

School of Politics and International Relations and Philosophy

About the department

The School of Politics & International Relations and Philosophy (PIRP) has quickly developed an outstanding reputation for teaching and research in exciting areas of the discipline. The Department offers a range of courses that reflect its strengths in global and transnational politics; international relations and international law; European politics and culture; multiculturalism, nationalism and post-colonial studies; new political communication and e-government; democratic theory and practice; and contemporary Anglo-American and post-Nietzschean political philosophy.

The department aims in its teaching and research to combine close analysis of contemporary events and issues with informed theoretical reflection appropriate to a globalized and ever-changing world.

Entry requirements

The courses listed below are open to all Study Abroad, International and Erasmus students, subject to any required previous knowledge or qualifications, as stated in the course outlines below.

The School of Politics and International Relations and Philosophy is only able to accept Erasmus applications from its Erasmus partner institutions, Université de Strasbourg and Koç University.

Each course is either ½ or 1 unit and starts in either the Autumn Term (September) or the Spring Term (January).

The information contained in the course outlines on the following pages is correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change as part of our policy of continuous improvement and development.



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Course options for visiting students

Level One Courses:

Course code	Course name	½ or 1 unit	Start date	Course description/pre-requisites
PR1000	<i>Research methods in Politics and International Relations</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module will provide you with the analytic skills and resources to evaluate, understand, and criticise research findings in politics research. It will also provide you with practical skills to carry out your own research and graduate with transferable skills that will prepare you for the job market. The module aims to encourage a critical and rigorous approach to research, both in terms of how you evaluate the research of others and how you do your own. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.
PR1400	<i>Introduction to Politics and Government</i>	1 Unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module will introduce you to the academic study of politics and to the 'real world' of contemporary politics. As a foundation course, it will give you all the essential tools to understand the nature of politics and analyse the way different political systems work. You will be introduced to key concepts such as politics, power, rights, ideologies, democracy and representation, and will learn about the different actors, institutions and processes that make up politics today. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.



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PR1500	<i>Introduction to International Relations</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module offers a broad introduction to theory and history in international relations since 1870. You will look a variety of different theoretical lenses, ranging from orthodox to critical perspectives, in order to understand events from the collapse of Bismarckian European order and the origins of World War 1 to the contemporary War on Terror. Along the way you will also explore the origins and the end of the Cold War, decolonisation and the End of Empire, the rise of international institutions, humanitarian intervention and new security issues. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.
PR1520	<i>Classical and Contemporary Readings in Politics and International Relations</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module will introduce you to foundational thinkers and texts in the history of political thought and international relations theory. The first half will explore ideas of community, politics, order and justice in ancient Christian thought from Socrates to Augustine. The second half will explore how themes of war, peace and the state, as well as liberalism, imperialism and resistance, are developed from the early modern to contemporary period in thinkers such as Hobbes, Kant, Hegel, Smith, Marx and Fanon. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PY1002	<i>Introduction to Modern Philosophy</i>	<i>½ unit</i>	<i>September 2018</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The module will introduce you to some of the central themes of Early Modern Philosophy. It will do this by focusing on two of the most celebrated philosophers of the period: René Descartes (1596-1650) and David Hume (1711-76). Our focus will be on issues in epistemology and metaphysics. We shall aim both to understand these philosophers on their own terms and to assess critically the ideas that they present.
PY1101	<i>Epistemology and Metaphysics</i>	<i>½ unit</i>	<i>September 2018</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this module you will develop an understanding of how the 'new philosophy' of the seventeenth century set the modern philosophical agenda. You will look at the work of some of the most ground breaking philosophers of the period, such René Descartes and John Locke, and consider how later philosophers such as Gottfried Leibniz and David Hume took up and expanded their ideas. You will consider the fundamental questions which became central to the European Enlightenment, including those concerning knowledge and understanding and the relation between science and other human endeavours.
PY1103	<i>Introduction to logic</i>	<i>½ unit</i>	<i>January 2019</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this module you will develop an understanding of the formal study of arguments through the two basic systems of modern logic - sentential or propositional logic and predicate logic. You will learn how to present and analyse arguments formally, and look at the implications and uses of logical analysis by considering Bertrand Russell's formalist solution to the problem of definite descriptions. You will also examine the broader significance of findings in logic to philosophical inquiry.



Course options for visiting students

PY1105	<i>Mind and Consciousness</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this module you will develop an understanding of the relationship between the mind and the brain. You will examine the key theories, from Descartes' dualist conception of the relationship between mind and body through to Chalmers's conception of consciousness as 'the hard problem' in the philosophy of mind. You will also consider some of the famous thought experiments in this area, including Descartes's and Laplace's demons, the Chinese Room and the China Brain, Mary and the black-and-white room, and the problem of zombie and bat consciousness.
PY1106	<i>Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this module you will develop an understanding of the central problems and debates within moral philosophy and aesthetics. You will look at questions relating to both metaphysical and ethical relativism, including the ways we view our moral commitments within the world, how the individual is related to society, and the value and nature of the work of art. You will also examine approaches from the history of philosophy, including the Anglo-American tradition and recent European philosophy.
PY1541	<i>Introduction To Ancient Philosophy</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this course is to introduce you to the foundational names, texts, and ideas of early Greek philosophy and thus, <i>a fortiori</i>, to the foundational ideas of Western philosophy as a Whole. The first half will focus on the earliest philosophers up to the time of Socrates, examining topics in metaphysics and epistemology. The second half will introduce Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, focusing on topics in ethics.



Course options for visiting students

Level Two Courses:

Course code	Course name	½ or 1 unit	Start date	Course description/pre-requisites
ES2001	<i>Understanding the European Union: Politics and Theory</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The course provides a background for students to understand the development of the European Union and its current political structure. It introduces students to the history, political institutions, processes and contestation of the European Union. In the second half it also covers the theories that help explain the development of European integration. By the end of the course, students will have knowledge of the ability to analyse the contemporary politics of the European Union and the theory basis to understand its development.This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.
PR2440	<i>International Relations Theory</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This course explores key theoretical thinkers and debates in International Relations Theory. These develop a variety of ways of thinking about IR, drawing on questions relating to the nature of power, identity and ethics in politics and what happens to these in the international realm.This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken for Autumn Term only for half the credit.



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PR2460	<i>Politics outside the West</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is about how the non-white world got to where it is today. Starting with the discovery of silver in Potósi in 1545, which turbo charges colonialism into a truly global phenomenon, we take the long view on half a millennium of the rise and fall of Empires, the expansion of global capitalism, anti-colonial revolts, and revolutions from Haiti to Iran, and colonial wars from Bengal in 1757 to Vietnam in the 1970s. Themes will be the rise of nationalism, the collapse of European empires, the 'hot Cold war' in the global South, development, modernisation, and the rise of new challengers to the dominance of the West. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.
PR2480	<i>Democracy in Britain</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is designed primarily to familiarise students with the ways in which British democracy has evolved, how it operates today and some of the challenges that confront it. Students taking the course will gain knowledge of the 'nuts and bolts' of the political system. They will learn about how and why the system operates in the way it does, as well as the quality of contemporary democratic governance. Students studying PR2480 will be encouraged throughout the course to be mindful of the relationship between theory and evidence. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PR2490	<i>Contemporary Political Theory</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course provides an overview of some of the key concepts and thinkers in political theory today. The meanings of terms often used in political discourse such as democracy, freedom, human rights and community is in fact far from clear; there are different plausible interpretations of ideas such as these and energetic debates among these interpretations' proponents about their, nature, limits, and relationship to other political ideas. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.
PR2500	<i>International Political Economy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course examines the relationship between states and markets, power and wealth, in International Political Economy (IPE). It introduces students to the key concepts and theoretical debates in IPE. It tackles issues such as the globalisation of trade, finance, and production, the continued problems of development and democratic governance in the world economy, and emerging questions surrounding economic security, climate change and energy. Students are taken through the history of regimes, crises, and competing theories of political economy from the nineteenth century to the present day. Throughout the course the emphasis is on how political institutions operate in the international domain to regulate the creation of wealth, and who benefits from these arrangements. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PR2550	<i>War and Security in World Politics</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course explores the related topics of war and security. It is divided into three parts. The first part will look at war, particularly how the idea of 'war' has been conceptualised within the field of strategic studies and the tactics of war. The second section will consider how these traditional notions of war and security have been questioned over time. Specifically, the module will look in depth at the concepts of human security, securitization, and terrorism. The third section will look at a range of contemporary issues in security studies including terrorism (where this is discussed as a crossover between sections two and three), nuclear proliferation, genocide, and drone warfare. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.
PR2560	<i>Modern Political Thought</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course will introduce students to major political thinkers from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Kant, Mill, Marx, and Nietzsche. The course introduces students to the themes, argumentative strategies, and critical interpretations of these thinkers, and helps them develop the skills to critically assess these interpretations against the texts themselves. It also aims to show how study of these thinkers illuminates contemporary debates even where these debates no longer make reference to them. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PR2580	<i>International Organisations</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course will help students develop an understanding of the scope and limitations of global governance. They will learn how to discuss the creation of international organizations and the role of states in this process, how different organizations are designed, and the effectiveness and functioning of different types of organization. Through the exploration of specific examples, the course will enable students to critically evaluate different theoretical models and develop their own perspectives on major debates. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.
PR2600	<i>Introduction to Political Communication</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of how citizens, politicians and the media interact across Western democracies during both electoral and governing periods. The first part of the course will focus on the production and consumption of political news, while the second part will address election campaigns and their effects as well as focusing on contemporary debates in political communication, including ethical issues. While the course will cover key aspects of political communication in the United Kingdom, the focus will be mostly comparative. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term OR Spring Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PY2001	<i>Introduction to European Philosophy 1 : Kant to Hegel</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In this module you will develop an understanding of the major debates in European and some Anglo-American philosophy. You will look at the key texts by eighteenth and nineteenth-century philosophers Immanuel Kant and Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, examining the continuing significance of their ideas. You will consider the major epistemological, ethical and aesthetical issues their idea raise, and the problems associated with the notion of modernity. You will also analyse the importance of the role of history in modern philosophy via Hegel's influence.
Py2002	<i>Mind and World</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course examines some of the major metaphysical and epistemological problems that arise when attempting to understand how mind and language figure in human interactions with and in the world. It centres on attempts to conceptualise, solve, or avoid mind-body related problems in the analytic tradition and aims to contrast these with phenomenological and existential investigations of cognate phenomena.
PY2003	<i>Introduction to European Philosophy 2: The Critique of Idealism</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The module will focus on topics of central importance for phenomenology, including the intentional or object-directed structure of consciousness, the essentially lived character of experience, the limitations of scientific explanations of human subjects and worldly objects, the obscurity of the meaning of being, the inauthentic dimensions of social interaction, the existential significance of death, and the uniqueness of being a moving, perceiving body.



Course options for visiting students

PY2004	<i>The Varieties of Scepticism: Hope, Desire and Tragedy</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don't in fact have knowledge—the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course traces the fate of the Cartesian concern with certainty through the sceptical naturalism of Hume and Kant's attempt to rescue the idea of metaphysics through to the contemporary revival of interest in scepticism.
PY2005	<i>Philosophy and the Arts</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course will expose students to current philosophical debates in aesthetics, including questions about the nature and value of art; the roles of intention, imagination and interpretation; and the emotional and ethical responses they provoke. Although theoretically informed, each weekly presentation will be grounded in a discussion of one or more artistic or cultural objects, be it a play, poem, musical composition, film, or one of the myriad other forms of creative expression.



Course options for visiting students

PY2008	<i>Philosophy and Literature</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module aims to bring philosophical analysis and literary reflection into conversation. Students will gain: knowledge and understanding of a range of texts that are informed by both literature and philosophy; an appreciation of the ways in which literary texts may be read philosophically; an appreciation of the role of the literary in philosophy; an ability to reflect in a critical manner on what it means 'to read' and 'to philosophise'. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.
PY2104	<i>The Varieties of Scepticism</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don't in fact have knowledge—the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PY2105	<i>The Philosophy of Religion</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this course is to introduce students to philosophical approaches to religion in both the Anglo-American and the European traditions, and to enable them to understand and critically evaluate the arguments and approaches underlying these traditions. The philosophers studied on the course will be determined by the research interests of the course leader, but indicative figures would be Friedrich Schleiermacher, Søren Kierkegaard, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Barth, or Paul Tillich. As well as giving students a grounding in the philosophy of religion, the course will also enable students to develop their abilities to understand and evaluate arguments, and to interpret complex philosophical texts. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term or Spring Term only for half the credit.
PY2655	<i>The Good Life in Ancient Philosophy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course is devoted to ancient ethics, which, unlike much modern moral theory, was concerned not merely with theoretical questions about what is good or bad, right or wrong but, as importantly, with more urgent and practical questions about how to live. What is a good life and how might one go about actually living it? This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

Level Three Courses:

Course code	Course name	½ or 1 unit	Start date	Course description/pre-requisites
ES3002	European Union Public Policy	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This half unit has the objective of introducing students to political science and international relations approaches for understanding the EU's Single Market. It focuses on areas of public policy and includes regulation of the market, the Euro and its crisis, Justice, Home Affairs, Immigration and Counter-Terrorism, Social and Environment policies, and the role of interest lobby groups. This course acceptance is subject to prior study.
PR3105	Political Theories of Freedom	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course critically examines different theoretical understandings of freedom, together with their strengths and limitations. It falls into two parts. Part 1 examines liberal understandings of freedom, and part 2 looks at contrasting non-liberal and republican accounts. It does so by considering the contributions of important recent and contemporary political theorists. From the liberal tradition these include Berlin, Hayek, Hirschmann and Gray. From the non-liberal tradition, writers will include Taylor, Honneth, Pettit and Skinner. Animating the discussion of these figures is the apparently simple but ultimately complex question of whether political freedom is a matter of the ability to act unimpeded by others, or whether it requires forms of social activity.



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Course options for visiting students

PR3106	<i>Power and Money in the EU</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without the VoteLeave bus promising £350 million a week for the NHS, a sum of money gained through no longer contributing to the EU's budget, the Brexit result in the EU referendum of 2016 would not have been secured. This half unit introduces students to what the EU's budget does and why it is controversial, and how an agreement made in 1970 before Britain joined the EU secured the UK's eventual departure. The half unit covers the history of key periods of the budget, how it was expanded, what rules it has, where the money actually comes from, how it is spent, and the power that national governments, the European Commission and the European Parliament exercise over it. Finally, the unit looks at reform proposals both on the spending side of the budget and on how the money could be raised through new EU taxes on banks, CO2 emissions or transnational companies.
PR3190	<i>Leaders in Political Communication</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Party leaders, and their public image, are increasingly considered important for a party's electoral success, for the smooth running of government and for regime legitimacy. Perhaps the most important variable for successful politicians is their ability to effectively communicate and connect with their audiences. This course will first, show students the techniques most frequently used by politicians, communicators and speechwriters to effectively deliver their messages in different contexts and settings. Next, students will analyse how these techniques have been used by the greatest leaders in the world to justify their regimes.



Course options for visiting students

PR3300	<i>The Politics of International Development</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course explores key development challenges faced across developing countries and is divided into three sections. The first critically examines some of the major concepts, paradigms, and theories, which have attempted to define what development is, how and why it occurs (or does not), and to whose benefit. The second focuses on some of the key development challenges faced by developing countries: economic (poverty, inequality, unemployment), political (democracy, human rights, role of elites), social (religion, race/ethnicity/caste, urbanisation), and natural (climate change, pollution, resource extraction, extermination of species). The final section explores possible remedies to these issues through international cooperation (trade, aid, finance, South-South cooperation), national policies (welfare schemes, laws and regulations), and micro and informal solutions.
PR3430	<i>Defence and Security Governance</i>	½ unit	January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objectives of the module are to examine the increasingly multi-level nature of defence and security policy and the implications of this fragmentation for the delivery of effective, accountable and legitimate defence and security policy. It will analyse the 'vertical' fragmentation of defence and security policy to regional institutions. The module also examines the extent to which it is possible to speak of a 'horizontal' distribution of competencies in defence and security by analysing the role of NGOs and PMCs in the provision of defence and security.



Course options for visiting students

PR3440	<i>Military Change in the 21st Century</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module analyses the content and sources of change in defence policy during the post-Cold War era. It will focus on changes to the objectives of defence policy, military procurement, force structures and doctrines of the world's major military powers, including the US, China, Russia, France, Germany, the UK, India and Pakistan. In doing so, it will analyse the extent to which these reforms have helped the state concerned to meet its central security challenges.
PR3540	<i>Radical Political Theory</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course aims to introduce students to key questions and arguments concerning the relationship between identity, power, meaning and knowledge, through close examination of texts by Hegel, Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Adorno, Lyotard and Foucault. The course should lead students to appreciate critiques of modern Western societies and their values, which not only underpin recent "postmodernist" or "post-structuralist" thought but also form crucial theoretical elements in debates about gender, multiculturalism, nationalism, post-colonialism, new social movements, etc., across the social sciences and humanities. It aims to develop in students the ability to critically reflect about the nature and scope of politics and ethics through engagement with texts that have sought to provide insights and new ways of thinking about these realms. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.*



Course options for visiting students

PR3550	<i>The British in India: A Social and Political History</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course begins with the arrival of the British, in 1608, in Gujarat, west India. We examine why and how the British came, how they lived and conducted themselves and their business during the 17th century, how they began their rise to power in the 18th century, the relationship of the British to the Native States, British rule before and after the Mutiny/Uprising, the growth of Bombay, the life and campaigning of Gujarat's most famous son, Gandhi, and the nationalist struggles in west India. We examine competing explanations for how the British were, with very few forces, able to conquer and rule India, and we consider the comparative technological development of the two countries. We conclude by looking at how Gujarat fared after Independence, ending in 2002 with the Godhra massacre.
PR3600	<i>Contemporary Middle East Politics</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course surveys political systems, movements, conflicts and trends in the contemporary Middle East. It explores the international and regional context of current problems and conditions, including the process of state formation, variations in regime consolidation and state–society relations, regional rivalries and conflicts, the Islamist challenge, the political economy of development, and democracy and civil society. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.*



Course options for visiting students

PR3620	<i>United States Foreign Policy - History</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course focuses on the foreign policy of the United States of America. It outlines the theoretical frameworks for understanding US foreign policy as well as the founding principles and ideas that underpin the US approach to international politics. This goes back to the founding fathers and America's initial rise to power (up until the end of World War II) to analyse the key themes that shape US foreign policy today. The course then analyses the historical development of US foreign policy right to the present day. It also analyses foreign policy in key regions, such as the Middle East, as well as core issues. It concludes with a look at the argument on US decline and what US foreign policy may look like in the future. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken for Term 1 only for half the credit.*
PR3670	<i>Comparative Foreign Policy</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course aims to provide a systematic understanding of knowledge relating to the analysis of foreign policy (from a comparative perspective). The course will enable students to critically evaluate contending perspectives on foreign policy analysis (with respect to the foreign policies of key countries and IGOs). It will prepare students for a critical engagement with key themes surrounding foreign policy by asking them to apply theory to practice through the analysis of both primary and secondary literature. Overall, the course will provide structured opportunities for students to develop and test their own hypotheses.



Course options for visiting students

PR3680	<i>Young people's Politics</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course opens with an introduction and asks What is Young People's Politics? The course then branches out to consider youth, citizenship and democracy, exploring the theoretical and empirical issues that define citizenship in contemporary democracies, focussing on issue that particularly effect young people (especially those raised in the Youth Citizenship Commission). The focus is extended to youth participation in politics, primarily Electoral Politics (e.g. voting, party membership). The course will then move on to examine a new state and consider how the relationship between the state and the citizen (and young people, in particular) has changed in recent years (e.g. developments in the welfare state and public services – in particular, youth-focuses services - and in notions of rights and responsibilities e.g. welfare-to-work)?
PR3720	<i>Leadership, Power and the British Prime Ministership</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course enables final-year students interested in British politics to explore in depth the office of prime minister, its powers and its capacity for leadership. The prime ministership is one of the oldest headships of government and the single most important position in Britain's political executive. We will examine its history, its relationship with other institutions and actors in the core executive, and its occupants' capacity to influence domestic and foreign policy. We will also examine how prime ministers relate to other parts of the political system, how they might be and are held to account, and how we might evaluate styles of political leadership more broadly.



Course options for visiting students

PR3810	<i>Visual Politics</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an urgent need for critical examination of the role of visual media in politics. Many argue that 'the power of images' has policymakers, journalists and citizens spellbound. For others, thanks to media technologies it has never been easier for ordinary people to create, disseminate, play with and contest political images. This course examines the role of visual materials and practices in politics and international relations. Students will become familiar with research traditions in the discipline of Politics and IR that engage with visual media, how they conceptualise and conduct research, and the limitations of those traditions.
PR3860	<i>Understanding China's Rise: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course seeks to understand contemporary Chinese politics. Many argue that a rising China and a declining US will be engaged in security competition with considerable potential for war. Others argue that given its economic and political openness, the current international order is well able to accommodate China's peaceful rise. What are the implications of China's emergence as a global power? Can China rise peacefully? Will China overthrow the exiting international order, or become a part of it? How to deal with the rise of China? The course will enable students to understand China's emergence as a global power and its implications. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PR3940	<i>Global Energy Policy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course offers a global perspective on energy. It covers key aspect of international energy policy and politics, including the global security nexus of oil and gas; global market failure and global public goods in energy; the sustainability nexus; and the global development angle. The course will put a focus on the empirical context in which global energy problems occur but with a view to linking them back to broader conceptual frameworks. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.
PR3880	<i>Refugees and Migration in World Politics</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course presents an interdisciplinary, social science perspective on the central issues in the study of forced migration. Although rooted in International Relations, it takes an expansive view of the discipline, integrating perspectives from sociology, comparative politics, history, gender studies, critical race theory, and so on. It is designed to include material and academic voices from the Global South, as well as the voices of refugees themselves. The course focuses mainly on refugees, although it touches upon others areas of forced migration such as internal displacement and environmental displacement. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.



Course options for visiting students

PR3890	<i>American Political Development</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module provides students with an advanced understanding of the institutions, politics, history and culture of the United States. Using diverse methodological approaches, students examine data sources alongside major scholarly works in APD. The course deploys the tools of historical institutionalism and APD to provide advanced knowledge of the domestic politics and history of the United States, with a particular focus upon the public policy development, the welfare state, and religious history and politics, alongside the institutional arrangements of Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court; the operation of the federal bureaucracy, the party system, elections, and state and local politics. By the end of the course students are prepared to engage in their own dissertation research in the field of US politics and to excel in the study of American politics, culture and history. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.
PR3930	<i>Issues in Democratic Theory</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course examines the theoretical understandings of democracy and the conceptual issues and controversies arising from them. Modern political thought is characterised by an uneasy relationship with democracy. Whilst the values of freedom and equality are widely related to – and often thought to entail – democratic government, political theorists have identified various problems that democracy poses to those values. The course will examine these issues, with topics including: forms of democracy; the relationship between democracy, freedom and equality; the role of participation and deliberation; multiculturalism and group rights; and global democracy.



Course options for visiting students

PR3940	<i>Global Health Policy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course serves as an introduction to global health policy, synthesising material from a range of disciplines such as political economy, social epidemiology, and public health. It examines the constellation of health actors involved in policy formulation, including international organisations, governments, public-private partnerships, non-governmental organisations, philanthropic foundations, and commercial actors. It tackles key contemporary policy debates surrounding the health effects of—for instance—rising economic inequalities, global trade, and austerity politics. Students are also taken through approaches to effective policymaking encompassed in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of policy responses to global health issues.
PY3002	<i>Modern European Philosophy 1: Husserl to Heidegger</i>	½ unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course introduces students to the work of two of the defining figures in modern philosophy. The aim is to enable students to grasp the key ideas in phenomenology and of Heidegger's interrogation of the notion of 'being'. Moreover, the point is to show what consequences these ideas have for key political, social and other issues in the modern world.
PY3003	<i>Modern European Philosophy 2: Critical Theory and Hermeneutics</i>	½ unit	January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from PY3002, this course introduces students to key developments in European Philosophy after the Second World War, which form the basis of contemporary debates in both philosophy and other subjects. The course will be run on the basis of independent study, guided by the course staff.



Course options for visiting students

PY3008	<i>Philosophy and Literature</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module will bring philosophical analysis and literary reflection into conversation: you will be encouraged to take this opportunity to reflect on the connections and disjunctions between the practice of literary criticism and philosophical activity. We will look in particular at themes such as the recourse to island imagery in both literature and philosophy, different ways of writing philosophy (dialogues, confessions, meditations, etc.), as well as the question of whether novels can ever 'do philosophy'. Our concern will be with philosophy as literature and literature as philosophy, so as to think critically about what it means 'to read' and 'to philosophise'.
PY3104	<i>The Varieties of Scepticism</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is knowledge? Is it possible for us to acquire it? If so, how do we do so? This course approaches these questions by looking at the history of attempts to show that we perhaps don't in fact have knowledge – the history of scepticism. Starting with the Ancient Greek concern with knowledge of how to live the Good Life, the first sceptics aimed to show that the search for such knowledge actually stood in the way of the very path to happiness it promised. The Ancient sceptical arguments were rediscovered in the Sixteenth Century and along with the emergence of modern science led to both a new conception of knowledge and of sceptical doubt to accompany it. This course traces the fate of the Cartesian concern with certainty through the sceptical naturalism of Hume and Kant's attempt to rescue the idea of metaphysics through to the contemporary revival of interest in scepticism.



Course options for visiting students

PY3105	<i>The Philosophy of Religion</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This course will introduce you to philosophical approaches to religion in both the Anglo-American and the European traditions, and to enable you to understand and critically evaluate the arguments and approaches underlying these traditions. In the first term, we will concentrate on David Hume's <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>, which, as well as being an important work of philosophical literature, explores many of the central philosophical issues concerning religion. We will supplement this text with more modern readings where appropriate. In the second term, we will look at three central figures in the European philosophical tradition that exemplify the kinds of approaches to religion developed in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Indicative figures looked at would be Friedrich Schleiermacher, Søren Kierkegaard, G. W. F. Hegel, Karl Barth, or Paul Tillich.
PY3655	<i>The Good Life in Ancient Philosophy</i>	1 unit	September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the best kind of life? Is moral virtue sufficient for happiness? Does morality require a special kind of knowledge or wisdom? Is a good life a pleasant life and are some pleasures better than others? This course examines the answers given by ancient Greek philosophers to questions such as these, studying early Greek views about the good life and those of Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus and the Stoics. This course runs for the Full year, but may be taken in the Autumn Term only for half the credit.

