Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Religion in Global Politics			
Final award *(exit awards will be made as outlined in the* [Taught Degree Regulations](#)*)*	BA	☐	MA	☒
	BSc	☐	MSc	☐
	Other …	☐	LLM	☐
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	☐		
	On-campus	☒		
Professional body accreditation *(if applicable)*	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?

The programme's inter-disciplinary focus aims to provide students with advanced training in the area of religion and politics through the study of a wide range of theoretical and regional perspectives. It will serve primarily as a platform for professional development and further (MPhil/PhD) graduate research. The programme will offer students:

1. Advanced knowledge and understanding of significant approaches, methods, debates, and theories in the field of religion and politics, with particular reference to the study of Asia, Africa and the Middle East;
2. Advanced skills in researching and writing about topics in and theorisations of religion and politics;
3. Advanced skills in the presentation or communication of knowledge and understanding of topics in religion and politics as they pertain to regional, international, and transnational contexts.

III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

Learning Outcomes: Knowledge	
1. Interdisciplinary specialist understanding of the relationship between religion/secularism and politics;	
2. Knowledge of the comparative and historical contexts of religion and secularism;	
3. Theories and practices of criticism and analysis in relation to core topics in the field of religion and politics in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe;	
4. Understanding of the disciplinary range of the field and the necessity of engagement with the topic of religion for the understanding of politics;	
5. Familiarity with various frameworks and key concepts that enable the integration of a variety of perspectives around the problematic of the role of religion in the public sphere and of the interrelationship of state and religious structures, values, and commitments.	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• Acquisition through course work, examinations, long essays and dissertation. • Acquisition through core seminar sessions and seminar presentations and discussions. • Acquisition through supervised individual research and supervised coursework,	

regular monitoring and feedback on student progress.	

Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills	
1. Precision in assessment of evidence and argumentation. 2. Capacity to discuss theoretical and epistemological issues in an articulate, informed, and intellectual manner. 3. Precision and critical acumen in the assessment of scholarly arguments and interpretations; 4. The ability to assess evidence and arguments independently; 5. Effective presentation of complex theoretical arguments and their relationship to empirical data. 6. Theoretical and regional expertise in order to develop and apply self-reflexive approaches to dominant issues in the comparative study of religion and politics.	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• Acquisition of all skills will be fostered through the programme's core course, subsidiary courses, dissertation training workshops, and individual supervision of research topics. • Development of judgment about validity and cogency of complex forms of argumentation will be fostered through training in reading practices, the production of critical response papers in the core course seminar syllabus, through the assessment forms of the subsidiary courses, and through individual dissertation supervisions.	

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills	
1. Academic and professional writing to the highest standards; 2. IT-based information retrieval, processing and data organisation 3. Fieldwork and archival research techniques 4. Research project design 5. Presentational skills 6. Independent study skills 7. Reflexive learning	
Typical Teaching Methods	**Typical Assessment Methods**
• Acquisition of academic and professional writing skills through the preparation of long essays, seminar reports and presentations, and dissertation. • Acquisition of information retrieval and analysis skills through course teaching and training sessions offered by the Library and Information Services staff and the Academic Development Directorate. • Acquisition of presentational and research skills through seminar presentations and dissertation workshops.	

• Acquisition of essays writing techniques, research skills, and presentation techniques through skill workshops offered by the Academic Development Directorate. • Acquisition of independent study skills and research techniques through supervised individual research and writing (dissertation and long essays). • Acquisition of reflexive learning through seminar discussion and supervised coursework.	

Learning Outcomes: Transferable skills

1. Problem solving and research skills
2. Oral and written communication
3. Critical and independent thought
4. Synthesising of difficult and wide ranging empirical material
5. Regional specialism
6. Working to deadlines and to high standards of presentation and argumentation
7. Ability to make assessments involving complex factors

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
• Oral communication through seminar presentations and class discussions. • Concise and clear written communication through essay and dissertation writing. • Lectures. • Regular monitoring and feedback on student progress during each stage of the programme's courses. • Substantial elements of independent learning, with regular feedback and discussion with supervisors. • Regular seminar discussion, seminar presentations, research training workshops, and individual supervisions.	

General statement on contact hours – postgraduate programmes

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.

At SOAS, most postgraduate modules have a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary.

More information can be found on individual module pages.

MA Religion in Global Politics

	Dissertation
credits	60
module code	15PSRC987
module title	Dissertation in Religion in
FHEQ	level 7
status	core module

	Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component		Taught Component
credits	30		30		30		30
module code	15PSRC174	**+**	from list of Guided Options: Religions	**+**	from list of either Guided Options: Religions OR Thematic and Regional	**+**	Options: Religions OR Thematic and Regional OR a language
module title	Religion in Global Politics Theories and Themes						
FHEQ	level 7		level 7		level 7		level 7
status	compulsory module		guided option		guided option		guided option

Please add additional boxes as needed to achieve a credit total of 120 for the taught components.

Guided Options: Religions

Please list all modules (subdivided into lists if necessary) that will be available to students on this programme.
Module availability in any given academic year will be communicated via the website.

Code	Title	Credits
15PANH055	Religions on the move: New Currents and Emerging Trends in Global Religion	15
15PMUH011	Music, Exile and Diaspora: the Jews of Arab Lands	15
15PARH034	Islam and the West: Artistic and Cultural Contacts	15
15PARC034	The Indian Temple	30
15PMSH039	Contemporary Themes in Media and Religion	15
15PIIH044	Islam in South Asia	15
15PNMH008	Jerusalem: City in Conflict (PG)	15
15PNMC228	Modern Trends in Islam	30
15PNMC036	Sufism	30
15PNMH011	Zionism: Critical Perspectives (PG)	15
15PPOH007	Islam and political ideologies	15
15PPOH006	Islam and politics	15
15PPOH046	Islamic/Democratic Political Thought	15
15PSRH018	East Asian Buddhist Thought	15
15PSRC158	Muslim Britain: Perspectives and Realities	15
15PSRH030	Religion, Nationhood and Ethnicity in Judaism	15
15PSRH036	The Great Tradition of Taoism	15
15PSRH028	The Holocaust in Theology, Literature and Art	15
15PSRC173	The Origins and Development of Yoga in Ancient India	30
15PSRH054	The Religions of Ancient India	15
15PSRH046	Yoga and Meditation: Perspectives, Context and Methodologies	15
15PSRC071	Religious Practice in Japan: Texts, Rituals and Believers	30
15PAFH008	African Philosophy (PG)	15
15PSRH053	Chinese Buddhism in the Pre-Modern Period	15
15PSRC172	Buddhist Meditation in India and Tibet	30
15PSRH054	Religions of Ancient India	15
15PSRH049	Religions and Development	15

Guided Options: Thematic and Regional

Please list all modules (subdivided into lists if necessary) that will be available to students on this programme.
Module availability in any given academic year will be communicated via the website.

Code	Title	Credits
Anthropology & Sociology		
15PANH010	African and Asian Diasporas in the Modern World	15
15PANH009	African and Asian Cultures in Britain	15
15PANH061	Anthropology of Globalisation (PG)	15
15PANH058	Anthropology of Human Rights (PG)	15
Development Studies		
15PDSH027	Aid and Development	15
15PDSH023	Borders and Development	15
15PDSH001	Civil society, social movements and the development process	15
15PDSH010	Gender and Development	15
15PDSH074	Global Approaches to Peace	15
15PDSH029	Migration and Policy	15
15PDSH054	Neoliberalism, Democracy and Global Development	15
15PDSH020	Security	15
15PDSH018	War to Peace Transitions	15
Global Media and Communication		
15PMSH003	Mediated Culture in the Middle East: Politics and Communications	15
15PMSH038	Prejudice, Conspiracy and Misinformation: Understanding Media in a Post-Truth Environment	15
15PMSH004	Transnational Communities and Diasporic Media:Networking, Connectivity, Identity	15
History		
15PHIH031	Empire and Reform in the Modern Middle East, 1789-1914	15
15PHIH032	Nationalism and Revolution in the Modern Middle East, 1914-1979	15
15PHIH030	Gender, law and the family in the history of modern South Asia	15
15PHIH056	The Afghanistan Wars, 1979 to the Present	15
15PHIH031	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East I	15
15PHIH032	Modernity and the Transformation of the Middle East II	15
15PHIH029	Historical Perspectives on Gender in Africa	15
Gender Studies		
15PGNH007	Queer Politics in Asia, Africa and the Middle East	15
15PGNH002	Queering Migrations and Diasporas	15
Languages, Cultures and Linguistics		
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
15PSAC314	The Politics of Culture in Contemporary South Asia	30
Law		
15PLAC150	Human Rights and Islamic Law	30
15PLAC129	Law and Society in South Asia	30
15PLAH049	Law and Society in Southeast Asia	15
15PLAC130	Law and Society in The Middle East and North Africa	30
15PLAH064	Law, Rights & Social Change	15
15PLAH082	Palestine, Resistance, and the Law	15
Politics and International Relations		
15PPOC026	Comparative politics of the Middle East	30
15PPOH018	Conflict, rights and justice	15
15PPOH051	Culture and Difference in Political Theory	15
15PPOH052	Democracy and Authoritarianism in South Asia	15
15PPOH009	Political violence	15
15PPOH015	The Politics of Global Security	15
15PPOH019	Violence, justice and the politics of memory	15
15PPOH021	Comparative International Political Thought	15
15PPOH073	Taiwan in International Politics	15
15PPOH054	Elections, Social Movements and Gender in Taiwan	15