

# 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.

*\*Subject to approval*

## 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](http://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.



**LIVERPOOL  
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UNIVERSITY**

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## CONTACT

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[www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)

# 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 (30 credits)

This module introduces key ideas, concepts, and debates in politics and political analysis. Key themes include: key Ideas in Politics (how politics is studied, the nature of democracy and the state, power, decision-making, and political behaviour), political Ideologies (such as conservatism, communism, nationalism, and feminism), and development of modern liberal democracies from ancient Greece to contemporary systems of representations.

### Politics: Issues, Institutions, and Actors (30 credits)

This module examines political systems, institutions and key actors. Themes include: key institutions in politics (constitutions, legislatures, the executive and their roles in political power), key actors (parties, interest groups, the public, and media, exploring trends in political organisation and participation), international organisations (UN, NATO, and other global actors), and challenges to democracy (authoritarianism, illiberal democracies, political violence, and terrorism).

## Year Two

### EU Governance and decision-making (15 credits)

This module explores the roles of EU supranational institutions (European Commission and European Parliament), and EU intergovernmental institutions (European Council and Council of the EU) in public policy making.

### British Politics and Government (15 credits)

This module examines some of the key issues and challenges facing British politics and democracy. It addresses key institutions and organisations of the British political system – including Parliament, parties and the executive –

considers how they function, evaluates their effectiveness and explores relevant key issues.

### Comparative Democracy: Europe and the USA (30 credits)

This module compares and contrasts issues of democracy in the United States and in Europe. It looks at different democratic traditions, voting systems and the strengths and weaknesses of democratic practice on each continent.

## 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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