

Politics

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Politics affects all of us. It is central to human life and human affairs. It is fundamental to how we organise and govern ourselves as a community and to how we resolve conflicts. The decisions we make as political communities, who makes them and how, have consequences for how we live, from questions of war and peace, the distribution of wealth, our rights, freedoms, responsibilities, our access to education, transport and health care.

In an ever changing world, new challenges are constantly arising – from climate change to new technologies, from identity politics to Brexit – and the study of politics needs to respond. At Liverpool Hope, therefore, we seek to engage with politics and political issues in the real world as they evolve and change over time, and we actively encourage debate and discussion amongst our students, encouraging a stronger awareness and appreciation of different points of view.

On this programme of study, you will explore key ideas, institutions and politics in an international, national and local context. You will be taught by staff who are experts in their fields, who will teach you to engage with political research and develop the capacity to be an independent, critically-minded scholar. The course also aims to equip you with transferable skills to take into the world of work.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2024/2025 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you also need to buy key textbooks, which we estimate to cost around £100. During your studies, there are a number of optional fieldtrips in Britain and Europe. You will be given plenty of notice about the cost of these trips.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



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Politics Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Politics

Your first year provides you with the knowledge of the key sub disciplines that underpin Politics.

In the first year, you will be given in-depth introductions to:

- Key Concepts and Debates in Politics and Political Analysis
- Key Political Institutions, Ideas and Political Actors
- Understanding of the Features of Political Systems and Political Practice in the UK, Europe, the United States and beyond

There are five key themes to the first year course:

- Political Institutions: including constitutions, legislatures, the executive. How do key institutions work and relate to one another? What does this tell us about the structure of political power?
- Political Organisation and Participation: including parties and party systems, interest groups and public opinion, elections. How has political organisation and participation changed? What are the current trends? What does this tell us about democracies?
- The International System: we look at the importance of international political economy and the role of international organisations including the United Nations and NATO. What is their role and importance in the world today?
- Political Ideologies: we examine the most influential 'classic' political ideologies from conservatism to communism and discuss their relevance, their differences and similarities and their implications. We also take a look at more recent ideological movements, including green movements and feminism.
- Political Communication: communication is central to politics and understanding the changing media landscape therefore provides essential insights into politics and the challenges it faces.

In your first year, lectures, will provide you with detailed introductions to these topics and you will explore and debate them through participation in seminar activities. Tutorials, which are special small-size classes that allow you to get to know your fellow students and the staff more quickly, will be an opportunity discuss specific questions in depth.

Skills for Study and Research

A key theme in the first year is developing skills and techniques needed for successful undergraduate study to help ensure that you reach your full potential. In our weekly 'Big Issues and Bright Ideas' class, we address a key

issue of the week, based on the topics covered in the course (above), and also give you important study advice, tips and support for assignments.

Year Two

Explorations in Democracy

Through a four part series of lectures and tutorials, this course addresses the key theories and ideas underpinning modern representative democracies, its historical development in Europe and the Americas and the challenges it has faced in the past and today.

- Part One: History, Ideas and Democracy
- Part Two: Democracy in the USA
- Part Three: European Democracy
- Part Four: Challenges to Democracy

British Politics and Democracy

This seminar course focuses working with fellow students on analysing and evaluating British democracy. You will look at key institutions and organisations of the British political system and how they function, as well as major issues in British politics today.

Comparative European Democracy

This seminar course focuses on creating and building a political profile for a European country in preparation for conducting your own comparative analysis. Topics include: Executives, the Judiciary and legal system, the legislature, the distribution of power, the welfare state and civil service, parties and electoral system.

Year Three

Advances Studies in Politics

Your third year provides the opportunity to explore in depth some of the key areas of politics and political theory.

Politics in the United States

This series of lectures will examine in depth the evolution of American politics through the lens of core institutions and contemporary issues.

The Imperial Presidency

In this seminar course, you will study the development of the presidency as a central institution in American politics and foreign policy from Franklin Roosevelt's reinvention of the office in the 1930s to the present day.

Modern European Political Theory

In this lecture series, we engage directly with major works of political theory. We address key thinkers in the political theory canon from the fifteenth century to today.

Power and Politics

In this seminar course, we explore the changing political landscape through the lens of the

concept of power. You are introduced to key debates and concepts in the analysis of power in political contexts.

Dissertations and Research Projects

You will do either a 10,000 word dissertation in conjunction with your other subject, or a 5,000 words special study.

COURSE STRUCTURE

You can take this course in combination with another subject of your choice, or as part of our Politics and International Relations single honours programme. Teaching on this programme is structured into lectures, interactive and student-led seminars and tutorials which in your first year typically have no more than 12 students. Regular study skills classes are also provided in the first year to support you in your transition into Higher Education.

For the Politics part of your Combined Honours degree, in your first year of study there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. Overall, you should expect to spend an average of 40 hours per week devoted to your studies, including taught hours, independent work and group work where relevant.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessments are varied and consist of a formal exams, and a range of written coursework assignments. In your final year, you will complete a special study or dissertation.

Feedback is provided verbally to the whole year group where possible, to emphasise points of general relevance, usually through weekly skills sessions or tutorials. Should you require it, your tutor's 'drop-in' office hours are an opportunity to gain verbal feedback and discuss your work privately.



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