

# Politics (combined award) - (Re-Design from Sept 2021)

## Programme specification document



Politics

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## Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Humanities
Department	Politics
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	Science
Name of award(s)	Politics

Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) Combined Award
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE
Routes available	Joint
Sandwich year	Optional
Duration of award	3 years full-time, or 4 years with Placement year
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	Yes
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Politics and International Relations, December 2019
Date of most recent approval	March 2021
Date specification last updated	March 2021

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

## Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Program me /Pathway	Regulation s /Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date
BA Hons History and Politics Joint	Undergraduate Academic Framework	Variation from Fixed Level 4 to allow students combining two Humanities subjects to avoid taking the same module (PET4103 Worlds of Ideas) twice; and ensuring that all Humanities students take the project module, ENG4108 Thinking Together.	Curriculum Committee, 31 March 2021

## Programme Overview

Politics is offered as one of the University's suite of courses in Applied Humanities. It has been designed to enable you to acquire specialised subject knowledge, develop practical and professional skills and apply both to contemporary challenges, issues and debates.

Our perspectives are local, national and global; and our focus is on the processes of change, reaction and response, on activism, and the ways in which politics 'works' in the context of health or education, international development or climate change. What can we possibly mean when we say 'but I'm not interested in politics', when politics takes so many forms and determines so many things?

The programme is flexible, in that you'll be able to develop expertise in the areas that interest you most; and it draws on disciplines and practice outside the field of politics, because these will deepen your understanding and sharpen your analysis. You'll be able to combine the study of the politics of contemporary protest with a review of the history of dissent; or look at literature as a vehicle for political debate, the articulation of difference and of alternative perspectives. You'll be able to examine the development of political philosophies, and current shifts in political activism, the rise of nationalism and populism, and the interplay of old and new media in setting agendas and settling scores.

Above all, you'll be able to work on a series of projects which look out from the University and into the city and region – or further afield, in some instances. We want you to be able to develop demonstrable skills and experience, which may include leading a project team, evaluating and acting on alternative responses to a defined challenge, or pitching an idea to one of our many partner organisations, and wherever possible following this through to implementation.

## Programme Aims

1. To enable critical reflection on the history, conventions, and values of politics and political activity – broadly conceived - in the UK and internationally;
2. To develop the tools, methods and approaches required to analyse contemporary definitions and understanding of politics and ideology;
3. To support engagement with contemporary local, national and global political challenges from a wide range of perspectives: social, scientific, political, philosophical, creative, digital, and economic;
4. To provide opportunities to study Politics in the contexts of other disciplines and to use their different methodologies and approaches to investigate related topics and lines of enquiry;
5. To combine the acquisition knowledge and insights with the development of practical and professional skills, and to enable their application in a wide range of contexts

## Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

### A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)  On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	<p><i>Knowledge</i></p> <p>Systematic and detailed knowledge of, and critical engagement with, the key approaches, methods and theories used in the study of politics</p>	<p><i>Knowledge</i></p> <p>Knowledge and critical understanding of the key approaches, methods and theories used in the study of politics</p>	<p><i>Knowledge</i></p> <p>Knowledge of the different approaches, methods and theories used in the study of politics</p>
A2	<p><i>Contextual knowledge</i></p> <p>The ability to identify and undertake the critical analysis and sustained evaluation of a wide range of contemporary and historical sources relevant to the study of politics, and the effective deployment of this material in written, visual and oral presentations</p>	<p><i>Contextual knowledge</i></p> <p>The ability to identify and analyse a wide range of material relevant to the study of politics, including quantitative and qualitative data, key commentaries and narratives</p>	<p><i>Contextual knowledge</i></p> <p>Knowledge of a range of material available for the study of politics; and an understanding of the key challenges inherent in its use as 'evidence'</p>
A3	<p><i>Political analysis</i></p> <p>Critical and systematic analysis of political writing, campaign material, print and social media, and journalism; and the ability to use this in addressing historical and contemporary political issues, movements and trends</p>	<p><i>Political analysis</i></p> <p>Knowledge and critical understanding of political writing, campaign materials, print and social media and journalism; and of their role in creating and sustaining political reputations, myths, and movements</p>	<p><i>Political analysis</i></p> <p>Knowledge of the different media used in the creation and presentation of political personalities, movements, and action</p>
A4	<p><i>Ideas and ideologies</i></p> <p>Critical engagement with the role of ideas and ideologies in contemporary politics, and the analysis of the ways in which they are used to support or challenge past and present Action</p>	<p><i>Ideas and ideologies</i></p> <p>Critical understanding of the contribution of ideas and ideologies to contemporary political debates</p>	<p><i>Ideas and ideologies</i></p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of key ideas, ideologies and concepts used in political debates</p>
A5	<p><i>Political change</i></p> <p>Systematic understanding of political change, impact and action at local, regional, national and transnational levels, and the ability to set specific events in a wider context, drawing out the connections between them</p>	<p><i>Political change</i></p> <p>Knowledge and critical understanding of the relationship between local, regional, national and transnational events and movements</p>	<p><i>Political change</i></p> <p>Knowledge of a range of historic and contemporary political events at local, regional, national and transnational levels</p>

A6	<p><i>Perspectives and positions</i></p> <p>Conceptual understanding of and sustained critical engagement with different ways of knowing, communicating, and acting, and how these shape and are shaped by our views of political realities and ideas</p>	<p><i>Perspectives and positions</i></p> <p>Critical understanding of and evaluation of the key ways in which political realities are defined and interpreted, and how these are shaped by our own and others perspectives</p>	<p><i>Perspectives and positions</i></p> <p>An understanding your own perspectives, as well as those of others', in the description and interpretation of historical and contemporary social, political and cultural events</p>
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## B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)</b>  <b>On Achieving Level 6</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 5</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 4</b>
B1	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>Analytical and creative engagement with complex problems, ideas and information in the preparation and presentation of responses to defined tasks</p>	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>The effective interpretation and communication of complex ideas and information in a variety of formats</p>	<p><i>Argument</i></p> <p>The precise identification and clear presentation of concepts, ideas and information</p>
B2	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>Effective selection and use of a variety of media (written, visual, performance) to communicate political ideas and debates, to different audiences</p>	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>The ability to select and use different forms of communication to describe and analyse political topics and themes</p>	<p><i>Creativity</i></p> <p>The use of various forms of communication and presentation for different tasks political topics</p>
B3	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>Critical understanding of the use, relevance and application of political analysis and interpretation to the resolution of contemporary problems, issues and debates</p>	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>The application of political analysis, understanding and judgement to contemporary debate, discussion and problem-solving</p>	<p><i>Application</i></p> <p>Understanding of the value and relevance of political enquiry in contemporary contexts</p>
B4	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>The ability to formulate, plan, implement and evaluate defined projects, demonstrating self-direction, originality, critical analysis, creative thinking, and persuasive argument.</p>	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>The ability to conceive, plan and implement defined research and other projects</p>	<p><i>Project planning and management</i></p> <p>Understanding of the key stages involved in project design, planning and implementation</p>

## C Skills for Life and Work

	<b>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)</b>  <b>On Achieving Level 6</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 5</b>	<b>On Achieving Level 4</b>

C1	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	<i>Autonomous learning</i> (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	<i>Team working skills</i> necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	<i>Team work</i> as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	<i>Team work</i> as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	<i>Communication skills</i> that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	<i>Communication skills</i> commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	<i>Communication skills</i> that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	<i>IT skills and digital literacy</i> that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

## Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required\* = R\*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Politics						
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint	Joint with History
4	POL4002-20	Adventure, Adversity, Austerity: the politics of modern Britain	20		C	C
4	POL4003-20	Protest and Persuasion	20		C	C
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	20		R	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together: Humanities in the C21st				R
5	POL5003-20	The art of the possible: political analysis and policy making	20		C	C
5	POL5004-20	The art of persuasion: advocacy for change	20		C	C
5	POL5001-20	Political ideologies: thinking in action	20		O	O
5	POL5002-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	20		O	O
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	20		O	O
5	HIS5124-20	Diaspora, migration and race	20		O	O
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	20		O	O
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	20		O	O
PPY	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120		O	O

6	POL6000-40	Politics Project	40		O	O
6	POL6004-20	Issues in World Politics	20		O	O
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	20		O	O
6	JPU6103-20	Investigative Journalism	20		O	O
6	GEO6003-20	Identities and Inequalities	20		O	O
6	HIS6115-20	Propaganda, Censorship and Intelligence	20		O	O

## **Assessment methods**

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note : if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

## Work experience and placement opportunities

As this is an applied course, there are opportunities throughout to *use* your knowledge, analysis and skills in a variety of different ways, including through project-related work inside and outside the University. The following modules have been explicitly designed to incorporate professional development, opportunities for working with external partners and placements of varying lengths and complexity. The University will support you in making the most of these opportunities, and in ensuring that they work for you in relation to the skills you want to develop, your ambitions and aspirations, and the needs of those with whom we work

ENG4108-20 Thinking Together

PET5102-20 Working Together

PPY5100-20 Professional Placement Year

POL6000-40 Politics Project

## Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Politics, we enable this...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Providing opportunities to work with partners outside the University, applying subject knowledge and insight to a wide range of projects and tasks
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Investigating the processes of change through our research and in our programmes, exploring complexity and valuing diversity
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Valuing creativity within all Humanities subjects, enabling problem solving, and facilitating work across disciplines
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Embedding digital materials and approaches in our research, learning and teaching
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Offering a curriculum which crosses continents, explores different perspectives, and acknowledges our own
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Providing opportunities to work in a variety of different ways, on a wide range of projects and with a mix of partners
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Embedding critical thinking in everything we do, challenging conventional thinking and promoting effective communication, in a variety of formats
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Providing opportunities to work with partners outside the University, applying subject knowledge and insight to a wide range of projects and tasks

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
POL5 002- 20	Political Institutions and Social Change	Assessment change	Covid19 related changes made permanent June 2021	2021/22
RPE5 103- 20	Transformative Communities	Added optional module	Approved by Curriculum Committee 15th December 2021	2022/23
POL6 005- 20	Environmental Politics	Minor Modifications	Approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
POL5 001- 20	Political ideologies - Thinking in action	Assessment change and minor modifications	Approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23

### Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

**Attached as appendices:**

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

## Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram – Politics

Joint Honours Politics and a second non-Humanities subject

<b>Politics and xx Level 4</b>	
POL4002-20 Adventure, Adversity, Austerity: the politics of modern Britain	POL4003-20 Protest and Persuasion
Second Subject Core Module	Second Subject Core Module
Second Subject Required module	PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas

Joint Honours History and Politics

<b>History and Politics Level 4</b>	
POL4002-20 Adventure, Adversity, Austerity: the politics of modern Britain	POL4003-20 Protest and Persuasion
HIS4010-20 Europe and the World 1 - Encounters and Perspectives	HIS4011-20 Europe and the World 2 - Nationalism, Revolution and Modernity
PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas	ENG4108-20 Thinking Together: Humanities in the 21st Century

Joint Honours Politics Levels 5 and 6

<b>Politics and xx Level 5</b>	
POL5003-20 The art of the possible: political analysis and policy making (C)	POL5004-20 The art of persuasion: advocacy for a change (C)
Second Subject Core	Second subject Core
POL5001-20 Political ideologies: thinking in action	PET5102-20 Working Together
HIS5125-20 Digital Humanities	POL5002-20 Political Institutions and Social Change
Second Subject Option	HIS5124-20 Diaspora, migration and race*
	REP5103-20 Transformative Communities

\* Unless taken as a History option

<b>Politics and xx Level 6</b>	
POL6000-40 Politics Project*	
POL6004-20 Issues in World Politics	POL6005-20 Environmental Politics
JPU6103-20 Investigative Journalism	GEO6003-20 Identities and Inequalities
HIS6115-20 Propaganda, censorship and intelligence	

Joint Honours students may take the Politics Project + 1 x 20 credit optional module OR 3 x 20 credit optional modules if they decide to take a 40 credit module in their second subject.

## Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)	Intended Learning Outcomes													
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
4	POL4102-20	Adventure, Adversity, Austerity: the politics of modern Britain	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
4	POL4003-20	Protest and Persuasion	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	R		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together	R (with History)		*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	POL5003-20	The art of the possible	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	POL5004-20	The art of persuasion	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	POL5001-20	Political Ideologies: thinking in action	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	POL5002-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	HIS5124-20	Diaspora, migration and race	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	O		*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	PPY5100-120	Year in Professional Practice	O														
6	POL6000-40	Politics Project	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	POL6004-20	Issues in World Politics	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	POL6005-20	Environmental Politics	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	JPU6103-20	Investigative Journalism	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	GEO6003-20	Identities and inequalities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	HIS6115-20	Propaganda, Censorship and Intelligence	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional

## Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)	Assessment method													
				Coursework					Practical				Written Examination				
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	POL40 02-20	Adventure, Adversity, Austerity: the politics of modern Britain	C			1x2000 words				1x2000 words							
4	POL40 03-20	Protest and Persuasion	C					1 x 4000									
4	PET41 03-20	Worlds of Ideas	R					1 x 2500 words			1 x 1500 words						
4	ENG41 08-20	Thinking Together: Humanities in the 21 st Century	R					1 x 1000			1 x 3000						
5	POL50 03-20	The Art of the Possible	C			1 x 3000			1 x 2000								
5	POL50 04-20	The Art of Persuasion	C			1 x 2000		1 x 3000									
5	POL50 01-20	Political Ideologies: thinking in action	O			1 x 2500							1 x 2500				
5	POL50 02-20	Political Institutions and Social Change	O			1 x 2000					1 x 3000						
5	HIS512 5-20	Digital Humanities	O					1 x 5000									
5	HIS512 4-20	Diaspora, migration and race	O			2 x 2500											

5	PET51 02-20	Working Together	O				1 x 4000					1 x 1000				
5	RPE51 03-20	Transformative Communities	O					1x 2000				1x 2500				
5	PPY51 00-120	Year in Professional Practice	O													
6	POL60 00-40	Politics Project	O		Either 1 x 8000	1 x 2000						Or 1 x 8000				
6	POL60 04-20	Issues in World Politics	O				1 x 5000									
6	POL60 05-20	Environmental Politics	O			1 x 1000	1 x 4000									
6	JPU61 03-20	Investigative Journalism	O				1 x 1500	1 x 3500								
6	GOE60 03-20	Identities and Inequalities	O			1 x 3000						1 x 2000				
6	HIS611 5-20	Propaganda, Censorship and Intelligence	O			1 x 2500						1 x 2500				

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional