

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.

2019/0 - PPLM5002A GENDER AND POWER

Autumn Semester, Level 5 module
(Maximum 72 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Helen Warner

MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:F1\, E1\H3\C2\

Providing a conceptual overview of feminist research approaches, this module examines contemporary gender and power relations. You will examine both the formal and informal power structures that shape the experience of gender. Bringing together the fields of media and sociology, politics and cultural studies, you will explore the relationship between feminist theory and activism.

2019/0 - PPLM5053A DIGITAL MEDIA AND SOCIETY

Autumn Semester, Level 5 module
(Maximum 54 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Sally Broughton Micova

MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot:A2/,C1/-B3\;D2-I2\

For better or worse, digital technologies are hyped at having revolutionised society. This module will provide you with an introduction to the ways in which the internet and other digital technologies are (and are not) affecting society from theoretical and empirical perspectives, and how society shapes technology. Topics covered include: the evolution of the internet; the "network society"; regulating new media; the radical internet and terrorism; social networking, blogs and interactivity; culture and identity in the digital age; and how the internet affects politics and the media.

2019/0 - PPLM6038A POLITICS AND POPULAR CULTURE

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Alex Williams

MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: E1, H3/C1\G1\

Today's political world is more than ever influenced by digital technologies, from innovative social movements to 'fake news' and digital election campaigns. We will explore how the technologies influence political processes and how political processes in turn influence technology. We will examine the impact of digital media on electoral politics, examining key election campaigns (including recent UK and US elections) and the impact of social media, 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.

2019/0 - PPLX4051A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THEORY

Autumn Semester, Level 4 module

(Maximum 198 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Michael Frazer

MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: F1/*B1/, G1\G2+G2/B2E1\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.

2019/0 - PPLX4052A INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY POLITICS

Autumn Semester, Level 4 module

(Maximum 216 Students)

UCU: 20 Organiser: Dr Michael Gough

MODULE - 40% PASS ON AGGREGATE

Module Type: Coursework

Timetable Slot: B1/*E2, F1\C2\C1\E2/-C3\D1\G1\E1/-H3\D3

their own time - and the historical role of utopian ideas in political theory and social reform. This module is a 20-credit version of PPLX6041A Better Worlds? Utopias and Dystopias.