

PO3A6-15 The Future of Work

22/23

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Tom Parr

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In this course, we shall employ the tools of normative political philosophy to explore how labour market policymakers should respond to the threats and opportunities associated with technological change, paying particular attention to the diversity of reasons, ideals, and values that justify and constrain the exercise of political power in this domain. We explore the role that work should play in our lives and the proper goals of labour market policies.

Some familiarity with economics is desirable but not essential.

Module aims

In this course, we will learn about a variety of policy disputes relating to social justice and the future of work. Participants will be encouraged to develop and defend their own views about the moral significance of work, as well as what role policy should play in regulating the labour market of the future. The aim is to construct philosophical arguments for and against a variety of policies, and to learn how to respond to arguments of others in a way that is both constructive and critical.

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.

Week 1: Introduction and Summary of the Course.

Week 2: Automation and Unemployment.

Week 3: Automation and Economic Inequality.

Week 4: Workplace domination.

Week 5: Basic Income.

Week 6: Reading Week.

Topic 7: The Gender Earnings Gap.

Topic 8: The Four Day Work Week.

Topic 9: Working from Home.

Topic 10: Algorithmic Management.

Learning outcomes

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

- Comprehend and critically analyse complex arguments relating to the labour market and its regulation
- Provide an account of your considered judgements about the issues discussed, taking account of a variety of opposing arguments and perspectives
- Construct your own sustained argument relating to social and economic values, and defend it against sceptics, using arguments from other disciplines where appropriate

Indicative reading list

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don't Talk about It)* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017).

David Autor, 'Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation', *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 3 (2015), 3-30.

Richard Arneson, 'Is Work Special? Justice and the Distribution of Employment', *American Political Science Review*, 84 (1990), 1127-1147.

Anca Gheaus and Lisa Herzog, 'The Goods of Work (Other Than Money!)', *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 46 (2016), 70-89.

Gina Schouten, *Liberalism, Neutrality, and the Gendered Division of Labor* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Julie L. Rose, *Free Time* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016).

Julie L. Rose, 'On the Value of Economic Growth', *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* (forthcoming).

Philippe Van Parijs and Yannick Vanderborght, *Basic Income: A Radical Proposal for a Free Society and Sane Economy* (Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2017).

Subject specific skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following subject specific skills:

familiarity with a range of labour market trends, including how these affect the interest of different individuals

the ability to reason and argue about the justifiability of a range of labour market policies in the light of recent and ongoing research in political theory

understanding of how labour markets and their regulation affect social justice

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following transferable skills:

the ability to apply the methods and techniques that they have learned to review, consolidate, extend and apply their knowledge and understanding, and to initiate and carry out projects

the transferable/key/generic skills necessary for employment related to Politics and International Studies, e.g. lateral thinking and problem solving; detailed critical analysis and interpretation of a variety of primary and secondary sources; the ability to digest, retain and apply complex information and ideas; skills in research, independent study, and group discussion; and the ability to consider unfamiliar ideas and ways of thinking

the skills necessary for the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility: e.g. the ability to assess their own capacity for and progress in learning; the ability to organize work and manage their time successfully; the ability to meet deadlines; and the ability to reflect critically on the extent and limitations of how and what they have learned, discovered and understood

skills in the communication of information, ideas, problems and solutions

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

For private study and independent learning, students are expected to read and study the core and supplementary texts, as well as reflect on each week's seminar questions.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000 policy brief	100%		Yes (extension)
3000 policy brief			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Assessments are marked according to criteria set out in the Undergraduate Handbook

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 4 of UPOA-M167 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology

- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)