

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Politics BA Politics with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UBAPOLTC_C (part-time) UUBAPOLT_C (full-time) UUBFPOLT_C (full-time with foundation year) UBFPOLTC_C (part-time with foundation year)
5	UCAS code	L290/LL2F (with foundation year)
6	Home Departments	Department of Politics
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert HE, Dip HE
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	4 years part-time, 3 years full-time 4 yrs full-time with FY, 6 yrs part-time with FY
9	Mode of Study	Part Time and Full time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details	N/A
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	Politics and International Relations

14	Programme Rationale & Aims	
	<p>BA Politics:</p> <p>The BA Politics equips students with the tools to understand the nature of Politics in the modern world. It is taught with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of the study of politics, drawing on history, sociology, economics, anthropology, human geography and psychology as well as politics. It also recognises the close connection between theoretical and empirical approaches, rejecting the artificial distinction that is often made between political theory and political science.</p> <p>Students are provided with a strong grounding in British politics in years 1 and 2, but from the beginning are encouraged to think about Politics in comparative and international perspective. There is also a stress on the idea of politics as a practice, an activity engaged in not just by politicians, but by many different kinds of actors and institutions in modern societies.</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year:</p> <p>For the BA Politics with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the programme. The final three years (full-time) or 4 years (part-time) of the 'with foundation year' programme is the same as the 3 or 4 year BA</p>	

programme and students who successfully complete a degree programme with foundation year are awarded the same final degree title as students on the other BA degree routes..

15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>The UCAS tariff is set at 120-128 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable if students have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. Students who fail to achieve this level may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.</p> <p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year:</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Politics but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
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16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Foundation Year</p> <p>Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. <p>All modes of study:</p> <p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of politics in a number of different societies, • Employ comparative analysis in the study of political institutions and practices across different societies and regions. • Demonstrate a developed knowledge of various theories of politics drawn from political science, political theory and other disciplines in the social sciences. • Recognise the importance of political practice and how this shapes and is shaped by large scale political institutions and processes. • Demonstrate developed skills of enquiry and analysis in politics and social science.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a capacity to communicate clearly ideas and arguments about politics both orally and in writing. • Where appropriate, employ skills developed in the course of study in public and vocational settings.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Various teaching and learning methods are used on the degree. Most teaching takes place in lectures and seminars, employing a variety of methods such as small group work, student presentations, debates, guest speakers and so on. Other forms of teaching are used where appropriate, including field-trips, the use of film, etc. In line with other teaching in the Department, extensive use is made of audio-visual facilities and web-based learning tools such as Moodle.</p> <p>A mix of assessment strategies is used. Level 4 modules employ a combination of short essays and in-class tests. Assessment at levels 5 and 6 is through coursework (essays), small-scale assessment tests (for example, political blogging, writing policy briefs) and examinations. Where essays are used they are compulsory. Written feedback on essays is provided within three weeks of submission, and students have the opportunity to clarify any feedback by contacting their lecturers and seminar leaders.</p>
19	Programme Structure
	<p>BA Politics: Across the programme, students take three compulsory skills modules in the autumn term of years 1, 2 and 3 (The Study of Politics, Governing by Numbers and Political Research: A Critical Approach). At level 4, compulsory modules include How the West Was Made: Transformations in Global Politics, Democracy and Authoritarianism, Conceptualising Politics, and Comparative Government: Processes. At level 5, students take compulsory modules including Liberalism and Its Discontents and Contemporary British Policy. The level 6 compulsory modules are Classic Texts and Contemporary Social and Political Theory. Students take various options at levels 5 and 6, including the possibility of taking modules outside the Department. In the final year, students may elect to take a 30 credit dissertation.</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year: Students in the BA Politics with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3 in the foundation year(s). There are four core modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City 2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge 3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP 4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy <p>Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA Politics with Foundation Year (which is the same as the routes without foundation years.)</p>

4 year part-time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO166H4	Comparative Government: Concepts, Methods and Institutions	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO167H4	Comparative Government: Processes	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO168H5	Contemporary British Politics	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO169H5	Contemporary British Policy	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO220S6	Political Research: A Critical Approach	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO163H6	Classic Texts	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		*optional 30 point dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, can be taken in place of two 15 credit options	30	Option
3 year full-time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO166H4	Comparative Government: Concepts, Methods and Institutions	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO167H4	Comparative Government: Processes	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO168H5	Contemporary British Politics	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO169H5	Contemporary British Policy	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO220S6	Political Research: A Critical Approach	30	Compulsory
6	SSPO163H6	Classic Texts	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		*optional 30 credit dissertation, or other appropriate 30 credit option, can be taken in place of two 15 credit options.	30	Option
BA Politics with Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years)				
Foundation Year (0)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO166H4	Comparative Government: Concepts, Methods and	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO167H4	Comparative Government: Processes	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO168H5	Contemporary British Politics	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO169H5	Contemporary British Policy	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option

Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO220S6	Political Research: A Critical Approach	30	Compulsory
6	SSPO163H6	Classic Texts	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		*optional 30 point dissertation, or other appropriate 30 credit option, can be taken in place of two 15	30	Option
BA Politics with Foundation Year (Part-time 6 years)				
FOUNDATION Year (0a)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
FOUNDATION Year (0b)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO166H4	Comparative Government: Concepts, Methods and	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO167H4	Comparative Government: Processes	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO168H5	Contemporary British Politics	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO169H5	Contemporary British Policy	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO220S6	Political Research: A Critical Approach	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option

Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO163H6	Classic Texts	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		*optional 30 point dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, can be taken in place of two 15 credit options	30	Option

Indicative list of options

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO160H5	Gender in the Global Political Economy	15	optional
5	SSPO161H5	Race in the Global Political Economy	15	optional
5	SSPO176H5	Politics and the Arts	15	optional
5	SSPO183H5	Politics in the Middle East	15	optional
6	SSPO218H6	Parliamentary Studies: Power, role and influence	15	optional
6	SSPO219H6	Parliamentary Studies: representation and reform	15	optional
6	SSPO184H6	Political Economy in the Middle East	15	optional
6	SSPO162H6	Issues in European Political Economy	15	optional
6	SSPO177H6	The United States in Global Politics: Theories and Histories	15	optional
6	SSPO178H6	The Domestic Politics of US Foreign Policy	15	optional
6	SSPO181H6	The Rise of the Modern Food System	15	optional
6	SSPO182H6	The Politics of the Global Food System	15	optional
6	SSPO185H6	Capitalism: histories and theories	15	optional
6	SSPO186H6	Capitalism and the Politics of Markets	15	optional

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Programme Director	Dr Barry Maydom
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	PT – Oct 2011 FT – Oct 2012
22	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2011
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2011
24	Date(s) updated/amended	November 2021