

Politics

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Politics shapes our lives in many ways. It influences governance, conflict resolution, and our rights. It also impacts our freedoms and access to essential services. This politics course looks at who makes political decisions, how they are made, and their effects on local, national, and global society.

At Liverpool Hope, we connect with politics as it changes in the real world. We tackle current issues like climate change, new technologies, identity politics, Brexit, and the Covid-19 pandemic. Students are encouraged to participate in open debate and discussion, developing a strong awareness of diverse perspectives.

You will explore important political ideas, institutions, and processes. Expert staff will teach you about political research and critical thinking. The course also develops transferable skills to prepare you for a range of careers. Opportunities include work placements and the "Practitioners in Politics" series. In this series, MPs, the Mayor of Liverpool, and the Merseyside Commissioner for Crime and Policing share insights on political careers and essential skills for success.

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 2026/2027 are £9,790 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

The first year provides a foundation in the key sub-disciplines of political study through two core modules.

Foundations in Politics

This module introduces key ideas, concepts, and debates in politics and political analysis. Core themes include:

- **Key Ideas in Politics** – Explore how politics is studied, understand democracy and the state, analyse power, decision-making, and political behaviour
- **Political Ideologies** – Examine classic ideologies from conservatism to communism, as well as contemporary movements including green politics and feminism
- **Foundations of Democracy** – Trace the development of modern liberal democracies from ancient Greece to 19th-century representative systems

Politics: Issues, Institutions, and Actors

This module examines political institutions, key actors, and processes at national and international levels. Core themes include:

- **Key Institutions in Politics** – Study constitutions, legislatures, and the executive, and understand their roles in political power structures
- **Key Actors in Politics** – Explore political parties, interest groups, the public, and the media, analysing trends in organisation and participation
- **International Organisations** – Learn about the roles of bodies such as the United Nations and NATO
- **Challenges to Democracy** – Consider threats such as authoritarianism, illiberal democracies, political violence, and terrorism

Skills for Study and Research

Tutorials and study sessions support the development of academic skills, including research techniques, critical reading, writing, and assignment preparation, helping you reach your full potential as a student of politics.

Year Two

Explorations in Democracy

The second year course is structured around three key areas, providing critical

evaluations of British, American, and European democracy.

British Politics and Democracy

In this course, 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.

Democracy in the USA

This element discusses American democracy and the US Constitutional Framework, the electoral process and voting behaviour before looking at key election case studies from the 21st Century. Consideration is given to the controversies of minority presidents and political controversies.

European Democracy

This element compares and contrasts the different styles of democracy across the European continent. Through select themes such as parliaments, welfare-states, electoral systems and voting behaviour, students are introduced to the diverse and unique expressions of democracy in countries from Ireland to Russia.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Politics

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

Politics in the United States

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

Governance and Decision-Making in the European Union

In this lecture series, we explore the unorthodox system of EU governance and its diverse decision-making practices.

Power and Politics

In this course, you will 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, and are invited to use them to analyse where power lies in contemporary politics, the changing shape of political organisation and activism, the impact of technology, how the state works and more besides.

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. You will receive guidance and individual support from an assigned tutor in the creation and completion of this work.

COURSE STRUCTURE

You can take this politics course as part of a combined honours programme or as a single honours Politics and International Relations degree. Teaching is delivered through lectures, interactive seminars, and tutorials of 10–25 students.

In the first and second years, the Politics component includes approximately 6 teaching hours per week, reducing to 5 hours in the third year. Students are also expected to spend additional hours on independent study and group work, averaging around 40 hours per week in total.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessment is varied and includes written coursework assignments, with formal exams introduced in the second and third years. You will receive clear assessment criteria at the start of the degree and at appropriate points throughout your studies. In the final year, you will complete a special study or dissertation, allowing you to specialise in an area of your choice.

The teaching team provides timely, high-quality, constructive written feedback, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement. In the first year, feedback is delivered verbally in tutorials or one-to-one meetings, with tutors' office hours available for private discussion of your work.



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