

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

for the award of

BA/BSc Politics

Managed by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Delivered by the Department of Social Sciences

Date approved:	September 2012
Applies to students commencing study in:	September 2018

RECORD OF UPDATES

Date amended*	Nature of amendment**	Reason for amendment**
February 2018	Major and minor changes	Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following: 1. Change title of U23272 to <i>Law, Empires and Revolutions</i> Addition of new Level 6 module <i>The Ethics of Migration and Immigration</i> .
February 2017	Major and minor changes	Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following: 1. Addition of new Level 4 module <i>Academic Literacy in Politics and International Relations</i> 2. Addition of new Level 6 module <i>Democracy, Autocracy and Regime Change</i> 3. Change title of U23173 to <i>Conflict and Peacebuilding</i>
February 2016	Major and minor changes	Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following: 1. Addition of new Level 5 module <i>Sex, Gender and Politics</i> .
June 2015	Major change	Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following: 1. Addition of new Level 5 module U23140 <i>Work-based Learning in Politics and International Relations</i> .

February 2015		<p>Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of new Level 5 module U23136 <i>Nationalism, Identity and Ethnicity</i>. 2. Change of module assessment for U23128 <i>Russia and East Europe After Lenin</i> to 50% exam and 50% coursework.
July 2014	Minor change	<p>Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Change of assessment in Level 6 module U23176 <i>Counter Terrorism in Comparative Perspective</i> to 70% exam (2 hours) and 30% coursework (1300 word essay).
February 2014	Major and minor changes	<p>Section 4.1 revised to reflect the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of new Level 6 module U23172 <i>Postcolonial Theory and the Politics of Resistance</i>. 2. Level 5 Sociology module U26124 <i>Researching the Social World 2</i> made an alternative pre-requisite for SO/PO students on the following modules: U23190 <i>Interdisciplinary Dissertation in Politics</i> U23199 <i>Dissertation in Politics</i> 3. The title of Level 6 module U23171 was changed to <i>Poverty, Inequality and the Politics of Welfare</i>.
February 2013	Major and minor changes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addition of a new Level 5 module U23135 <i>Development and Social Change in Latin America</i>.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awarding body:	Oxford Brookes University
Teaching institution and location:	Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
Language of study:	English
Final award:	BA/BSc Combined Honours
Programme title:	Politics
Interim exit awards and award titles available:	DipHE; CertHE
Brookes course code:	PO
UCAS code:	Politics combined with: Business Management NL2F Mod/PODP History LV21 Mod/POHI Philosophy LV25 Mod/POPQ Sociology LL32 Mod/POSO Criminology LL31 Mod/POKJ
JACS code:	L200
HECoS code:	100491
Mode of delivery:	Full-time (face to face/on-campus) Part-time (face to face/on-campus)
Mode/s and duration of study:	Full-time: 3 years Part-time: up to 6 years
QAA subject benchmark statement/s which apply to the programme:	Politics and International Relations, 2007
Professional accreditation attached to the programme:	N/A
University Regulations:	The programme conforms to the University Regulations for the year of entry as published/archived at: http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/

SECTION 2: WHY STUDY THIS PROGRAMME?

Politics at Oxford Brookes University can be studied as part of a combined degree with a choice of 5 other subjects such as Sociology, Philosophy, History and Criminology. Politics provides students with a carefully designed programme in which they:

a) develop their understanding and knowledge of Politics as the study of power in social relations in its material, ideational and institutional forms. Students will have the opportunity to examine the roots and nature of political activity set in the context of wider social activity at both domestic and international levels.

b) develop skills, knowledge and understanding in the fundamental elements central to the landscape of the Politics discipline. The subject encourages students to traverse the different analytical, theoretical and methodological traditions of the discipline as well as to critically challenge the limits of these different traditions of political analysis.

c) cultivate their understanding of Politics by progressing through a programme which moves from the general to the particular throughout the period of their degree. Introductory and advanced modules provide the building blocks for an understanding of the Politics discipline before moving on to a broad and diverse range of specific research informed modules which offer students the opportunity to study key themes and contexts of the political world.

d) construct a flexible programme of study in which they are able to explore their own areas of interest, participate in the design of their own course of study and become autonomous, effective and independent learners as well as collaborating and learning in diverse groups.

e) develop core skills in research, information literacy and life-long learning habits, cultivate cognitive and social skills relevant to intellectual, professional and personal development, and prepare for a diverse range of career opportunities.

The aims of the programme:

a) To provide a flexible programme of study which encourages and enables intellectual, personal and professional development in response to the needs, interests and aptitudes of individual students.

b) To encourage and enable students from a wide range of backgrounds to develop as independent learners through the provision of a student-centred education which harnesses the experiences and knowledge which they bring to the programme as both a catalyst and resource for their learning experience.

c) To cultivate the development of students' understanding and knowledge of the landscape of the Politics discipline driven by the critical examination of the nature of, and explanations for, the social relations of power in their material, ideational and institutional forms in different domestic and international contexts.

d) To increase critical awareness of different theoretical, methodological and analytical perspectives which make up the landscape of the Politics discipline and to understand and apply such perspectives in different contexts and at different levels of analysis.

e) To enable students to acquire the skills, competencies, flexible knowledge-base, and study habits required for lifelong learning.

Politics and International Relations staff have expertise in a wide-range of topics including security and militarism, environmental politics, global political economy, post-Soviet authoritarianism, state-building and nation-building, international ethics and human rights, gender and feminism, peacebuilding and migration studies Staff profiles can be found here:

<http://www.social-sciences.brookes.ac.uk/People/Academic/>

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the programme, graduates will demonstrate the following Brookes Attributes:

3.1 ACADEMIC LITERACY

- a. compare and evaluate conceptual frameworks pertaining to the analysis of Politics.
- b. critically assess a variety of academic literature and sources pertaining to Politics.
- c. effectively communicate their own reasoned arguments about Politics.

3.2 RESEARCH LITERACY

- a. Understand concepts and conceptual frameworks that are deployed to analyse Politics in a variety of contexts.
- b. Select and apply appropriate methodologies in research about Politics.
- c. Analyse a variety of academic literature and sources pertaining to Politics.
- d. Design and carry out a small scale research project.

3.3 CRITICAL SELF-AWARENESS AND PERSONAL LITERACY

- a. Work in complex and unpredictable contexts and exercise initiative and personal responsibility in learning.
- b. Manage time and tasks effectively, solve problems and make decisions.
- c. Communicate fluently and effectively in speech and in writing.

3.4 DIGITAL AND INFORMATION LITERACY

- a. Gather, organise and deploy a variety of academic literature and digital sources pertaining to Politics.
- b. Use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information including primary and secondary sources of information.

3.5 ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

- a. Know and recognise the salient substance of Politics in a variety of domestic and international settings.
- b. Appreciate the contestable nature of the study of Politics and be able to develop independent arguments and to do so on the basis of the application of conceptual understanding and evaluation as well as substantive knowledge and recognition.
- c. Work independently as well as collaborating with others to achieve common goals.

SECTION 4: CURRICULUM CONTENT & STRUCTURE

4.1 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS:

Code	Module Title	Credits	Level	Status	Coursework: Exam ratio
Level 4 Modules (students must pass all compulsory modules to progress)					
U23101	Introduction to Politics	15	4	Compulsory	Coursework: 100%
U23102	Politics in Comparative Perspective	15	4	Compulsory	Exam: 100%
U23103	Academic Literacy in Politics and International Relations	15	4	Compulsory	Coursework: 100%
Level 5 (students must take at least two alternative compulsory modules for an Honours Degree and at least 1 alternative compulsory for a Degree and Named DipHE)					
U23120	Political Thought 1	15	5	Alternative	Coursework:

				compulsory	50% Exam: 50%
U23131	Political Thought 2	15	5	Alternative compulsory	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
U23130	Researching Politics and IR 1: Analytical Modes	15	5	Alternative compulsory	Coursework: 100%
U23132	Researching Politics and IR 2: Methods Politics students combining with Sociology have the option to take U26124 Social Research Methods as an alternative pre-requisite for the dissertation modules U23190 and U23199	15	5	Alternative compulsory; pre-requisite for dissertation	Coursework: 100%
U23122	American Politics and Society	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
U23124	State and Society in Europe	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23126	Modern British Politics	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
U23128	Russia and East Europe After Lenin	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
U23133	Understanding Europe: History, Culture and Political Economy	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23134	Current Issues in Politics and International Relations	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23136	Nationalism, Identity and Ethnicity	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23137	Sex, Gender and Politics	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23138	Democracy, Autocracy and Regime Change	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23140	Work-based Learning in Politics and International Relations	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23220	The Global Political Economy	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 40% Exam: 60%
U23222	Global Governance and Civil Society	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23223	Contemporary Security Studies	15	5	Acceptable	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
LEVEL 6					
U23170	Freedom, Justice and Political Thought	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 50% Exam: 50%
U23172	Postcolonial Perspectives on Western Culture and Politics	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23173	Conflict and Peacebuilding	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23174	Violence, Resistance and Identity Politics	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23176	Counter Terrorism in Comparative Perspective	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 30% Exam: 70%

U23178	State and Society in Contemporary Russia	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23179	Political Sociology of Crime and Disorder	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23182	Central Asia in Global Politics: Beyond Oil and Islam	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23183	South African Politics: From Apartheid to Democracy	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23270	Global Environmental Politics	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23188	Independent Study in Politics	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23190	Interdisciplinary Dissertation in Politics	30	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23199	Double Dissertation in Politics	30	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U26170	Theory and Practice of Human Rights	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework: 100%
U23184	The Ethics of Migration and Immigration	15	6	Acceptable	Coursework 100%

4.2 PROGRESSION AND AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The Politics subject has been designed to comply with the standards published in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ). Evidence of progression is also achieved through the use of pre-requisite and compulsory modules and their placement in particular years and semesters.

The first year (level 4) provides the basic building blocks for studying Politics in the three introductory modules which include introducing elements of academic skills development and library research skills (including digital journal retrieval). It starts by examining the roots and nature of political activity set in the context of wider social activity. It explores governments and types of governance, as well as the nature of power and rule under democratic and non-democratic regimes.

The second year (level 5) provides a conceptual and methodological underpinning to the programme through the alternative compulsory modules in political theory, political analysis and methodology. These modules provide students with the theoretical and analytical frameworks and methodological skills to tackle in-depth and specialist areas in the study of Politics. It is also designed to provide students with the cognitive abilities, skills and knowledge to take on a research project in their final year. Students also have the opportunity to link theory and the practice of Politics through a work-based learning module.

The final year (level 6) of the programme is carefully designed so that students have the opportunity to study particular areas of Politics. The modules offered in the final year are built around the research and expertise of members of staff and provide students with the opportunity to learn through research-led teaching.

For information on how the award classification is calculated, please follow this link:

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/core/a1/a1-1-6/>

SECTION 5: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Each module uses a variety of teaching methods. Lectures provide an overview of core concepts and principles. Seminar classes can involve whole class exercises and discussion, small group activity, or individual work. Workgroup practices can involve preparing for group presentations. The emphasis in seminars is on student preparation and contribution and on encouraging students to develop their communication, presentation and project management skills. The guiding aim is to provide an instructional framework which is sufficiently rich to enable independent learning and, where appropriate,

to facilitate collaborative work practices. Typical contact time will be 24 hours per module. Students are expected to undertake 126 hours of independent study per module.

All members of staff are research active and use their own work and research experience to inform teaching, as well as drawing on state-of-the-art knowledge and resources in their areas of expertise. Level 6 honours modules in the Politics subject are designed around the research expertise of members of staff.

The following assessment methods will be used to deliver both formative and summative assessments to assess the learning outcomes of the subject: written essays, book reviews, annotated bibliographies, critical reviews, reflective journals, portfolios, written examinations, role-play, proposal writing, individual and group presentations, self and peer assessment of work components.

The assessment regime is informed by the Brookes Assessment Compact, and typical modules will provide general, individual and written feedback on coursework and other structures for assessment support. This includes, but is not limited to, one-to-one assessment guidance, essay clinics and assessment preparatory classroom based activities (e.g. exam workshops).

Graduate attributes are addressed throughout all teaching, learning and assessment.

- a) Academic literacy is inherent to the substantive content of all Politics modules. In particular, students are introduced to the landscape of the discipline in the modules Introduction to Politics, Politics in Comparative Perspective, Academic Literacy in Politics and International Relations, Researching Politics and International Relations 1: Analytical Mode and Political Thought 1 and 2. These modules specifically cultivate the disciplinary and professional knowledge and skills of the Politics discipline.
- b) Research literacy is addressed in students' independent learning and resource retrieval for all assessments. Particular focus is given to developing students' methodological understanding and ability to be critical consumers of research in Researching Politics and International Relations 2: Methods. The subject also promotes undergraduate research literacy through opportunities for placement learning and encourages undergraduates to participate with staff on research projects where appropriate. The independent study and dissertation modules provide opportunities to embed independent learning on research topics in the curriculum.
- c) Critical self-awareness and personal literacy is exercised through student initiative and personal responsibility for their own learning. The various assessment regimes utilised across the Politics subject enable students to develop as autonomous, effective and independent learners. Students also learn to work collaboratively in diverse groups, for example through group work assessment as in the South African Politics module and the 'Conflict and Peacebuilding' module.
- d) Digital and information literacy is achieved through the use of online resources via Moodle. Students are also expected to use the electronic library as many module resources and readings are only available digitally. Students are therefore expected to become expert in retrieving and using digital information for their learning.
- e) Active citizenship is addressed through the nature of the disciplinary remit and its benchmarks which prepare students to engage with both local and global communities and acquire a critical awareness of the local and global perspectives of the discipline and its implications for action.

SECTION 6: ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME

6.1 ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

For minimum entry requirements, please follow this link

<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/how-to-apply/entry-requirements/undergraduate-courses/>

6.2 DBS AND OTHER PRE-COURSE CHECKS REQUIRED

Not applicable

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SECTION 7: PREPARATION FOR EMPLOYMENT

Politics graduates have made successful careers in a variety of professions, including parliamentary research, government, international and non-governmental organisations, charity organisations, social work, management, teaching, lecturing, publishing, journalism, finance, advertising, civil service, law and trade unions. Students often go on to post-graduate study.

The Politics subject promotes the employability of our graduates by providing opportunities such as the following:

- The Level 5 module U23140 Work-based Learning in Politics and International Relations provides all students with the opportunity to earn module credit by undertaking a work placement
- Visiting speakers representing different employers including government, teaching, international and non-governmental organisations and charities are invited to give career talks to students
- Researchers from national and international institutions are invited to a weekly seminar series hosted by our Centre for Global Politics, Economy and Society
- The University Careers and Employment Centre hosts events on topics including CV writing, interview skills and career networking
- An annual alumni event is held where our former Politics graduates speak to students about their experiences in starting a career