

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Comparative Political Thought			
Final award (<i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations</i>)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Professional body accreditation (<i>if applicable</i>)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created	2016/17			
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<p>The programme aims to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide high-quality, research based training to enable graduate students to undertake further advanced study and research in political theory/political thought; 2. Develop students' substantive knowledge of the key approaches, debates, and questions in the emerging sub-discipline of comparative political thought; 3. Enable students to acquire knowledge of a range of thinkers, traditions and texts, in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East; 4. Provide learning opportunities for students to compare ideas and values across regions and historical periods; 5. Enhance analytical skills pertaining to political ideas and political practices suitable for employment in multicultural/international professional contexts.
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Familiarity with the main approaches in the emerging sub-field of comparative political thought, including different understandings of 'comparison' and 'thought'; 2. Advanced understanding of some of the philosophical, historical, political and linguistic issues that arise in the study of non-Western political thought; 3. In-depth knowledge of some key political concepts (eg. state, authority, individual, community), as understood by political thinkers in Asia, Africa and the Middle East; 4. An understanding of political thought not simply as articulated by elite intellectuals, but also as ideas in action, manifested in political practices at different levels of society. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through core course lectures and seminars. Students are required to attend all lectures and seminars, to read specified materials in preparation for seminar discussion, to study extensively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation.

<p>on their own and prepare assessed as well as non-assessed work regularly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above. • Through optional course lectures and seminars. Students are required to attend all lectures and seminars, to read specified materials in preparation for seminar discussion, to study extensively on their own and prepare assessed as well as non-assessed work regularly. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To analyze and evaluate competing approaches to comparative political thought; 2. To conceptualize the main issues and problems that arise in the comparative study of political thought; 3. To develop in-depth understanding of aspects of non-Western political thought; 4. To develop intellectual initiative and skills to compare political ideas across cultural and historical boundaries, identifying and evaluating similarities and differences; 5. To formulate research questions and hypotheses. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through core course lectures and seminars. Students are encouraged to read closely, to weigh up competing claims and to develop their own assessments of their relative value in oral presentations and written work. • As above. • Through optional course lectures and seminars. Students are encouraged to develop in-depth knowledge of their chosen subjects that allows them to engage critically with common assumptions and evaluate competing interpretations. • Through active participation in core course lectures, seminars, and submission of assessed and non-assessed work. • Through independent, individual dissertation work to refine a broad topic of interest into a narrower, manageable and more precise research question, assisted by relevant course teachers and MSc dissertation seminar session. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through unseen examinations, assessed coursework essays and a dissertation.

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify, analyse and evaluate core arguments in theoretical materials from a variety of sources; 2. To develop skills to work creatively and flexibly across different

disciplines and regional traditions; 3. To organize information in a lucid, coherent, concise, and clear form in written as well as oral presentations; 4. To develop initiative and capacity to work independently on research questions and to adjust hypotheses and approach in the light of work undertaken for the dissertation.	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills	
1. To retrieve, select, digest and analyse complex information from a variety of sources. 2. To structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing. 3. To work effectively in and contribute to meetings, by presenting, listening to and discussing ideas introduced during meetings. 4. To manage time effectively.	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes
<p>Masters programmes (with the exception of two-year full-time MAs) consist of 180 credits, made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks, and a dissertation of 60 credits. The programme structure shows which modules are compulsory and which optional. As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars and other classes. Some subjects may have more class time than others – a typical example of this are language acquisition modules.</p> <p>At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.</p> <p>More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>

MSc Comparative Political Thought

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PFFC989
module title	Dissertation
status	compulsory module

	Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component
credits	15		15		30		30		30
module code	15PPOH028		15PPOH021		from List B		from List B or C		from List D
module title	Approaches to Comparative Political Thought	+	Comparative International Political Thought	+	from List B	+	from List B or C	+	from List D
status	compulsory module		compulsory module		guided option*		guided option*		guided option*

***List of options**

Code	Title	Credits
List B: Modules within the discipline of Politics		
15PPOC255	Islamic/Democratic Political Thought	30
15PPOH007	Islam and political ideologies	15
15PPOH009	Political violence	15
15PPOH019	Violence, justice and the politics of memory	15
15PGNH007	Queer Politics in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	15
15PPOH029	African Political Thought	15
15PPOH030	Political Thought on the Just Rebellion	15
15PPOH032	The Indian Ocean in World Politics	15
15PPOH037	Childhood, Politics and Law	15
15PPOH045	Political Theory, Race and Empire	15
15PPOH034	The Politics of State Violence: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	15
List C: A maximum of 30 credits may be selected from this list.		
15PPOC003	Government and politics of modern South Asia	30
15PPOC205	Government and politics in Africa	30
15PPOC247	Government and politics of modern South East Asia	30
15PPOC012	State and society in the Chinese political process	30
15PPOC252	Taiwan's politics and cross-strait relations	30
15PPOC253	Northeast Asian politics: Japan, Korea and Taiwan	30
15PPOH022	State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15
15PPOH008	Political society in the Middle East	15
15PPOH011	State and transformation in the Middle East	15
List D: A maximum of 30 credits may be selected from this list.		
15PSRC062	Non-Violence in Jain Scriptures, Philosophy and Law	30
15PSRC168	Oriental religions in European academia and imagination, 1815-1945	30
15PSRC169	Modern Muslim Thinkers of South Asia	30
15PLAC150	Human rights and Islamic law	30
15PHIH024	Knowledge and Power in Early Modern China	15
15PSEH011	Genders and Sexualities in South East Asian Film	15
15PAFC130	Amharic 1 (PG)	30
15PNMC032	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic	30
15PSAC303	Bengali Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSEC039	Burmese Language 1 (PG)	30
15PCHC008	Special Course in Chinese 1 (PG)	30
15PAFC136	Hausa 1 (PG)	30
15PNMC392	Elementary Hebrew (PG)	30
15PSAC295	Hindi Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSEC032	Indonesian Language 1 (PG)	30
15PJKC008	Basic Japanese 1 (PG)	30
15PJKC015	Elementary Korean (PG)	30
15PSAC298	Nepali Language 1 (PG)	30
15PNMC387	Elementary Written Persian	30
15PSAC294	Sanskrit Language 1 (PG)	30
15PAFC132	Somali 1 (PG)	30
15PAFC140	Swahili 1 (PG)	30
15PSEC040	Thai Language 1 (PG)	30
15PNMC386	Elementary Written Turkish	30
15PSAC300	Urdu Language 1 (PG)	30
15PSEC036	Vietnamese Language 1 (PG)	30
15PAFC134	Yoruba 1 (PG)	30
15PAFC128	Zulu 1 (PG)	30