

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:D1/,E1\|E1/|H3/|F2\

What does the world look like to a Marxist, or a liberal, or a feminist, or a realist? We all hold particular ideas about how the world works: about why certain events happen, who the key actors in the international system are, and whether it is even possible to change things for future generations. Theories of International Relations (IR) attempt to capture these assumptions, explaining the world in different ways to others. You will explore how the discipline of IR emerged in the early 20th century, before investigating the very different theories which have shaped, and sometimes dominated, academic and policy makers' ideas about how the world actually works.

2020/1 - PPLI6039A SHIFTING POWERS AFRICA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Autumn Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 40 Students)

UCU: 30

Organiser: Dr Elizabeth Cobbett

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:A2\, G1|H2

What do you know about Africa? Is it still the Dark Continent, lost outside of time, or do you see it as the next exciting 'happening' place to follow fashion, use FinTech, and do business? Did you know that Timbuktu was one of the world's greatest centres of learning? That West Africa's gold underpinned the global economy? How about if I told you that an explosion of megacities is taking place in the Global South, principally in Africa as the continent's population doubles to 2bn? You will look at Africa's place and importance within the international system and more, including exploring China's One Belt Initiative in East Africa, the African Union and security, and the African Development Bank's 'High five' development plan.

2020/1 - PPLI6069A POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Autumn Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 35 Students)

UCU: 30

Organiser: Mr Andrew Patmore

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:G2/-B2|D1

IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE PPLI6070A

This module will introduce you to important themes in international relations within the Asia Pacific, at a time when the region has assumed great importance. There will be a particular focus on the important historical periods in the relations between the USA, China and Japan.

An understanding of elements of the trajectory of these relationships will be provided by taking a selection of historical subjects for analysis. While you will address the knowledge of history, and of long-term themes, in the latter part of the module you will consider contemporary political issues. This will require you to develop an understanding of the interaction of the United States with Asia, particularly China and Japan.

2020/1 - PPLI6070A POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY OF THE ASIA-PACIFIC

Autumn Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 5 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Mr Andrew Patmore

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:G2/-B2|D1

IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE PPLI6069A

This module will introduce important themes in the American relationship with East Asia, at a time when the Pacific region has assumed great importance. There will be a particular focus on the important historical periods in the American relationship with China and Japan. An understanding of elements of the trajectory of these relationships will be provided by taking a selection of historical subjects for analysis. While this will address the knowledge of history, and of long-term themes, the latter part of the module will consider contemporary political issues. This will require an understanding of the interaction of the United States with Asia, particularly China and Japan. This module is a 20-credit coursework-only version of POWER OVER THE PACIFIC: THE AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH ASIA.

2020/1 - PPLM4054A MEDIA POWER

Autumn Semester, Level 4 module

(Maximum 144 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr Ben Little

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:D1F2/, A2\|A2/|G1\|H3/|C1\|B3\

How was a reality TV star elected President? Should sexist media content be banned? Do popular media forms rot our minds? These sorts of questions are complex and different perspectives offer different sorts of response. This module helps you answer challenging and important questions like these by introducing key media theories and using them to think about power in our society. You will practice key skills of academic reading and writing in a structured and supportive environment. You will reflect on the importance of reading for academic research and learn how to assess and discuss the relevance and impact of milestones in media and mass communications theory from the nineteenth century to the present. You will explore theoretical approaches to media content, production, regulation and reception, including key themes such as freedom of speech, public sphere and political economy.

big data, and targeted advertising on their results. We will investigate how social movements (from Black Lives Matter to the Alt-Right) have been transformed through their use of digital networks. We will navigate the world of online politics, with a particular focus on the new culture wars being fought out in online environments. Finally we will explore the politics of the everyday, and the political effects of the technology platforms on which we live our online lives.

2020/1 - PPLX4051A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY

Autumn Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 306 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr Michael Frazer

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: F1/*B1/, G1\G2+G2/B2/E1\E2/H3\H3/A2/C1\C1/

This module introduces you to a few important and interesting writers and thinkers whose ideas have been so influential that they have become part of, and have even transformed, our society, culture and politics. As you read their work, learning how to make sense of it and arguing about it with others, you will come to think more deeply about the workings and politics of contemporary society and culture: the forces that shape it and the contradictions that define it. You will pay special attention to the three fundamental values that have shaped modern society and politics since the French Revolution: liberty, equality and fraternity. This will underpin your studies on other modules (in Political Science, International Relations, Media, History and Literature) and provide you with a strong basis upon which to develop your knowledge in Levels 2 and 3.

2020/1 - PPLX4052A INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

Autumn Semester, Level 4 module
(Maximum 300 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Professor Toby James

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: B1E2\, F1\C2\C1\E2/-C3\D1\G1\E1/-H3\D3

This module introduces you to some of the key contemporary debates and issues in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations. The central theme of the module is liberal democracy, its nature, scope and potential strengths and weaknesses. You will consider forces which have had an impact upon western liberal democracy – such as globalisation and immigration – and examine case studies which illustrate the success and failure of liberal democracy in practice. The case studies change from year to year, but currently include Weimar Germany, Northern Ireland, Britain, the Israel-Palestine conflict, Iraq, France and the US. You will be assessed on this module via coursework, usually a combination of an essay and/or a reading and seminar logbook. You will learn via attendance at weekly lectures and seminars, and your own private study. In addition to enhancing your subject knowledge, you will also acquire and develop skills which will be helpful in the rest of your degree, such as

critical analysis and the construction of political arguments, in both written and spoken forms, as well as improving your confidence to participate in seminar discussions.

2020/1 - PPLX5047A METHODS OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

Autumn Semester, Level 5 module

(Maximum 75 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr Eitan Tzelgov

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: E1/H3\C1/E2+, B3/D3/E2/-C3

How do scientists in the fields of political science, media, and international relations actually perform their research? How do they know what they claim to know? How can we use scientific methods to study the political and social world? Throughout the module, you will learn how to evaluate research, and more importantly, how to perform your own research using scientific methods. You will acquire knowledge of the theory and practice of a range of quantitative and qualitative research methods. You will acquire a variety of skills - computerised data analysis, interviewing, observation, focus groups, taking fieldwork notes, and report writing. We will begin by examining ways of thinking about the world, developing ideas and hypotheses, and ways of testing them. We will explore a variety of ways to examine these hypotheses using a variety of basic quantitative/statistical methods. We will then explore a variety of qualitative, in-depth methods, of collecting and analysing data such as interviewing and focus groups. You do not need to have any mathematical background to follow this module.

2020/1 - PPLX5064A WESTERN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Autumn Semester, Level 5 module

(Maximum 100 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Dr Michael Gough

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: G2B2, G2/F2\

In this module you will examine in depth the works of selected thinkers who are seminal to the Western tradition of political thought, and have shaped the ways in which we think about politics even today, including Plato, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill and Machiavelli. You will also compare their work thematically, with a focus on themes such as the natural law and social contract traditions, and other schools of thought which have been influenced by these traditions. The module will be based on the study and interpretation of key primary texts and will enable you to develop skills of textual analysis and critique. It will also provide some of the historical background necessary to study more contemporary political theory at third year undergraduate level, as well as building substantially on some of the political theories encountered on Social and Political Theory at first year level. The module is taught by a combination of weekly lectures and seminars, supported by private study of your own, and you will be assessed by coursework, usually a combination of an essay and a portfolio which

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:H3\, B3/'D3\|E2\

This module offers students a valuable experience of both individual and collective research - as well as the opportunity to study in depth an important contemporary aspect of politics, media and international relations. You will work in small groups pursuing research into a specific topic using a wide variety of source materials under the guidance of a leading expert in the field. There will also be accompanying classes developing skills vital for undertaking research and presenting that research to policy makers and practitioners. The available topics will vary on a yearly basis, but may include subjects such as: The Trump Presidency, China moves West – Politics of the Belt & Road Initiative, the Political Philosophy of the Labour Party, Assessing British Prime Ministers, The Rise of Populism, Nuclear Brinkmanship on the Korean Peninsula, Inside the EU, The Macron Presidency, The Politics of Energy and the Environment, and Negotiating Brexit.

2020/1 - PPLX6066A BETTER WORLDS? UTOPIAS AND DYSTOPIAS

Autumn Semester, Level 6 module

(Maximum 18 Students)

UCU: 20

Organiser: Mr Bob Stillwell

(UG) MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:F1/, G1\|B1\|D1\

Exam Period:SPR-02

IN TAKING THIS MODULE YOU CANNOT TAKE PPLX6041A

Would an ideal society have no more crime? Who would be wealthy? Would politics be outlawed? Do utopians wish to impose their views on the rest of us? This module explores questions such as these, which are central to political and social theory, through the prism of selected utopian and dystopian novels and other utopian texts ranging from Thomas More's Utopia (1516) to the present. It focuses on themes such as property, social control, gender, work, the environment and politics. A major question which the module addresses is the political significance and effects of utopian ideas - often derided as frivolous or impractical in their own time - and the historical role of utopian ideas in political theory and social reform. This module is a 20-credit version of Better Worlds? Utopias and Dystopias.