BA Politics and Economics Year 1 – Module Information

Over the year as a whole you must take 6 modules. Three modules in each semester. Some of your modules are core (compulsory) but you will also have some optional modules to choose from.

You will be required to select your optional modules using Online Module Selection before you arrive. Please read the information below so you know which optional modules you would like to take.

Module Structure

Semester One
Core Modules:
PL1019  Politics, Power and Ethics
EC1000  Microeconomics
EC1005  Maths for Economics I

Semester Two
Core Modules:
EC1001  Macroeconomics
EC1008  Maths for Economics II

Optional Modules:
You MUST select ONE of the following -
PL1011  Political Concepts
PL1012  Comparative European Politics
PL1021  Power in the World Economy

Optional Module Descriptions
Semester TWO

PL1011 POLITICAL CONCEPTS
This module introduces students to the study of political concepts. The module starts by considering the nature of political theory and political ideology before moving on to examine a number of key concepts - such as political obligation, freedom, power, justice and authority. The way in which these concepts relate to the ‘real world’ of political systems is tackled through an analysis of competing theories of the state. In the second part of the course, attention will be paid to a number of competing ideologies.

PL1012 COMPARATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS
The aim of this module is to introduce participants to the major theoretical, empirical and substantive issues in contemporary European (as distinct from European Union or UK) politics. This module takes a broadly comparative approach, focusing on significant topics of cross-national concern in a large number of European countries. A recurring theme throughout the module is the degree to which European countries are institutionally and politically similar but at the same time different.
PL1021 POWER IN THE WORLD ECONOMY
The nature of the world economy is a crucial part of the current system of international relations. Economics is central to the evolution of the world economy. In one sense the narrative of the Cold War is the story of the decline and collapse of state communism and the triumph of market capitalism. In the contemporary world economic power remains crucial to military power. Economics is related to political instability and conflict in individual nation-states and at the international level. This module aims to examine the development of the world economy and the ideas about it: how it should run, how power operates, the connection between economic and political power and the role of economic crisis in changing world politics. This module examines the issue of economic development at the state level, still the core way to organise economic resources for growth and therefore the module examines the relationship between states and markets. However the world economy is not anarchic – it is managed and it is managed by states with interests. The course examines the power and influence of states and the role if international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in international economic affairs. It also examines the rise of neoliberalism and the role of crisis in the global economy and looks at the ‘dark’ side of development.