Programme Specification

1. **Awarding body**: University of London
2. **Teaching Institution**: Birkbeck College
3. **Programme Title(s)**: MSc Social and Political Theory
4. **Programme Code(s)**: TMSSLPOT_C
5. **UCAS code**: N/A
6. **Home Department**: Politics
7. **Exit Award(s)**: Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma
8. **Duration of Study (number of years)**: 1 year full time, 2 years part time
9. **Mode of Study**
   - FT
   - PT
   - DL
10. **Level of Award (FHEQ)**: 7
11. **Other teaching depts or institution**: N/A
12. **Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details**: N/A
13. **QAA Benchmark Group**: N/A

14. **Programme Rationale & Aims**

   This programme is designed to enable students to develop an advanced knowledge and understanding of the main currents in social and political theory. It provides balanced training in theory as well as insight into applications in ethical and empirical problems. It is a good foundation for undertaking an MPhil/PhD related to social and political theory.

   **Distinctive features:**
   - Outstanding expertise of tutors and international recognition of their research.
   - Cross-disciplinary orientation, with an emphasis on political sociology.

15. **Entry Criteria**

   A second class honours degree (2:2 or above) in a related area, or relevant experience combined with an adequate academic background (subject to interview).

16. **Learning Outcomes**

   **On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:**
   - undertake critical and well-informed analyses of social and political theories;
   - apply theoretical approaches to a range of important and topical social and political issues.

   **On successful completion of this programme students will be expected to have:**
   - extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities
   - demonstrated the ability to conduct an independent research project.
   - developed their ability to obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources
Learning, teaching and assessment methods

The programme uses the established teaching and assessment methods on the Politics MSc programmes, consisting of lectures and seminars for taught modules, along with a dissertation. There is a standard assessment pattern that means that students submit formative essays to obtain feedback in term 1 and assessed essays in term 2, and take exams in term 3.

Program Description

Students take two core modules and two options (all 30 credits) and write a 60 credit dissertation. Full-time students take all four taught modules Oct-May and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept. Part-time students take two modules each year (one core in each year) and submit their dissertation by 15 Sept of their second year.

Indicative list of options:
SSPO120S7 Emerging Powers in World Politics
POSO082S7 Global Politics, Governance and Security
POSO007S7 International Political Economy
POSO020S7 Modern British Politics
SSPO006S7 Middle East Politics
POSO044S7 Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict
SSPO121S7 Geopolitics, Population and Environment
POSO041S7 Public Management: Theories and Innovations
POSO025S7 Public Policy: Interests, Ideas, Institutions
POSO075S7 Qualitative Social Research
POSO076S7 Introduction to Quantitative Social Research
POSO006S7 The European Union: Integration, Politics and Policy
POSO035S7 War, Politics and Society
SSPO127S7 The Politics of Population Change: Immigration, Aging and Conflict

Programme Structure

Full-Time programme – 1 year

Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POSO022S7</td>
<td>Political Theory and Contemporary Politics</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POSO023S7</td>
<td>The Political Sociology of the Modern State</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POSO062D7</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Optional module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Optional module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Optional</td>
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</table>
Part-Time programme – 2 years

Year 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>POSO023S7</td>
<td>The Political Sociology of the Modern State</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Core</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Option module</td>
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<td>Optional</td>
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</table>

Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Option module</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy:

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme
  [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)** N/A

Student Attendance Framework – in brief

The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available on the college website.

**Principle**
Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**
Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

E-Registers
All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of entry: 2020/21</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Support and Guidance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: <a href="http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities">http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards** |
| The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input. For more information please see the Academic Services and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality) |

| **Programme Director** |
| **Start Date (term/year)** |
| **Date approved by TQEC** |
| **Date approved by Academic Board** |
| **Date(s) updated/amended** |
| Jason Edwards |
| October 1976 |
| 1976 |
| 1976 |
| March 2017 |