Royal Holloway,
University of London

Department of Politics and International Relations
(including Philosophy)

2017-2018
Course Information Booklet
Dear Students….

What is this document about?

- At this time of the year, we ask you to indicate your selection of course options for next year; details of which courses are running are listed in this document. The combination of courses which you can take depends upon your degree programme.
- The information contained in this booklet is provisional and subject to change. The final programme will be confirmed and updated in the Departmental Student Handbooks 2017-2018 during Welcome Week/Registration Week in September 2017.
- New courses being offered by new members of staff will be advertised later in the year.
- Please read the information below carefully and take time to consider your courses fully before making your choices.

How to submit your course option choices.

- We are currently in the process of finalising a web form submission system; further details will be given at the Options Fair at 3:15pm on Wednesday 15th March.

Who to contact for further advice?

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<tr>
<td>General PIR advice</td>
<td>Dr John Mattausch Academic Co-ordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:J.Mattausch@rhul.ac.uk">J.Mattausch@rhul.ac.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Philosophy advice</td>
<td>Dr Henry Somers-Hall Philosophy Programme Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Henry.Somers-Hall@rhul.ac.uk">Henry.Somers-Hall@rhul.ac.uk</a></td>
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- We will make every effort to ensure that your course choices are met, however this may not be possible for every student
- Courses may be withdrawn if there is insufficient demand for them
- Additional/new courses will be advertised if/when they become available
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SECOND YEAR EUROPEAN STUDIES COURSES

ES2001 UNDERSTANDING THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICS AND THEORY (POL / IR) (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course will analyse the contemporary politics of the European Union and its institutions, amid the challenges of the triple crisis of economics, migration and Brexit. The first term will begin with an introduction to the European Union as a political system (weeks 1 and 2) followed by an overview of the European Union’s historical development (weeks 3 and 4). The remainder of the first term will then focus on the European Union’s political institutions (executive, legislative and judicial) and on the democratic deficit. The second term will focus on contestation of the European Union in its first half and on theory in the second half, in order to explain how the EU developed and the challenges that it faces. Sessions in the first half of term 2 comprise Euroscepticism (week 11), party politics (week 12), public opinion (week 13), Brexit and EU-UK relations (week 14), and European Parliament elections (week 15). The theory sessions comprise federalism (week 16), neo-functionalism (week 17), liberal intergovernmentalism (week 18) and the new institutionalisms (week 19), before the revision session in week 20.

Course Leader – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

Note: this course is a prerequisite for studying the third year courses: ES3002 and ES3003 Public Policy and Foreign Policy in the European Union.
SECOND YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

PR2440 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course explores the key theoretical thinkers and debates in IR. These develop a variety of ways of thinking about IR, drawing on questions about the nature of power, identity and ethics in politics and what happens to these in the international realm. The course is divided into two parts. Part one explores mainstream theories, including realism, liberalism and constructivism. Part two deals with critical approaches to IR theory, including Marxism, post-structuralism, feminism and post-colonialism. The emphasis throughout the course is on reading original key thinkers. What problems and issues did these thinkers confront and how did they try to explain them? How well are their concerns and approaches reflected in current IR issues and debates? Which theories best help us understand the practice of international politics? At the end of each part of the course, there will be a special revision session where the class will watch and discuss a film.

Course Leader – Dr Ivica Petrikova/TBC
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Assessed coursework (50%) End of year examination (50%)

PR2480 DEMOCRACY IN BRITAIN
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course explores the theory and practice of modern British democratic politics. It is designed primarily to familiarise students with the ways in which British government has evolved, and how it continues to operate in an era of mass democracy. Students taking the course will gain knowledge of the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the political system, but they will also learn about why the system operates in the way it does, as well as the implications for the quality of democratic governance in Britain. The course is organised into four parts. Part I briefly introduces the emergence of Britain as a democracy and the nature of the current political system. Part II then looks in greater depth at various components of the modern democratic state, including electoral systems, referendums, Parliament and the core executive. Part III addresses the major democratic forces in modern British politics, namely the major political parties, which shape, as well as operate in, the political system. Finally, Part IV looks at some of the recent add-ons to Britain’s democratic terrain, including devolution, membership of the European Union and a more assertive judiciary. Part IV concludes with a reassessment of what democracy means in Britain today.

Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)
PR2490  CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL THEORY  POL
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – Underlying policy debate in contemporary states are political ideas and theories about how we should organise the state, how much people should participate in politics, whether we should redistribute wealth within the state; what human rights we should endorse, on what basis the state may punish people; whether the liberal democratic capitalist state is patriarchal or exploitative; and what our obligations are to strangers overseas. The aim of Contemporary Political Theory is to examine these key concepts and the thinkers who have developed them in political theory today. Specifically, it examines themes of political obligation; social justice (including exploitation, gender justice and global justice); punishment; democracy, community, utilitarianism; human rights; freedom and toleration; and writers including Rawls, Sandel, macintyre, Okin, Foucault and Connolly. The course aims to show how abstract ideas have practical relevance, and conversely how current debates in politics are illuminated by thinking about them theoretically.

Course Leaders – Dr Jonathan Seglow, Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2500  INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY  IR
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course examines the relationship between states and markets, power and wealth, in International Political Economy (IPE). It introduces students to the key concepts and theoretical debates in IPE. It tackles issues such as the globalisation of trade, finance, and production, the continued problems of development and democratic governance in the world economy, and emerging questions surrounding global flows, networks and spaces. Students are taken through the history of regimes, crises, and competing theories of political economy from the nineteenth century to the present day. Throughout the course the emphasis is on how political institutions operate in international politics to regulate the creation of wealth, and who benefits from these arrangements.

Course Leader – Prof Andreas Goldthau

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2540  POLITICAL BEHAVIOUR  POL
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – As the primary mechanism with which to implement the principle of popular sovereignty, electoral participation has received attention of academics, policy makers and the media alike. This course focusses on the various ways in which individuals directly or indirectly influence political choices at various levels of the political system. It examines the relationship between voters and political parties, and considers the theory and practice of how electors decide whether to vote (or not) and whom to vote for. However, voting in elections is only one way in which citizens can try to influence policy
outcomes. In this course more direct forms of political action, such as participation in protests and social movements, are also addressed. The course contains both a theoretical and an empirical component. Students will be encouraged to assess the evidence for competing explanations of political behaviour through readings drawn from research on countries across Western Europe and North America. Besides an understanding of the main theories and main questions in the field of political behaviour, the course will provide students with a thorough understanding of how to conduct systematic empirical research and critically appraise it.

**Course Leader** – Dr Oliver Heath

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

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**PR2550 WAR AND SECURITY IN WORLD POLITICS**

(IR)

**(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)**

**Course Description** – This course provides comprehensive overview for second year undergraduate students of the subject of Security Studies as a sub-field of International Relations. The course is divided into three parts. The first section will look at the issue of war and how war are/should be fought. The second section looks at the issue of security itself and how this has changed from a theoretical perspective. The third section analyses a variety of security issues, including nuclear weapons, cyber security, genocide and small arms.

**Course Leader** – TBC

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

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**PR2560 MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT**

(POL)

**(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)**

**Course Description** – This course will introduce students to major political thinkers from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, and including the works of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, Mill, Marx and Nietzsche. The ideas articulated by these thinkers continue to underpin contemporary debates about the nature of freedom, human rights, value pluralism, popular sovereignty, state legitimacy, and the modern condition. The course aims to introduce students to the themes, argumentative strategies, and critical interpretations of these thinkers, and to help them develop the skills to critically assess these interpretations against the texts themselves. It also aims to show how study of these thinkers illuminates contemporary debates even where these debates no longer make reference to them.

**Course Leader** – Dr Michael Bacon/Dr Nathan Widder

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)
PR2580 INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – Students will tackle a number of contemporary debates on international organisations that are central to public debate: the meaning and forms of international organisations, issues of authority, power and legitimacy; how states and non-state actors (particularly ingos and Business) have shaped the nature and scope of international cooperation and the effects that participation in international institutions has upon policy-making, styles of governance and institutional configuration at the national and sub-national levels. We will also examine the role of hegemonic powers, in particular the impact of the United States over the post-war and post-Cold War eras and the implications of the rise of new powers such as Brazil, China and India upon international organisations. A key question that the course will examine is the extent to which these challenges are leading to a shift away from an international system characterized by the notion of state sovereignty and the control of policy development and implementation by the central political authority of the nation-state, to a diffusion of power and competencies. It will examine the diffusion of competencies ‘horizontally’ to private actors such as ingos and Transnational Corporations and ‘vertically’ to regional and international organisations. The module will critically assess the analytical leverage that can be attained about these questions through the application of IR theory: realist, liberal and constructivist approaches. It will also focus on approaches drawn from political science theory, notably the literatures on multi-level governance, public policy theories, neo-Marxism and ‘new’ institutionalism.

Course Leader – Dr Alister Brisbourne/Dr Tom Dyson
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Final examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR2590 THE POLITICS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
(Full unit course – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course aims to introduce students to the historical origins, key concepts and current debates in the modern study of human rights. It will cover a range of topics including humanitarian intervention, genocide, transitional justice, terrorism, economic rights and the promotion of human rights by non-governmental organizations and utilizing “new media”. It will give students a broad overview of the field and provide a foundation in the fundamentals integral for further study in specific areas. In addition to the theoretical origins of human rights, attention will be paid to current policy debates and efforts to measure the impact of various human rights mechanisms.

Course Leader – TBC
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – End of year examination (40%) and coursework (60%)
PR2600  INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL COMMUNICATION
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of how citizens, politicians and the media interact across Western democracies during both electoral and governing periods. The first part of the course will focus on the production and consumption of political news, while the second part will address election campaigns and their effects as well as focusing on contemporary debates in political communication, including ethical issues. While the course will cover key aspects of political communication in the United Kingdom, the focus will be mostly comparative. Seminars are centred on practical activities that allow students to apply the knowledge presented in the course to contemporary real-world examples of political communication in action. Examples include analysis of political speeches, advertisements, candidate debates, campaign strategies, and news coverage of political issues.

Course Leader – Professor Ben O'Loughlin
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and activity-based seminars
Assessment – Essay 1 due at the end of Autumn term (25%), Essay 2 due at the end of Spring term (25%), End of year three-hour unseen examination (50%)
SECOND YEAR PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PY2001  INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 1: FROM KANT TO HEGEL
(Half course unit, Autumn)

Course Description – This course introduces students to aspects of key texts by Kant and Hegel which form the foundation of the major debates in both European, and some analytical, philosophy. Students will be introduced to the interpretation of difficult philosophical texts. Major issues concerning epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics will be introduced which will be central to the rest of their philosophical and other studies in the humanities and social sciences.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Coursework: Essay (30%), Essay (70%)

PY2002  MIND AND WORLD
(Half course unit – Spring)

Course Description – This course examines some of the major metaphysical and epistemological problems that arise when attempting to understand how mind and language figure in human interactions with and in the world. It centres on attempts to conceptualise, solve, or avoid mind-body related problems in the analytic tradition and aims to contrast these with phenomenological and existential investigations of cognate phenomena.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay, 2,000-2,500 words (50%); Examination: 2 hours (50%)

PY2003  INTRODUCTION TO EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 2: THE CRITIQUE OF IDEALISM
(Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – Following on from PY2001, this course introduces students to key nineteenth century texts which are critical of ‘Idealism’, and which adumbrate the notion of the ‘end of philosophy/metaphysics’. The course will be run on the basis of independent study, guided by the course staff.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1,500 words (30%); Essay 2,500 words (70%)
PY2004 VARIETIES OF SCEPTICISM
(Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don’t in fact have knowledge – the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course traces the fate of the Cartesian concern with certainty through the sceptical naturalism of Hume and Kant’s attempt to rescue the idea of metaphysics through to the contemporary revival of interest in scepticism.

Course Leader – TBC
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Coursework (50%) Examination (50%)

PY2006 MODERN FRENCH PHILOSOPHY
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The aim of this course is to introduce students to the central ethical, metaphysical, phenomenological concerns of the 20th and 21st century French philosophical tradition. We will look at a major work by a number of central figures in the tradition, focusing on the way these thinkers enter into dialogue with each other. The course aims to develop students’ knowledge and appreciation of the importance and continuing relevance of the tradition, and some of the key movements within it, such as the existentialist, post-structuralist, and postmodernist movements. It also aims to develop students’ abilities to interpret philosophical texts, and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

Course Leader – Dr Henry Somers-Hall
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Text-based Analysis (50%), Essay (50%)

PY2102 PRACTICAL ETHICS
(Half course unit – Autumn)

Course Description - The aim of this course is to allow students to develop their abilities to apply theoretical ethical considerations to practical ethical situations. We will look at a number of different ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia, the rights of animals, what rights the state has to constrain the behaviour of its citizens, human enhancement (through technology, medicine, DNA manipulation), the relationship between justice and punishment, and our responsibilities to the environment. Each week there will be a lecture addressing a different issue, followed by a seminar in which influential papers on the topic are discussed to determine how successful they are in analysing the ethical issue at stake. We will consider the abilities of various ethical theories to adequately characterise our concrete ethical life, and determine what this characterisation says about us as ethical individuals.
PY2104  VARIETIES OF SCEPTICISM  
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don’t in fact have knowledge – the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course traces the fate of the Cartesian concern with certainty through the sceptical naturalism of Hume and Kant’s attempt to rescue the idea of metaphysics through to the contemporary revival of interest in scepticism.

Course Leader – TBC  
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars  
Assessment – Coursework (50%) Examination (50%)

PY3106  PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE (in Second Year)  
(Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – This course on the philosophy of language will examine views on the nature of meaning, reference, truth, and their relationships. Other topics may include relationships between language and logic, language and knowledge, language and reality, language and acts performed through its use, and ethical issues arising from language use.

Course Leader – Dr Rebecca Roache  
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars  
Assessment – Coursework (60%) Examination (40%)

PY2107  MAJOR THINKER  
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The aim of this course is provide students with a detailed understanding of a key philosopher from the history of philosophy. The philosopher dealt with on the course will be chosen based on the research interests of the course tutor, and could focus on any philosopher from Greek philosophy up to the present. The course will present the major works, and background, of one philosopher, showing how their ideas develop, and the systematic connections between their texts.

Course Leader – TBC
**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Coursework (100%)

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**CL2654**  
**BODY AND SOUL IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY**  
*(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Term)*

**Course Description** – This course aims to develop students’ understanding of ancient philosophical arguments, ability to evaluate them as arguments both in their own terms and in comparison with rival positions, and awareness of the importance of assessing against their cultural background positions that have been adopted by a particular thinker. The content will deal with philosophical issues relating to body, soul and mind in Presocratic thought and in selected texts of Plato (Phaedo, Republic 4 and 10, Timaeus), Aristotle (De Anima), the Hellenistic philosophers (Stoics and Epicureans) and Plotinus. Topics covered will include the relationship between body and soul, the immortality of the soul, parts/faculties of the soul, the concept of a world soul and the Neoplatonic view of soul as a metaphysical hypostasis.

**Course Leader** – TBC

**Course Delivery** – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

**Assessment** – Coursework (20%) Examination (80%)

Second year single-honours and joint honours philosophy students are also permitted to take one unit’s worth (30 credits) of the following PR-coded courses:

**PR2560 Modern Political Thought**  
**PR2490 Contemporary Political Theory**
THIRD YEAR EUROPEAN STUDIES COURSES

ES3002 PUBLIC POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION POL / IR
(1/2 course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – The course has the objective of introducing students to political science and international relations approaches for understanding the delivery of policy and administration in the European Union. This half unit course focuses on areas of public policy in the EU (de-regulation, re-regulation, budgets and spending) and includes the Single Market, the Euro and its crisis, Justice, Home Affairs and Counter-Terrorism, the EU budget, Agriculture, Regional Development, and Social and Environment policies.

Course Leaders – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – There will be one lecture and one tutorial per week. Both are compulsory.


Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

ES3003 FOREIGN POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION POL / IR
(1/2 course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – The course has the objective of introducing students to political science and international relations approaches for understanding Europe’s foreign relations, with respect to its political, security and economic impacts. This half unit course addresses the EU's international role and looks at its Common Foreign and Security Policy, relationship with NATO, the US and Russia, its connection to its immediate neighbours in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, and its role in global trade negotiations.

Course Leaders – Dr Giacomo Benedetto

Course Delivery – There will be one lecture and one tutorial per week. Both are compulsory.


Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)
THIRD YEAR POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COURSES

PR3000 DISSERTATION (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

- This course is not offered to Liberal Arts or Minor students.
- Joint Honours students may take either PR3000 or PR3100, but not both.

Course Description – In the third year of your degree course you are required to write a Dissertation of 9,000 words in length. This Dissertation is equivalent to one full Course Unit. It is an opportunity for you to examine, in greater depth, an area of interest to you. Each student will have a member of staff to act as a supervisor. The role of the supervisor is to help and guide you with your Dissertation. A series of Dissertation workshops is held during the first five weeks of the Autumn term, attendance at which is compulsory.

Course Leader – TBC
Course Delivery – Dissertation workshops and individual supervision.
Assessment – Dissertation (95%) and dissertation proposal (5%)

PR3100 POLITICS IN ACTION (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

- This course is not offered to Liberal Arts or Minor students.
- Joint Honours students may take either PR3000 or PR3100, but not both.

Course Description – A university degree opens many doors to careers but the experience and skills enhanced during a placement provide extra dimension to the qualification. The Politics in Action placement scheme is a third-year undergraduate, assessed, full-unit module. It has a novel structure which combines participation in a workplace environment for one day a week during term time (and three days a week for each term’s reading week) with scholarly reflection on the nature of the organizational, professional, and policy contexts of the placement.

Course Leader – TBC/Dr Tom Dyson
Course Delivery – Work Placement/Internship
Assessment – Coursework only: mid-module skills report (25%); presentation (15%); placement report (60%)

PR3520 THE POLITICS OF THE INTERNET AND THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – This course provides a detailed examination of the use and impact of the Internet and other information and communication technologies in global, state, party and civil societal structures. It focuses on a number of important contemporary debates about the role and influence of network technologies on the values, processes and outcomes of: global governance institutions; public bureaucracies; representative institutions including political parties and legislatures; pressure groups and social movements. It also examines persistent and controversial policy problems thrown up by
‘information age’ icts, specifically: the digital divide; privacy and surveillance; intellectual property issues; and the power of the new media sector in domestic and global economies.

**Course Leader** – Professor Andrew Chadwick  
**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars  
**Assessment** – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

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**PR3540 RADICAL POLITICAL THEORY**  
**POL**  
*(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring terms)*

**Course Description** – This course aims to introduce students to key questions and arguments concerning the relationship between identity, power, meaning and knowledge, through close examination of texts by Hegel, Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Adorno, Lyotard and Foucault. The course should lead students to appreciate critiques of modern Western societies and their values, which not only underpin recent “postmodernist” or “post-structuralist” thought but also form crucial theoretical elements in debates about gender, multiculturalism, nationalism, post-colonialism, new social movements, etc., across the social sciences and humanities. It aims to develop in students the ability to critically reflect about the nature and scope of politics and ethics through engagement with texts that have sought to provide insights and new ways of thinking about these realms.

**Course Leader** – Dr Nathan Widder  
**Course Delivery** – 2 hour weekly seminars  
**Assessment** – End of year examination (60%) and assessed coursework (40%)

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**PR3550 THE BRITISH IN INDIA: A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY**  
**POL**  
*(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)*

**Course Description** – This course begins with the arrival of the British, in 1608, in Gujarat, west India. We examine why and how the British came, how they lived and conducted themselves and their business during the 17th century, how they began their rise to power in the 18th century, the relationship of the British to the Native States, British rule before and after the Mutiny/Uprising, the growth of Bombay, the life and campaigning of Gujarat’s most famous son, Gandhi, and the nationalist struggles in west India. We examine competing explanations for how the British were, with very few forces, able to conquer and rule India, and we consider the comparative technological development of the two countries. We conclude by looking at how Gujarat fared after Independence, ending in 2002 with the Godhra massacre. By the end of the course, students should: be familiar with British–Gujarati history and its chief dynamics; have a grounded understanding of the interplay of economic and socio–political formations, identity and cultural conflict; understand the dynamics and character of past and present–day Indian migratory movements.

A feature of this course is the use of original accounts written by Britishers living in India; these are all available on the Course’s Moodle site in PDF files, or on the Web.

**Course Leader** – Dr John Mattausch  
**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars  
**Assessment** – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)
PR3560 THE POLITICS OF TOLERATION  
(Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – Toleration is about not interfering with other people’s freedom when you believe what they are doing is wrong. In contemporary societies marked by different cultures, religions, ideologies and convictions, toleration is an indispensable virtue for citizens. This course explores the political theory of toleration, examining its key concepts and the practical controversies associated with it. Topics covered include; the harm paradigm - J.S. Mill’s On Liberty; the offence paradigm; freedom of expression (including ‘hate speech’); freedom of association and illiberal minorities; the headscarves debate; freedom of religious conscience; the right to cultural survival; the justification of paternalism; and international toleration (human rights and cultural relativism).

Course Leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow
Course Delivery – Two hour weekly lecture/seminar
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3570 SOCIAL JUSTICE: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE  
(Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – Social justice is concerned with the fair distribution in society of goods such as economic opportunity and money and other resources. This course considers some of the key concepts and debates about social justice that have taken place in political theory in recent years. The course is more theoretical and considers questions including the nature and meaning of equality, why exactly discrimination is wrong, the value of meritocracy and how parents’ partiality towards their children prevent can stand in the way of equal opportunities for all. We also consider the debate over a basic or citizens’ income, the moral limits of economic markets, citizens’ partiality to their own interests in the light of global poverty, and the ethics of immigration, and of climate change. Throughout, the emphasis is on how normative political theory can illuminate real world debates about justice.

Course Leader – Dr Jonathan Seglow
Course Delivery – Two hour weekly lecture/seminar
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3600 CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST POLITICS  
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The course surveys political systems, movements, conflicts and trends in the contemporary Middle East. It explores the international and regional context of current problems and conditions, including the process of state formation, variations in regime consolidation and state–society relations, regional rivalries and conflicts, the Islamist challenge, the political economy of development, and democracy and civil society.

Course Leader – TBC
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3620 US FOREIGN POLICY  
(Full course unit Autumn and Spring Term)  
IR

Course Description – This course focuses on the foreign policy of the United States of America. It outlines the theoretical frameworks for understanding US foreign policy as well as the founding principles and ideas that underpin the US approach to international politics. This goes back to the founding fathers and America’s initial rise to power (up until the end of World War II) to analyse the key themes that shape US foreign policy today. The course then analyses the historical development of US foreign policy right to the present day. It also analyses foreign policy in key regions, such as the Middle East, as well as core issues. It concludes with a look at the argument on US decline and what US foreign policy may look like in the future.

Course Leader – Dr Clara Eroukhmanoff (TBC)

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3710 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS  
(Half course unit – Spring Term)  
POL

Course Description – This course enables final-year students to explore in depth two different topics in British politics. In the autumn term we focus on the prime ministership, which is one of the oldest headships of government and much the most powerful office in the British political system. We will examine its history, its relationship with other institutions and actors in the core executive, and its holders’ capacity to influence policy and provide leadership. In the spring term, we focus on the Labour Party in opposition. Labour is the main party of the centre-left in Britain but has been out of office since 2010. We will examine the electoral, programmatic and organisational challenges facing the party, and draw on insights from political science to make sense of its present troubles. In both parts of the course, students will be encouraged to confront issues of conceptualisation and measurement in the study of British politics; and by its end, students will have acquired a detailed knowledge of the two topics and the associated literatures.

Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen

Course Delivery – Weekly seminars

Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3720 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS  
(Half course unit – Autumn term)  
POL

Course Description – Please see the course description for PR3710: this unit is the autumn-term part of that module and focuses on the British Prime Ministership.

Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen
Course Delivery – Weekly seminars
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3730 ADVANCED SEMINAR IN BRITISH POLITICS
(Half course unit – Spring term)

Course Description – Please see the course description for PR3710: this unit is the spring-term part of that module and focuses on the Labour Party in opposition.
Course Leader – Dr Nick Allen
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – End of year examination (50%) and assessed coursework (50%)

PR3760 THE POLITICS OF AFRICA
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The course provides an introduction to the key themes of African politics, both within the continent and in its international relations. There are three parts. The first gives an overview of colonial and post-colonial politics across the continent, and an introduction to the key theoretical approaches to the study of African politics. The second explores the themes of tradition and modernity within domestic politics and the politics of conflict. The third focuses on external intervention in Africa, exploring the ways in which liberal actors have constructed and intervened in Africa.
Course Leader – Dr Julia Gallagher
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Final examination (40%), assessed course work (60%)

PR3770 DEFENCE IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description: This module analyses the content and sources of change in defence policy during the post-Cold War era. It focuses on changes to the objectives of defence policy, military capabilities, force structures and doctrines of selected major military powers (US, UK, France, Germany, China, Russia). It analyses how these reforms have helped states meet their central security challenges. In addition, the module describes how defence policies are embedded within regional and international institutions and explores the sources of defence cooperation. It also analyses the roles of non-state actors, notably private military companies and ngos, and their implications for defence policy and practice. This module is informed by the insights of political science and International Relations approaches to the sources of military change.
Course Leader – Dr Clara Eroukhmanoff/Dr Tom Dyson
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Final examination (50%), assessed course work (50%)
PR3860  UNDERSTANDING CHINA’S RISE: DOMESTIC POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY  (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – If the history of modern China was written as a novel its author would be accused of losing touch with reality. During the twentieth century, China witnessed the collapse of a centuries-old imperial system, two revolutions, foreign occupation and civil war, the introduction of a radical form of communism under Mao Zedong, the retreat from communism following the death of Mao and the adoption of capitalist style economic reforms, albeit still under the auspices of a nominally communist ruling party. China has started the twenty-first century much as it started the last – in a state of transition and flux. Home to around a quarter of the world’s population, the implementation of post-Mao economic reforms has made China one of the fastest growing economies in the world. As China’s military expenditure increases and economy expands, many believe that China will emerge as the next leading superpower, eclipsing the United States some time during the next decade or so. Others predict that China is on the brink of collapse, implosion and disaster with hundreds of millions currently out of work, gross social and economic inequality and rampant official corruption.

This course seeks to understand contemporary Chinese politics. The first half of this course will examine the domestic aspect of China. Will China become a democracy? Why does the one-party system in China thrive? How does the communist party achieve economic opening while maintaining the authoritarian rule politically? Are we witnessing the coming collapse of the party? The second half of this course focuses on China’s foreign relations. It is widely believed that China will (or even has already) replace the US to become the next leading superpower. Many argue that a rising China and a declining US will be engaged in security competition with considerable potential for war. Others argue that given its economic and political openness, the current international order is well able to accommodate China’s peaceful rise. What are the implications of China’s emergence as a global power? Can China rise peacefully? Will China overthrow the exiting international order, or become a part of it? How to deal with the rise of China? The course will enable students to understand China’s emergence as a global power and its implications.

Course Leader – Dr Jinghan Zeng

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Final examination (50%), assessed course work (50%)

PR3870  GLOBAL ENERGY POLICY  (Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course offers a global perspective on energy. It covers key aspect of international energy policy and politics, including the global security nexus of oil and gas (discussing, for instance, European import dependence on Russian natural gas or China’s ‘going out’ strategy); global market failure and global public goods in energy (covering, among other, producer cartels such as OPEC, consumer clubs such as IEA, or the role of transit in global energy trade); the sustainability nexus (the climate change challenge and global energy transition); and the global development angle (energy as part of the Millennium Development Goals and resource governance). The course will put a focus on the
empirical context in which global energy problems occur but with a view to linking them back to broader conceptual frameworks.

Course Leader – Professor Andreas Goldthau
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Final examination (50%), assessed course work (50%)

PR3880 REFUGEES AND MIGRATION IN WORLD POLITICS
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course presents an interdisciplinary, social science perspective on the central issues in the study of forced migration. Although rooted in International Relations, it takes an expansive view of the discipline, integrating perspectives from sociology, comparative politics, history, gender studies, critical race theory, and so on. It is designed to include material and academic voices from the Global South, as well as the voices of refugees themselves. The course focuses mainly on refugees, although it touches upon other areas of forced migration such as internal displacement and environmental displacement. Each week will introduce key examples from a diverse range of geographical contexts. Lectures and classes will start from real world problems, identify key underlying debates, and bring concepts and academic literature to bear on those debates.

The course culminates in a simulation, where students will take on the roles of a variety of representatives from key states (in and outside the EU), European institutions, other inter-governmental agencies (IOM, UNHCR, etc), civil society actors (MSF, etc), and party political elites. The agenda (notwithstanding significant changes in real world politics between the time of writing and the simulation) will be to renegotiate the Common European Asylum Policy (CEAP), its attendant directives (on eligibility, reception, and so on), and the Dublin II Protocol. The hoped for result would include a response to the immediate humanitarian crisis, and a clearer vision on the long-term future of European asylum policy and refugee policy.

Course Leader – Dr Will Jones
Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars
Assessment – Final Examination (40%), Coursework Essays (40%), Participation in the Simulation (20%)

PR3890 AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This module provides students with an advanced understanding of the institutions, politics, history and culture of the United States. It offers a thorough grounding in the scholarly literature on American Political Development (APD) and requires students to evaluate that literature critically through seminar discussion and oral presentations, two pieces of assessed coursework, and an unseen examination. Using diverse methodological approaches, students examine data sources alongside major scholarly works in APD. The course deploys the tools of historical institutionalism and APD to provide advanced knowledge of the domestic politics and history of the United States, with a particular focus
upon the public policy development, the welfare state, and religious history and politics, alongside the institutional arrangements of Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court; the operation of the federal bureaucracy, the party system, elections, and state and local politics. By the end of the course students are prepared to engage in their own dissertation research in the field of US politics and to excel in the study of American politics, culture and history. This course locates one of the world’s most influential democracies in temporal and comparative context.

Course Leader – Dr Ursula Hackett

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Essay 1 (Term 1) 25%
              Essay 2 (Term 2) 25%
              We will hold a mini-conference in Week 9 of Term 2. Students will write an essay, present their argument and give feedback.
              Exam (Term 3) 50%  3 hours, covering entire course

PR3910 THE POLITICS OF RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE (POL)
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – This course seeks to understand the politics and societies of post-communist Russia and Eastern Europe, through four inter-disciplinary thematic parts. Part I of the course focuses on how communist legacies and modes of post-communist transition shaped the region’s different political systems. Students will discuss Europeanisation processes in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and the specific post-communist trajectory of the Russian Federation, from Yeltsin to Putin. Part II explores the building and running of post-communist states. It will introduce the students to the role of nationalism and the politics of memory in post-communist state-building, the varieties of capitalism that emerged in the region, elections and the peculiarities of post-communist party systems, and the role of corruption and informality. Part III zeroes in on post-communist societies, exploring key issues such as socio-economic inequality, gender politics, political participation, grassroots politics, and migration to and from the region. Part IV concludes the course by analysing current developments in the region and their wider relevance. It discusses Ukraine, as a complex case study that brings together many of the themes explored during the course; it introduces the students to the latest scholarly debates on democratic backsliding in CEE; it discusses the possibility of comparing East and West; and it wraps up what we know and what we need to learn about the past, present and future of the region.

The course foresees a strong component of student participation. Students will work on case-studies that they will then present and discuss comparatively in class. They will also use their case-study research to write two substantial pieces of coursework. By the end of the course students will have a nuanced understanding of post-communist politics and will be able to compare both within the region and with countries outside the region.

Course Leader – Dr Licia Cianetti

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Assessed course work (50%), Final examination (50%)
Course Description – This course examines the concepts of freedom and democracy by analysing different theoretical understandings, together with their strengths and limitations. It is organised around the following questions. Is political freedom simply a matter of the ability to act unimpeded by others, or does it require forms of activity in which individuals act with others? Is political freedom guaranteed by the possession of certain rights, or is democracy necessary for freedom? And why is it widely thought that democracies are freer than other political system?

Course Leader – Dr Michael Bacon

Course Delivery – Weekly lectures and seminars

Assessment – Coursework (50%) Examination (50%)
THIRD YEAR PHILOSOPHY COURSES

PY3001 DISSEMINATION IN PHILOSOPHY
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)

Course Description – The dissertation is compulsory for all Philosophy students who are not taking a
dissertation or similar piece of extended work in their combined subject. It presents the opportunity to
demonstrate your skills as independent learners by embarking upon a substantial (8-10,000 words),
significant piece of written work. Ordinarily, the dissertation topic will derive from a course already taken,
or one the student has committed to take in their final year.
Course Leader – TBC
Assessment – Dissertation, 8,000-10,000 words (100%)

PY3002 MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 1: FROM HUSSERL TO HEIDEGGER
(Half course unit – Autumn Term)

Course Description – This course introduces students to the work of two of the defining figures in
modern philosophy. The aim is to enable students to grasp the key ideas in phenomenology and of
Heidegger’s interrogation of the notion of ‘being’. Moreover, the point is to show what consequences
these ideas have for key political, social and other issues in the modern world.
Course Leader – TBC
Assessment – Coursework (100%)

PY3003 MODERN EUROPEAN PHILOSOPHY 2: POSTSTRUCTURALISM AND ITS CRITICS
(Half course unit – Spring Term)

Course Description – Following on from PY3002, this course introduces students to key developments in
European Philosophy after the Second World War, which form the basis of contemporary debates in both
philosophy and other subjects. The course will be run on the basis of independent study, guided by the
course staff.
Course Leader – TBC
Assessment – Coursework (100%)

PY3006 MODERN FRENCH PHILOSOPHY
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Term)

Course Description - The aim of this course is to introduce students to the central ethical, metaphysical,
phenomenological concerns of the 20th and 21st century French philosophical tradition. We will look at a
major work by a number of central figures in the tradition, focusing on the way these thinkers enter into
dialogue with each other. The course aims to develop students’ knowledge and appreciation of the
importance and continuing relevance of the tradition, and some of the key movements within it, such as
the existentialist, post-structuralist, and postmodernist movements. It also aims to develop students’ abilities to interpret philosophical texts, and critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

**Course Leader** – Dr Henry Somers-Hall

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Coursework (100%)

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**PY3104 VARIETIES OF SCEPTICISM**  
*(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Terms)*

**Course Description** – What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don’t in fact have knowledge – the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course traces the fate of the Cartesian concern with certainty through the sceptical naturalism of Hume and Kant’s attempt to rescue the idea of metaphysics through to the contemporary revival of interest in scepticism.

**Course Leader** – TBC

**Course Delivery** – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

**Assessment** – Coursework (50%) Examination (50%)

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**PY3106 PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**  
*(Half course unit – Spring)*

**Course Description** – This course on the philosophy of language will examine views on the nature of meaning, reference, truth, and their relationships. Other topics may include relationships between language and logic, language and knowledge, language and reality, language and acts performed through its use, and ethical issues arising from language use.

**Course Leader** – Dr Rebecca Roache

**Course Delivery** – Weekly lectures and seminars

**Assessment** – Coursework (60%) Examination (40%)
PY3107 MAJOR THINKER
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Term)

Course Description – The aim of this course is to provide students with a detailed understanding of a key philosopher from the history of philosophy. The philosopher dealt with on the course will be chosen based on the research interests of the course tutor, and could focus on any philosopher from Greek philosophy up to the present. The course will present the major works, and background, of one philosopher, showing how their ideas develop, and the systematic connections between their texts.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Coursework (100%)

CL3654 BODY AND SOUL IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Term)

Course Description – This course aims to develop students’ understanding of ancient philosophical arguments, ability to evaluate them as arguments both in their own terms and in comparison with rival positions, and awareness of the importance of assessing against their cultural background positions that have been adopted by a particular thinker. The content will deal with philosophical issues relating to body, soul and mind in Presocratic thought and in selected texts of Plato (Phaedo, Republic 4 and 10, Timaeus), Aristotle (De Anima), the Hellenistic philosophers (Stoics and Epicureans) and Plotinus. Topics covered will include the relationship between body and soul, the immortality of the soul, parts/faculties of the soul, the concept of a world soul and the Neoplatonic view of soul as a metaphysical hypostasis.

Course Leader – TBC

Course Delivery – Weekly Lectures and Seminars

Assessment – Coursework (20%) Examination (80%)

Third year single-honours and joint honours philosophy students are also permitted to take one unit’s worth (30 credits) of the following PR-coded courses:

PR3540 Radical Political Theory
PR3560 The Politics of Toleration (1/2 unit)
PR3570 Social Justice: From Theory to Practice (1/2 unit)
PR3920 Theories of Freedom and Democracy
THIRD YEAR PPE COURSE

PE3000  ADVANCED SEMINAR AND DISSERTATION IN PPE
(Full course unit – Autumn and Spring Term)

Course description: This is a compulsory dissertation course for all third year PPE students and comprises a series of advanced research seminars to go alongside students developing their dissertations with individual supervisors. The first term will consist of seminars run led by staff from politics, philosophy and economics, while in the second term seminars will be student led on the topics of individual student dissertations, with students being responsible for setting readings and leading discussion. Peer review will be an important component in the second term.

Course leader: TBC
Course delivery: Weekly seminars
Assessment: Organisation and management of second term seminar designed and led by the student (25%, with assessment informed by peer review), and a research dissertation of 10,000 words (75%)