

## Minor Specification

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### Politics

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Name of minor	Politics
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics & International Relations
Faculty that owns the minor	Social Sciences
Minor Leader	Ana Margheritis - Head of Teaching Programmes, Politics and International Relations
Date specification was written	21-10-2013

### Overview of Minor

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#### 1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor provides a basic grounding in the theories, issues and methodologies which are central to the study of Politics, focusing throughout on how we can conceptualise and explain political decisions, events and actions, and how political power is used by political actors to shape outcomes. The Minor provides for the analysis of political theories, political systems and institutions, political participation, and public policy, examination of which will cumulatively develop an understanding of the complexity and contested nature of politics.

This minor is not available to students on BSc International Relations or BSc Politics & International Relations

#### 2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods concentrate on relating theory to practice, developing analytical abilities and skills, and examining the impact of actions in historical and contemporary contexts. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities, some employing simulation exercises and case study analysis.

#### 3 Assessment

Assessment methods allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes by prioritising analysis of complex material that is subject to multiple reasonable interpretations. Essays and group projects allow students to develop and present cases and arguments, focusing on the ultimately contested nature of explanations in the study of Politics.

## Educational Aims of the Minor

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of politics.
- knowledge of selected issues and events across a range of political arenas and topics of study.
- capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of politics, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- capacity to undertake independent enquiry into political issues, using appropriate methodologies.
- skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working co-operatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes.

## Learning Outcomes for the Minor

### Knowledge and Understanding

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The nature and significance of politics.
- Political systems and institutions, and the organisation and exercise of political power and governance.
- The application of concepts, theories and methods relevant to understanding the dynamics of politics and political systems.
- Different interpretations of political issues and events.

### *Teaching and Learning Methods*

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

### *Assessment methods*

Written, unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, assessed classroom activities.

### Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems
- Develop reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information, and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback
- Manage your own learning self-critically

### *Teaching and Learning Methods*

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

### *Assessment methods*

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

## Transferable and Generic Skills

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Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to:

- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals
- Identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence

### ***Teaching and Learning Methods***

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

### ***Assessment methods***

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

## Subject Specific Practical Skills

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:

- Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information
- Identify issues for political enquiry
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions

## Structure of Minor

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### **1 Typical content**

The minor in Politics introduces and develops your understanding of political events and actions, as well as the competing traditions of enquiry and analysis that help scholars explore this field of study. In understanding and explaining political phenomena, we must accept that cultural, historical, and practical circumstances will strongly influence not only interpretations of events, but also the reasons and evidence that will support any given conclusion. Politics broadly concerns those things about which people disagree – about decisions and who makes them, use of scarce resources, agendas for action – and political analysis involves the exploration and impact of contested ideas about what a ‘good’ political system should look like. This requires the study and analysis of political power, a focus which underpins all political analysis, in terms of who has power in political terms (and who does not), how that power is used, and to what effect for society and its various members. Specific avenues of inquiry in the study of the Politics Minor may include, for example: political theory, democratic systems, political participation, political institutions, regional and national politics, and public policy.

### **2 Special Features of the programme**

None.

### **3 Details of the minor**

You may not select modules that are incorporated as core or compulsory on your Major programme of study.

*Back Tracking and Forward Tracking:* Back tracking and forward tracking by one level are allowed up to 15 ECTS/30 CATS.

Teaching is research led at all levels. As a result, the modules on offer vary from year to year as staff research interests and priorities develop and change. The following is an indicative list of the modules on offer to students wishing to study for the Minor.”

The minor consists of the following, although not all modules may be available in any given year:

**Part 1: 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS) from the following:**

PAIR1002 Political Systems  
PAIR1005 Introduction to Political Inquiry  
PAIR1007 Crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
PAIR1004 Political Ideas

**Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

15 ECTS/30 CATS from any of the following modules:

PAIR2016 Public Policy Analysis  
PAIR2018 Partisans, Public Opinion and Elections: Understanding the Political Mind  
PAIR2045 Political Economy – Approved asked to be rolled over  
PAIR2051 Power and Ethics Before Machiavelli  
PAIR2052 Ethics of Public Policy  
PAIR2010 The Struggle for Democracy  
PAIR2011 American Political Thought  
PAIR2026 Democratic Theory  
PAIR2042 Reinventing Democracy: Innovation, Participation and Power – asked to be rolled over  
PAIR2048 Gender, Power and Politics  
PAIR2050 Contemporary Theories of Justice  
PAIR2054 Dilemmas of Leadership  
UOSM2004 Global Health  
UOSM2010 Global Challenges  
UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty  
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China  
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

**Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

**Please note: Students cannot take a year 3 version of a module they have previously taken.**

15 ECTS/30 CATS from any of the following modules:

PAIR3025 Public Policy Analysis  
PAIR3027 Partisans, Public Opinion and Elections: Understanding the Political Mind  
PAIR3050 Power and Ethics Before Machiavelli  
PAIR3057 Ethics of Public Policy  
PAIR3015 Contemporary Theories of Justice  
PAIR3033 Democratic Theory  
PAIR3038 Reinventing Democracy: Innovation, Participation and Power  
PAIR3052 Dilemmas of Leadership  
PAIR3061 Gender, Power and Politics  
PAIR3063 American Political Thought  
UOSM2004 Global Health  
UOSM2010 Global Challenges

UOSM2011 The Management of Risk and Uncertainty  
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China\*\*  
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

#### **4 Progression Requirements**

The programme, of which this minor comprises a part, follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: <http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

#### **Revision History**

1. A. Kelso, 21 October 2013
2. CQA team 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014
3. CQA team July 2016
4. S.Casey 18/19 revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18