

# FP009-30 Politics and International Relations

**22/23**

**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

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## 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) (2020) *The Globalization of World Politics: an Introduction to International Relations* (8th 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](#)

## **Interdisciplinary**

Within politics and international relations students can bring together perspectives from philosophy, sociology, anthropology, economics and law to understand the theoretical ideas, institutions and issues studied.

## **International**

Takes a global perspective on issues such as the environment, economy, development and security.

Students have the option to focus on a variety of countries and issues for activities and assessments, as fits their interests.

Global examples used wherever possible.

### **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)

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## **Study**

### **Study time**

| <b>Type</b>   | <b>Required</b>             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Lectures      | 25 sessions of 1 hour (8%)  |
| Seminars      | 75 sessions of 1 hour (25%) |
| Private study | 140 hours (47%)             |
| Assessment    | 60 hours (20%)              |
| Total         | 300 hours                   |

### **Private study description**

Independent reading and assigned activities.

### **Costs**

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## **Assessment**

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### **Assessment group D2**

|  | <b>Weighting</b> | <b>Study time</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------------|
| 1500 word Essay  | 40%              | 24 hours          |
| An argumentative essay addressing a contentious political or international relations question.   |                  |                   |
| Individual Presentation  | 20%              | 12 hours          |
| A persuasive presentation addressing a contentious political or international relations question.  |                  |                   |
| Take-home examination  | 40%              | 24 hours          |
| A take-home examination requiring students to construct a well researched and argued perspective on a contentious political or international relations question. |                  |                   |

## **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 online.

[Past exam papers for FP009](#)

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## **Availability**

### **Courses**

This module is Core for:

- Year 1 of FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 1 of FIOE Warwick International Foundation Programme

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