAA Benchmark Group	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 6
Programme Accredited by	na
Date Programme Specification Approved	17 Feb 2012
Responsible School / Institute	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

The programme is designed to provide students with a strong grounding in various aspects of Political Studies, including political theory, political institutions, political practice, comparative politics, political analysis and international politics. The programme is designed to provide students with a grounding in all of these central issues (especially at levels 4 and 5), but at the same time provide sufficient flexibility to specialise in particular themes, topics and areas if they so wish (especially at level 6, but also to some degree at level 5).

The programme is designed to help students develop a strong sense of intellectual integrity, acquire substantial knowledge in the broad fields of Politics and apply these skills to wider situations.

Aims of the Programme

To:

- Provide students with a coherent, wide-ranging and intellectually stimulating programme including political theory, ideas and ideologies, government and institutions, public policy, area studies, comparative politics and international relations.
- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches.

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- Enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement and to undertake independent research tasks.
- Develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
- Provide a basis for further study in Politics or related disciplines.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successful complete the programme will be able to;

Academic Content:

A 1	the nature of politics, including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of political ideas, institutions and behaviour;
A 2	historical and contemporary political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study;
A 3	appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of politics

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics;
B 2	apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate political texts, issues and problems;
B 3	select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the field of study

Attributes:

C 1	identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts;
C 2	work independently, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management;
C 3	establish a skills and learning agenda through negotiation, participation and communication in group discussions.
C 4	develop a reasoned argument and synthesise information, and communicate this clearly and effectively;
C 5	select and use information, including from IT sources;
C 6	exercise critical judgement and self-reflection on their own learning, and to use this to adapt to new situations in professional settings

How Will You Learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with the School's Teaching and Learning Strategy. The School is committed to developing, maintaining and supporting good and innovative teaching practice, and to fostering independent learning and

critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by the overall framework set out in the College Teaching and Learning Strategy 2006-9, and within this we consider the following areas to be of central strategic importance:

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lecture
- seminars
- workshops
- guest speakers
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work (where requested)

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, WebCT and online reading lists
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Research methods training

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include:

- Unseen examinations
- Critical essays
- Research projects
- Project synopses
- Student presentations
- Literature reviews

How is the Programme Structured?

Year 1 (Level 4)

As with all the degree programmes in the department, the BA in Politics is taught within the academic credit framework system. In the first year students take three compulsory modules in Politics, which provide a grounding in key aspects of the study of politics:

- POL100 Introduction to Politics– 30 credits
- POL103 Comparative Government and Politics– 30 credits
- POL105 Political analysis– 30 credits
- Either POL106 International Relations or 30 credits from other Schools, in modules appropriate to the field of study.

In order to progress from year one to year two, students must take modules to value of 120 credit points and pass modules to the value of 90 credit points at academic level 4 or above.

Year 2 (Level 5)

In the second year all students must take the module POL206 Modern Political Thought (worth 30 credits)*, which familiarises students with the texts of key political thinkers, and develops textual analysis skills. In addition, students must take at least one (30 credit) module from the following three (30 credit) modules; POL245 Theories of State, Economy and Society (30 credits), POL243 British Politics (30 credits) and POL246 Representative Democracy in Practice (30 credits).

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Students can also choose from the other second year modules POL240 International Relations: Theories and Contemporary Issues, POL242 Global Governance (30 credits), POL244 International Politics of the Developing World (30 credits), and POL241 War and Security in World Politics (30 credits).

* Where a student is unable to take the compulsory module at the normal point due to an approved study abroad period, the student may instead take the required modules at the next available opportunity.

Through meetings with advisers, students are supported in their module choices, and helped to develop a cognate programme of study. This approach is sufficiently prescriptive to support the idea that there are certain key things that all Politics students need to study, but also flexible enough to enable students to pursue their studies in accordance with their developing intellectual interests. Students may also select 30 credits from other Schools, in modules appropriate to the field of study.

In order to progress from year two to year three, students must have taken modules to the value of 240 credit points across years one and two and passed modules to the value of 180 credit points, where at least 90 credit points are at level 5 and no more than 150 credit points at level 4.

Year 3 (Level 6)

In the final year students undertake a self-designed research project worth 30 credits, along with modules worth 90 credits from across the range of modules provided by the department.* POL310 The Research Project is a 12,000 maximum word dissertation, and students are provided with one-to-one supervision, additionally supported by a programme of dissertation workshops. All module choices are made with the guidance of the student's personal adviser in the department. Level 6 is designed to allow students to specialise in areas of specific interests, both in their dissertation topic and their module choices. Students may also select 30 credits from other Schools, in modules appropriate to the field of study.

*level 6 15 credit modules can be offered in either semester to cover sabbatical leave and ensure an even provision across both semesters.

In order get the degree award of BA (Hons) Politics, students must have taken modules to the value of 360 credit points across years one, two and three and passed modules to the value of 270 credit points, where at least 90 credit points are at level 6 and no more than 150 credit points at level 4.

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to Politics	POL100	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Comparative Government and Politics	POL103	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Political Analysis	POL105	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to International Relations	POL106	30	4	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Modern Political Thought	POL206	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
International Relations: Theories and Contemporary Issues	POL240	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
War and Security in World Politics	POL241	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
International Politics of the Developing World	POL244	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Global Governance	POL242	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
British Politics	POL243	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Representative Democracy in Practice	POL245	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Theories of State, Economy and Society	POL246	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Politics Research Project	POL310	30	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
Ideology and Political Critique	POL308	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
European Integration and the EU as a Political System	POL330	30	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 & 2
French Politics	POL333	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
The Politics of Economic Ideas	POL337	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Select Topics in British Politics I	POL352	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Select Topics in British Politics I	POL353	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Globalisation: Issues and Debate	POL355	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
US Foreign Policy	POL358	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Gender and Politics	POL361	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Electoral Behaviour	POL325	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Theories of the Self	POL326	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Analysing Public Policy	POL350	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Post-Colonial Politics of the Middle East	POL365	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Case Studies in Ethnic Conflict: Northern Ireland	POL322	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Politics of the New Left: Ideas, Practice and Legacy	POL344	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Theory and Practice in Environmental Politics	POL345	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Civil Society: Theory and Practice	POL348	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
European Politics: National Identity and Ethnicity	POL351	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Theories of Radical Democracy	POL357	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Resistance, Revolutionary Change and World Politics	POL359	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Political Parties and Party Systems	POL360	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Contemporary Political Theory: Issue and Approaches	POL366	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Marxism and World Politics	POL367	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Socialist Political Thought	POL368	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
Latin American Politics	POL369	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2
20th Century Political Thought	POL370	15	6	Elective	3	Semesters 1 / 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

The School considers each candidate individually and conducts admissions interviews.

We typically require a 360 points from 3 A2s.

We welcome well-motivated candidates with non-standard qualifications, including overseas and mature students.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between the School and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the School together with appropriate representation from staff within the School. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. The Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

The School also has a Learning and Teaching Committee, which advises the Colleagues on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes within the School including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student representative are also present at this Committee's .

The School operate an Annual Programme Review of its taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is organised at School-level with the Head of School responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and individual module evaluations.

Academic Support

The School runs induction and welcome back meetings at the start of each semester, to update students on School/QM policies and advise them on studies.

Each student is assigned a dedicated Personal Adviser throughout their years of study to assist them in choosing their modules and advising them on their studies. The School has 1st, 2nd and Final year dedicated Senior Tutors to deal with Extenuating Circumstances, the Senior Tutors are assisted by the Student Support Manager.

To assist with their final year project students are assigned a supervisor whose research matches the topic/subject they wish to focus on.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

NA

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The BA (Hons) Politics programme is not connected to a particular employment path and the department does not have links with a particular set of potential employers. However the subject specific and generic skills that are generated by the programme's learning outcomes prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities. By providing a coherent and thorough overview of the discipline of politics, students are prepared for politics-related careers such as the civil service, journalism, political research, social work, local government and working for a non-governmental organisation. More broadly, the emphasis on written and oral communication in the degree, along with the critical and analytical approaches to problem-solving, equip students for a wide variety of careers, including finance and banking, management training, PR and advertising. By providing a robust academic grounding in the subject students can also progress into higher levels of study, including MSc and research degrees, and professional qualifications in law and teaching.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Professor Ray Kiely

Person responsible for management of programme

Professor Ray Kiely

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

25th Jan 2012

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**

17 Feb 2012