Major in Politics Year 1 – Module Information

Over the year as a whole you must take 4 modules in your Major discipline. Two 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 Module:**
PL1019 Politics, Power and Ethics

**Optional Modules:**
- You MUST select ONE of the following -
  - PL1015 Cold War, Crisis and Confrontation: International Relations, 1945-89
  - AM1003 Introduction to American Politics

**Semester Two**

**Core Module:**
PL1012 Comparative European Politics

**Optional Modules:**
- You MUST select ONE of the following -
  - PL1011 Political Concepts
  - PL1021 Power in the World Economy

Optional Module Descriptions

**Semester One**

**PL1015 COLD WAR, CRISIS AND CONFRONTATION: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 1945-1989**

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.
AM1003 INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
The module serves as an introduction to contemporary American politics and the American system of government. The course begins by examining the implications of the American Constitution and then moves on to discuss the formation of the modern political system. It then moves on to look at the development of the major institutions of government in the United States. We will also reflect on the interaction and influence of the media, money and interest groups before concluding with discussion of foreign policy making.

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.

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.