

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Middle East Politics			
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"/>	MRes	<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?

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to understand the political processes at work in the Middle East by using the concepts, theories and methods of comparative politics (political sociology and political institutions) and international relations. 2. to test through empirical evidence from the Middle East the applicability and limitations of the analytical approaches of comparative politics and international relations beyond the confines from which they are largely derived. 3. to enable students to develop deeper knowledge of how political problems are analysed as well as of political developments in the region itself. 4. to offer candidates, through the dissertation, the opportunity to conduct independent research based on the analytical foundations learned from their taught courses. 5. to facilitate entry into various types of professional employment and into further research through the analytical and case knowledge derived from the programme.
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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. of how to assess data and evidence critically from manuscripts and digital sources, solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations, locate materials, use research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources. 2. of politics in the Middle East 3. of the different approaches to studying Middle East politics 4. of the relationship between the analysis of Middle East politics and the theoretical analysis of politics in general, with reference both to normative and empirical issues 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquisition through seminar classes, discussion with their teachers and the writing of coursework assignments. Students are required to attend all classes, to study extensively on their own and to prepare non-assessed work for discussion in seminars on a regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through long essays, course work, unseen examinations and a dissertation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquisition through lectures and seminar classes which students are required to attend and to which they are expected to contribute actively. Students are required to make regular seminar presentations and to submit specified pieces of written coursework. Additional and targeted assistance is provided by the relevant course teacher in the preparation of these. Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught and learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. 	
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Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. critical thinking 2. ability to analyse and interpret evidence of a variety of kinds 3. learning to demonstrate independence of judgment, especially in relation to differing interpretations of political phenomena 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • these are fostered in all the courses offered in the programme: all courses introduce information and varying, often conflicting interpretations of political developments that will need to be assessed critically. • discussion of these theories and the weighing up of evidence both in oral and written presentations requires the exercise of the analytical skills that the programme as a whole aims to develop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through long essays, course work, unseen examinations and a dissertation

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the retrieval, sifting and selection of information from a variety of sources, including group discussions 2. The ability to read a variety of types of report/paper regularly and rapidly, incorporating different types of evidence, methodology and disciplinary perspectives• the deployment of appropriate research techniques in a variety of specialised research libraries and institutes 3. effective written and oral communication 4. The ability to present coherent political arguments orally and in writing 5. The ability to research and write critical essays, dissertations and presentation reports. 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through preparation for essays and oral contributions in classroom settings • through appropriate research training and advice, especially in the preparation of the dissertation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through long essays, course work, unseen examinations and a dissertation

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> through the writing of long essays and dissertations and through seminar discussion 	
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Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> structuring and communicating ideas effectively both orally and in writing working independently, managing time and working to deadlines participating constructively in groups and the ability to assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> through regular oral feedback in seminar discussions, through oral and written feedback on the planning of essays and of the dissertation, and on the submitted coursework. through the management of time to make seminar presentations on specific days, as well as to meet various deadlines for the submission of coursework. through seminar classes and tutorials which rely on discussion and interaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> through long essays, course work, unseen examinations and a dissertation.

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 Middle East Politics

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PPOC999
module title	Dissertation in Political Studies
status	compulsory module

	Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component
credits	15	+	45	+	30	+	30
module title	from List A		from List B		from List B guided option*		from List D
status	core module		guided option*		OR 30 from List C guided option*		guided option*

*List of options

Code	Title	Credits
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List A:

15PPOH011	State and transformation in the Middle East	15
15PPOH008	Political society in the Middle East	15

List B: regional politics modules - if not already chosen under A!

15PPOC027	International Politics Of The Middle East	15
15PPOH022	State and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15
15PPOH023	Geopolitics and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus	15
15PPOH009	Political violence	15
15PPOH010	Politics of resistance in the Middle East	15
15PPOH006	Islam and politics	15
15PPOH007	Islam and political ideologies	15
15PPOH041	Infrastructures, Conflict and Struggle	15
15PPOH042	Urban Politics in the Middle East	15
15PPOH044	The Politics of Solidarity and Transnationalism in the Arab World	15
15PPOH011	State and transformation in the Middle East	15
15PPOH008	Political society in the Middle East	15

List C: disciplinary politics modules

15PPOC017	Politics of Globalisation and Development in Asia and Africa	30
15PPOC008	State & society in Asia & Africa	30
15PGNH007	Queer Politics in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	15
15PPOH021	Comparative International Political Thought	15
15PPOC255	Islamic/Democratic Political Thought	30
15PPOH030	Political Thought on the Just Rebellion	15
15PPOH031	International Political Economy	15
15PPOH032	The Indian Ocean in World Politics	15
15PPOH034	The Law and Politics of State Violence: An Interdisciplinary Perspective	15
15PPOH035	Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Social Research	15
15PPOH013	Foreign Policy Analysis	15

List D: modules from other departments:

Language modules: Please contact the relevant module convenor during welcome week to arrange a placement test if necessary.

15PNMC032	Introduction to Standard Modern Arabic	30
15PNMC381	Elementary Georgian (PG)	30
15PNMC387	Elementary Written Persian	30
15PNMC392	Elementary Hebrew (PG)	30
15PNMC386	Elementary Written Turkish	30

Modules focused on the Middle East in a cognate discipline:

15PNMC377	Turkey: Continuity and Change	30
15PLAC121	Islamic law (MA/LLM)	30
15PECC341	Economic development of the Middle East	30
15PNMC038	Israel, the Arab World and the Palestinians	30
15PHIH031	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East I	15
15PHIH032	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East II	15
15PGNH001	Gender in the Middle East	15
15PMSH003	Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications	15
15PNMH006	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies I: History and Politics	15
15PNMH007	Critical Perspectives on Palestine Studies II: Culture and Society	15
15PNMC405	Iran: History, Culture, Politics	30
15PGNH007	Queer Politics in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	15