

BA (Hons) Politics Course Diagram [as planned for 2018-19]

LEVEL 4

Semester 1	SS429 Introduction to Politics	SS440 Comparative Political Systems	SS430 Contemporary Social Inequalities
Semester 2	SS450 Foundations in World Politics	SS426 Social Policy: Needs and Problems	SS414 Introduction to Research Methods

LEVEL 5

Semester 1	SS535 Political Ideas	SS552 UK Politics: From Government to Governance OR SS560 Nations and Nationalism*	SS530 Researching Social and Cultural Life OR SS526 Community Engagement: Theory into Practice OR SS561 Political Analysis
Semester 2	SS534 Political Movements	SS533 Social Justice: Welfare and Well-being OR SS540 Mobilization, Movements and Protest	

LEVEL 6

Semester 1	SS652 Politics Topic**	SS627 International Relations	SS629 Dissertation
Semester 2	SS656 Politics in the Middle East OR SS657 Politics in Latin America	SS653 Politics and Policy of the European Union	

PLEASE NOTE: THIS COURSE DIAGRAM MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

New modules are highlighted in yellow (details provided below). All other modules are revised and updates.

*SS560 only available from 2019-20.

** SS652 Politics Topic offers students a range of topics related to specialist staff research areas. Recent topics have included: Human Rights; Health, Politics and Marketization; and the Politics of Participation.

This section explains the modules' content:

LEVEL 4

SS429 Introduction to Politics

This module gives a broad overview of the academic study of politics by focusing on core concepts of political science and political theory, and then applying those to political processes, institutions, ideologies, and the nature of political change. It covers the core conceptual material needed for more advanced study in Politics, but also introduces students to ideas and approaches that can be applied in other social sciences.

SS440 Comparative Political Systems

In this module students will be introduced to some of the key features of politics including institutions, political actors and political processes. Students will identify the most important political hallmarks, for example: the legislature, the executive, political parties, and electoral processes, in at least two contemporary states that illustrate democratic, partially democratic, or/and authoritarian political systems. This will be accompanied by introducing the students to the application of relevant political concepts, such as power and the state, in order to analyse and compare those political systems.

SS430 Contemporary Social Inequalities

This module provides the foundations for undertaking a course of study in social sciences by providing students with the theoretical and conceptual tools to confront normative/ normalising explanations of difference and inequality. Students will understand the ways that 'differences' and inequalities are formed and their consequences for everyday lived realities.

SS450 Foundations in World Politics

This module introduces students to a critical historical perspective on the modern international political system. It examines how the peoples and governments of the world came to be linked through a global system by reviewing some major events and processes of international history. By taking a long view of modern politics, the module offers students the opportunity to place world politics in its historical context. The key topics the module explores are the origins of the international political system, imperial expansion, conflict, global governance, controversy and historiography.

SS426 Social Policy: Needs and Problems

The first part of this module seeks to provide students with the necessary theoretical tools to critically engage with the concepts of human needs and social problems, including concepts such as human rights and social construction. Over the remaining sessions certain themes will be explored to allow exploration of current social problems and the relationship to these to human needs. Printed and online media is used to examine how these issues are constructed and the policy implications of this.

SS414 Introduction to Social Science Research Methods

The module introduces students to the range of research methods used in the social sciences and enables students to develop the skills necessary to collect and analyse both quantitative and qualitative data.

LEVEL 5

SS535 Political Ideas

This module aims to introduce students to ideas on democracy and justice, together with principal political ideas which inform academic debate, and to enable them to engage critically with these ideas.

SS552 UK Politics: From Government to Governance

This module aims to allow students to understand the role, form and evolution of the contemporary British state. It takes as its starting point the post war settlement and the 'Westminster Model' and explores key developments in the form of the state and their influences, including the rise of the 'New Right', 'globalisation', 'Europeanization' and devolution.

SS560 Nations and Nationalism

This module introduces students to political understandings of the nation-state and the phenomenon of nationalism. The module explores the historical construction of nationalism as 'imagined' but analyses how nationalism matters for states and societies. Students will differentiate between the 'state' and the 'nation'. The impact of nationalism in terms of conflict, inclusion, exclusion, identity, power, and representation will be analysed. The module will focus on the key thinkers on nationalism and the seminal texts on the subject.

SS534 Political Movements

The module is designed to allow students to explore the role of political movements in different socio-political and cultural contexts. The module starts by analysing social movements and how they effect change in society. It then explores how political movements impact on participation, representation, recognition, nationalism, instrumentalism and identity politics. The module then considers several case studies involving political movements in several countries and regions and asks how comparison of these cases can advance our political understanding.

SS533 Social Justice: Welfare and Well-being

This module aims to introduce students to key theories and principles of social justice in the formulation of social policies and to provide a critical tool for evaluating and responding to social problems.

SS540 Mobilization, Movements and Protest

This module explores different theoretical understanding of both the ways in which groups mobilize in order to generate or resist social change, and the factors that generate such mobilization. Its scope includes: groups challenging political, economic, social and cultural structures; a range of modes of mobilization, from those addressing state institutions to those generating their own forms of social organization; mobilizations in local, national, global, and mediated contexts.

SS530 Researching Social and Cultural Life

Students learn about qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods research and then, leading on from their Level 4 module in research methods, they have the opportunity to choose an option in more advanced quantitative methods or more advanced qualitative methods. All students gain experience in the design and practice of research including skills in developing a research proposal for their Level 6 dissertation.

SS526 Community Engagement: Theory into Practice

This module aims to provide a different experience from other modules available at university. It offers the opportunity to explore personal values and aspirations while taking a 50 hour project/

voluntary engagement with a local not for profit organisation. The assessments encourage students to look at their personal journey as well as the policy and practice of the organisation in which their project is based.

SS561 Political Analysis

This module seeks to develop an understanding of debates in political analysis including epistemological and ontological arguments, debates around agency and structure and discussion of constructivism, rational choice and institutionalism, considering how these approaches inform various perspectives on the study of Politics.

LEVEL 6

SS652 Politics Topic

This module aims to enable students to study areas of political interest and research amongst staff within the School. Special topics will be structured around analysis of substantive issues appropriate to the current study of politics. Students will apply concepts and theories to a specific topic; they will synthesise a range of research material and reach their own conclusions.

SS627 International Relations

Students will be introduced to the relationships, ideas and principles underpinning historical and contemporary global governance. It will explore how International Relations (IR) theory can be used to explain and understand how the world 'hangs together'. The module will explore conceptual issues including governance, power, conflict, security, political economy, law, and governance.

SS656 Politics in the Middle East

This module aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage with important debates in the study of politics in the Middle East. The module takes a largely thematic approach to politics in the region, exploring relevant case studies within these themes. Topics under analysis include the legacies of colonialism, independence movements and nationalism, political economy, the role of religion in politics, and questions of democracy and authoritarianism.

SS657 Politics in Latin America

The purpose of the module is to introduce students to the study of politics in Latin America. Primary importance is given to the study and understanding of key themes and perspectives in the study of politics in the region. In addition, the module offers opportunities to develop in-depth understanding of specific country-based case studies both as part of the content delivered and through student-led study and research. The module will embrace a wide and inclusive understanding of the subject. It is aimed to do this in a way that will engage and challenge the students' thinking.

SS653 Politics and Policy of the European Union

This module will provide an understanding of the development of the European Union, integration theories, institutions, policies, and decision making procedures. Students will be introduced to the key theoretical explanations of European integration as well as core policies including: economic and monetary union, foreign policy, enlargement, agricultural policy. It will also introduce the various challenges to the EU such as the democratic deficit and growing euro-scepticism. The module will focus on Brexit negotiations.

SS629 Dissertation

This enquiry-based module is designed to enable students to show their ability to present fully developed and evidenced arguments of an academic nature on a topic of their choice in an extended written submission. It provides an opportunity to demonstrate the research, critical thinking, organisational and writing skills developed over the course of an undergraduate degree.

STUDENT CONSULTATION

Feedback has been elicited from students and provided by students to staff in a number of ways including module evaluations, through course reps at each level, and via level-wide meetings with the course leader. The planned changes set out above have been outlined in six student consultation meetings where students were asked for feedback (three were held on 16th November and three on 30th November 2017), as well as in a Courses Board on 15th November attended by Politics course reps.

REQUEST FOR FURTHER STUDENT FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED CHANGES

We invite you to submit any additional comments on the proposed changes or any other aspects of the Politics BA(Hons) as part of the Curriculum Development Review.

Comments can be made via email to your Course Leader, Francesca Burke (F.Burke2@brighton.ac.uk).

Deadline for comments is 30th March 2018