DEGREE STRUCTURES AND REQUIREMENTS

FIRST-YEAR BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HISTORY DEGREE STRUCTURE

BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HISTORY - LV21

Semester 1
HS1002 The Shock of the Modern 20 credits
PL1015 Cold War, Crisis and Confrontation 20 credits
PL1020 Classics of International Relations 20 credits

Semester total 60 credits

Semester 2
PL1016 Order and Disorder: International Relations since 1989 20 credits
CHOOSE TWO 20 credit modules from: 40 credits
HS1012 Global History: 1750 to the present
HS1013 Great Britain: The State We’re In
AM1004 American History since 1877
HS1016 Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation

Semester total 60 credits

FIRST YEAR SEMESTER 1 MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

HS1002 The Shock of the Modern (core)
This is a module about how, why and when people became ‘modern’. We have called it ‘the
shock of the modern’ because we are studying social, political, cultural, technological and
economic changes that led to radically different ways of being human and living together. There
are three main themes. The first is about how people became modern. We focus on identity,
belief, and how modern people lived and died, as well as the role of disaster in shaping modern
people’s sense of well-being. The second looks at living in the modern world. The key topics are
the nation state, the modern city, the measurement and management of time, the pace of
modern existence, family, friendship and fun. The final theme is about the challenges to being
modern. We look at how people resisted different aspects of modern life and tried to find
alternatives to it. The time period we concentrate on is the nineteenth and twentieth centuries,
but for some topics we will be going back to earlier centuries. Finally we ask whether, in the late
twentieth century, ideas about who we are and the conditions in which we live have changed so
much that we can now describe ourselves as living in a ‘post-modern’ age.

PL1015 Cold War, Crisis and Confrontation: International Relations 1945-1989 (core)
This module provides a comprehensive survey of international relations from the end of the
Second World War to the end of the Cold War. It aims to equip students with the historical and
factual knowledge necessary to understand contemporary international politics. The module will
address the origins of the Cold War, major developments in the Cold War and its impact on
different regions of the world, the relationship between Cold War and Decolonisation, and the
progress and consequences of Decolonisation. In doing this, the module considers the causes
and consequences of the major crises and confrontations of the 1945-1989 period. By the end
of the module students should not only have a firm grasp of key events in Cold War-era international history, but should also be able to account for the causes and consequences of these developments and have an understanding of the significance of particular international actors and factors in shaping post-1945 international history.

**PL1020 Classics of International Relations (core)**
This module will cover some of the fundamental concepts and debates in International Relations scholarship through an examination of a series of ‘classic’ sources. These sources will be contextualised, critically analysed and compared, allowing students to engage with some of the writers, thinkers and decision makers that have shaped the discipline over the last 100 years. The module will cover issues such as power and morality, the anarchical nature of the international system, the possibilities and limits of international cooperation, and the gendered structures of much of international life.

**FIRST YEAR SEMESTER 2 MODULE DESCRIPTIONS**

**PL1016 Order and Disorder: International Relations 1989 to the Present (core)**
This module identifies and analyses the key events, issues and themes in international relations since 1989. It focuses on assessing the extent and limits of order, integration and cooperation in the post-Cold War world. We look at examples of disorder, disintegration and conflict, including civil war, genocide and state breakdown, and at the power of the United States, the United Nations and human rights norms. The module also applies a range of International Relations theories, using these as ‘lenses’ through which to analyse and understand the world since the end of the Cold War.

**You will shortly receive notification from Registry in respect of the Online Module Selection Process used to allocate semester 2 History modules.**

**Choose 2 history modules from the following 4:**

**HS1012 Global History: Connections and Cultures in a Changing World, 1750 to the present**
This module examines what it means to study history from a global perspective, prioritising non-Eurocentric ways of understanding world history and focusing on various kinds of connections – political, economic, social and cultural – that define global history. As well as considering the methodological and conceptual questions associated with studying global history, the course is organised around four major themes: state, polities and interconnections; economies and material life; environments and cities; cultures. Each thematic topic will be taught through a broad introduction to the issues in global history and lectures focusing on specific case studies. The chronological span will be from c. 1750 to the present, but this may vary according to the approach to each theme and the particular focus of the lecturer. Themes will be examined comparatively and from a non-Eurocentric perspective.
HS1013 Great Britain: The State We’re In
This module will introduce students to the key debates surrounding Britain’s ‘rise and fall’ from its development as the ‘first industrial nation’ and leading world power to its relative industrial decline and post-imperial role: the 'state we're in' today. We will explore the key changes that have taken place in British life, including social, cultural, economic and political trends and the different ways these have been interpreted by historians. We will also focus upon what impact Britain’s changing role as a world power has had on the domestic life of the British people. Topics may vary from year to year, but will focus on five core themes which have shaped modern Britain: democratisation; industrialisation and deindustrialisation; hard and soft imperialism; social and cultural change; religion, science and modernity. The chronological span will be from c. 1688 to the present, but this may vary according to the topic and the precise focus of different lecturers.

HS1016 Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation
This module will introduce students to the major social, political, cultural and economic trends shaping European societies in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, focusing on the varied waves of emancipation and subjugation that have characterised the region in this period. Topics will vary from year to year, but may include: new nationalism, the end of serfdom, European imperialism, the First and Second World Wars, the rise of fascism, anti-Semitism, the Cold War, the fall of the USSR and the Eastern bloc, and the impact of neoliberalism.

AM1004 American History since 1877
This module will survey the history of the United States since 1877, introducing students to key events, issues and themes as a basis for further specialised study in American history. There will be an exploration of several themes in late nineteenth and twentieth century American history: these may vary from year to year, but may include: the tension between the United States’ rural life and values and its urban destiny; the development of the imperial presidency; the relationship of the United States to the world; the position of women and ethnic minorities in the United States; and the role of ideology in American life and politics. The module will also bring together social, cultural, economic and political approaches, through the examination of some famous – and often peculiar - landmarks, artefacts and ideas in modern American history.