

FP009-30 Politics and International Relations

20/21

Department

Warwick Foundation Studies

Level

Foundation

Module leader

Lucy Ryland

Credit value

30

Module duration

25 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

FP009-30 Politics and International Relations

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The Module will:

1. Introduce students to the fundamental aspects of the academic discipline of politics.
2. Explore the main ideological strands of political thought and apply them to politics in the UK and internationally.
3. Explain and engage students intellectually with the political system in the UK.
4. Analyse the main theoretical approaches in international relations and apply them to contemporary political issues globally.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be

covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Unit One: What is Politics? Democracy, political power and its exercise through voting, interest groups, social movements and protest.

Unit Two: Political Ideologies. What is ideology and the core ideas of liberalism, conservatism and socialism? How have these ideologies changed and developed over time and how are they challenged by new, contemporary ideologies?

Unit Three: UK Politics. The constitutional arrangements of politics in the UK and the roles of the three branches of government - legislative, executive and judiciary. How democratic is politics in the UK and what are the consequences of devolution? The role of the UK in international politics.

Unit Four: International Relations. The key concepts of sovereignty and globalisation. The central ideas of international relations theories realism, liberalism, Marxism and constructivism, and how these can be used to explain contemporary global issues such as security, the global political economy and global environmental politics.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Recognise and appraise the main ideological and theoretical debates within politics and discuss its essentially contested nature as a subject and academic discipline.
- Explain how the political system works in the UK.
- Evaluate the relative merits of the main approaches in international relations and apply them to contemporary global political issues.
- Demonstrate a range of key competences including time management, teamwork, communication and presentation skills, and research skills (including information retrieval, analysis and interpretation).

Indicative reading list

Baylis, J., Smith, S., and Owens, P. (Eds) (2017) *The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations* (7th Edn) Oxford: OUP

Heywood, A (2019) *Politics* (5th Edn), Basingstoke: Macmillan

Heywood, A (2017) *Political Ideologies: An Introduction* (6th Edn) Basingstoke: Macmillan

Jones, B., Norton, P., and Daddow, O. J., (Eds) (2018) *Politics UK* (9th Edn) London: Routledge

Leach, R. and Lightfoot, S. (2018) *The Politics and IR Companion* (2nd Edn) London: Macmillan

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

Application of concepts and theory to real world political issues and institutions

Evaluation of competing interpretations of political events and issues

Transferable skills

Time management, teamwork, communication and presentation skills, research skills (including information retrieval, analysis and interpretation)

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	25 sessions of 1 hour (8%)
Seminars	75 sessions of 1 hour (25%)
Private study	150 hours (50%)
Assessment	50 hours (17%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Independent reading and assigned activities.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D1

	Weighting	Study time
Written Assignment (1000 words) An argumentative essay addressing a contentious political or international relations question.	40%	20 hours
Group Presentation A persuasive presentation addressing a contentious political or international relations question.	20%	10 hours
Take-home examination A written examination in which students are required to answer both short knowledge recall and long essay questions on a range of topics from the module.	40%	20 hours

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided on all formative and summative written assignments, followed up with verbal one to one feedback (at least one verbal feedback session compulsory). Written feedback provided via Tabula.

Opportunities for peer assessment and feedback provided regularly on formative essays and presentations.

Verbal feedback provided as routine throughout teaching sessions and via email.

[Past exam papers for FP009](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
 - Year 1 of FP24 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Law and Politics
 - Year 1 of FP23 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Social Sciences

This module is Core option list A for:

- FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme
 - Year 1 of FP10 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Law
 - Year 1 of FP11 Warwick International Foundation Programme - Social Sciences