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 x PT x 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 a training in the critical evaluation of central concepts and theories in social and political thought, with a focus on their application to contemporary political and social 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 and political theory, but exploring connections to disciplines such as history, psychology and psychoanalysis, political economy, philosophy, geography, and cultural studies.

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:
Year of entry: 2022/23

- 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 across the Department that means that students submit a mixture of essays, exams, and other minor assessment exercises, in addition to the dissertation.

###  Programme Description

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

**Indicative list of options:**
- SSPO248H7 Powers in World Politics
- SSPO249H7 Transformations in the Global South
- SSPO250H7 Fragmentation and Integration in Global Politics
- SSPO251H7 Flashpoints in Global Security
- SSPO254H7 International Political Economy: Concepts and History
- SSPO255H7 Issues and Policies in Global Political Economy
- SSPO227H7 British Politics: Participation, Representation and Deliberation
- SSPO228H7 Divided Power in British Politics
- SSPO256H7 Middle East Politics 1 (Core Features)
- SSPO257H7 Middle East Politics 2 (International Angles)
- SSPO229H7 Nationalism and Ethnic Politics
- SSPO230H7 Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict
- SSPO235H7 Governing Public Services
- SSPO236H7 The Political Economy of the Public Sector
- SSPO237H7 Theories of Public Policy-Making: Interests, Institutions and Ideas
- SSPO238H7 The Puzzles of Policy: Policy in Politics and Practice
- SSPO242H7 Qualitative social research methods
- SSPO243H7 Qualitative Research Design
- SSPO239H7 Introduction to Quantitative social research
- SSPO240H7 Intermediate Quantitative social research
- SSPO241H7 Advanced Quantitative social research
- SSPO231H7 The Political System of the European Union
- SSPO232H7 The European Union: Policy Modes
- SSPO252H7 War, Politics and Society I
- SSPO253H7 War, Politics and Society II
- SSPO258H7 The Politics of Population Change I: Youth, Aging and Conflict
- SSPO259H7 The Politics of Population Change II: Migration, Identity 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>
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<td>SPPO221H7</td>
<td>Political Sociology of the Modern State</td>
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<td>SSPO223H7</td>
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<td>7</td>
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## Part-Time programme – 2 years

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### Year 2

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<td>Dissertation MSc Politics</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Core</td>
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**Status***

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Director</th>
<th>Dr Jason Edwards</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Start Date (term/year)</td>
<td>October 1976</td>
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