

## Programme Specification

1	<b>Awarding body</b>	University of London						
2	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	<b>Birkbeck College</b>						
3	<b>Programme Title(s)</b>	<b>MSc Social and Political Theory</b>						
4	<b>Programme Code(s)</b>	TMSSLPOT_C						
5	<b>UCAS code</b>	N/A						
6	<b>Home Department</b>	Politics						
7	<b>Exit Award(s)</b>	Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma						
8	<b>Duration of Study (number of years)</b>	1 year full time, 2 years part time						
9	<b>Mode of Study</b>	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">FT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td style="text-align: center;">PT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> <td style="text-align: center;">DL</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	FT	x	PT	x	DL	
FT	x	PT	x	DL				
10	<b>Level of Award (FHEQ)</b>	7						
11	<b>Other teaching depts or institution</b>	N/A						
12	<b>Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details</b>	N/A						
13	<a href="#"><u>QAA Benchmark Group</u></a>	N/A						

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p>Distinctive features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding expertise of tutors and international recognition of their research.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>

15	<b>Entry Criteria</b>
	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	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
	<p><b><i>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertake critical and well-informed analyses of social and political theories;</li> <li>• apply theoretical approaches to a range of important and topical social and political issues.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>On successful completion of this programme students will be expected to have:</i></b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities</li> <li>• demonstrated the ability to conduct an independent research project.</li> <li>• developed their ability to obtain and analyse information from a wide array of sources</li> </ul>
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17	<b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b>
	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.

18	<b>Programme Description</b>
	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Indicative list of options:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SSPO248H7 Powers in World Politics</li> <li>SSPO249H7 Transformations in the Global South</li> <li>SSPO250H7 Fragmentation and Integration in Global Politics</li> <li>SSPO251H7 Flashpoints in Global Security</li> <li>SSPO254H7 International Political Economy: Concepts and History</li> <li>SSPO255H7 Issues and Policies in Global Political Economy</li> <li>SSPO227H7 British Politics: Participation, Representation and Deliberation</li> <li>SSPO228H7 Divided Power in British Politics</li> <li>SSPO256H7 Middle East Politics 1 (Core Features)</li> <li>SSPO257H7 Middle East Politics 2 (International Angles)</li> <li>SSPO229H7 Nationalism and Ethnic Politics</li> <li>SSPO230H7 Nationalism and Ethno-Religious Conflict</li> <li>SSPO235H7 Governing Public Services</li> <li>SSPO236H7 The Political Economy of the Public Sector</li> <li>SSPO237H7 Theories of Public Policy-Making: Interests, Institutions and Ideas</li> <li>SSPO238H7 The Puzzles of Policy: Policy in Politics and Practice</li> <li>SSPO242H7 Qualitative social research methods</li> <li>SSPO243H7 Qualitative Research Design</li> <li>SSPO239H7 Introduction to Quantitative social research</li> <li>SSPO240H7 Intermediate Quantitative social research</li> <li>SSPO241H7 Advanced Quantitative social research</li> <li>SSPO231H7 The Political System of the European Union</li> <li>SSPO232H7 The European Union: Policy Modes</li> <li>SSPO252H7 War, Politics and Society I</li> <li>SSPO253H7 War, Politics and Society II</li> <li>SSPO258H7 The Politics of Population Change I: Youth, Aging and Conflict</li> <li>SSPO259H7 The Politics of Population Change II: Migration, Identity and Conflict</li> </ul>

<sup>19</sup>	<b>Programme Structure</b>			
<b>Full-Time programme – 1 year</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
7	SPPO221H7	Political Sociology of the Modern State	15	Core
7	SSPO223H7	Reading Classic Texts Today	15	Core
7	SSPO222H7	Contemporary Political Sociology	15	Core
7	SSPO224H7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	15	Core
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation MSc Politics	60	Core
<b>Part-Time programme – 2 years</b>				
<b>Year 1</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status*</b>
7	SPPO221H7	Political Sociology of the Modern State	15	Core
7	SSPO222H7	Contemporary Political Sociology	15	Core
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7		Optional module	15	Optional
<b>Year 2</b>				
<b>Level</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Status</b>
7	SSPO223H7	Reading Classic Texts Today	15	Core
7	SSPO224H7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	15	Core
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7		Optional module	15	Optional
7	SSPO244D7	Dissertation MSc Politics	60	Core

**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*

<sup>20</sup>	<b>Programme Director</b>	Dr Jason Edwards
<sup>21</sup>	<b>Start Date (term/year)</b>	October 1976
<sup>22</sup>	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	1976
<sup>23</sup>	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	1976
<sup>24</sup>	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	February 2022