



POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

gold.ac.uk/politics

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Politics at Goldsmiths doesn't just examine parliaments, voting systems and the formal centres of political power. We explore 'the politics behind politics' - the major economic, social and cultural conflicts that are hidden by the formal veneer of institutions, but are central to everyday life.

As members of our vibrant and innovative department, you'll join the international debate about how the world works, and how it is changing. You'll explore the values and ideas that have set the world on its present course, and you'll be invited to consider what we might, collectively, do differently.

Why choose Politics and International Relations at Goldsmiths?

We're innovative. Our inventive and challenging modules will defamiliarise you from what you think you already know, and encourage you to look at politics from a different perspective.

We're challenging. We teach you how to think, not what to think. We will help you develop your own independent views about the world, and teach you vital skills in critical thinking and conceptual analysis.

We're diverse. We have leading experts teaching the politics of China, India, the Middle East, Japan and Africa, as well as international relations, human rights, political theory, political economy, and British politics. You'll have a wide range of options to choose from and can tailor your degree around your own interests, benefiting from a university education that is as broad as it is rigorous.

From study abroad opportunities, and exciting speaking events, to our embedded work placement programme, which prepares students for their future careers, we make the student experience central to the life of the department. Students here rate their experience highly: in the 2016 National Student Survey, politics at Goldsmiths received a high score of 90% for overall satisfaction.



OUR DEGREES

BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations

BA (Hons) Politics

BA (Hons) International Relations

BA (Hons) International Relations & Chinese

BA (Hons) Economics, Politics & Public Policy

BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics

BA (Hons) Sociology & Politics

BA (Hons) History & Politics

BA (Hons) Religion

BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics-international-relations

This degree will provide you with a thorough grounding in the major aspects of both politics and international relations (IR), including IR theory, international systems and global governance, security studies, political theory, UK and European politics, and international political economy.

This innovative programme examines the main institutions responsible for both the dynamism and unpredictability of the modern world. You'll explore the main developments in both national and international politics, and will gain a strong understanding of the main pressures on national and international actors. You'll learn how changes at an international level ripple into national politics, and vice versa, and how this leads to an often fraught and fractious international environment.

Your studies will draw from Goldsmiths' strengths in international relations, political theory and political economy, as well as our in-depth specialisms in China, Africa, the Middle East and the United States.

In your first year, you'll take compulsory modules in political theory, political economy, and UK and European politics and global politics, which will give you a strong grounding in the main problems and issues in modern politics.

In your second year, you'll take compulsory modules focusing on global governance and contemporary international relations alongside optional modules in the politics and sociology departments.

In your third year, you will take the compulsory module Critical Security Studies alongside further specialised, research-led modules in politics and international relations. You'll also complete a dissertation.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Political Theory and Ideologies
World Politics
Introduction to Political Economy
Introduction to Economic Policy
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Global Governance and the World Order
Contemporary International Relations Theories

Plus politics options such as:

Chinese Politics
Europe Since 1945
International Trade
Rough Politics

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Critical Security Studies
Dissertation

Plus politics option modules such as:

Anarchism
Colonialism and Non-Western Thought
Feminist Politics
Finance in the Global Political Economy
Work placement

BA (Hons) Politics

3 years full-time, or 4+ years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics

You'll take a distinctive and modern approach to political studies, focusing on the theme of breaking down the boundaries between formal and informal, street-level politics.

You'll find yourself in an interdisciplinary environment where the emphasis is on competing ideas and visions of what politics is and what it can achieve. You'll cover political ideologies, political economy, British and European politics, the politics of non-Western countries, and international relations.

In your first year you'll take three compulsory modules covering theories of international relations and developments in global politics since 1945, UK and European government and politics, and key concepts in political theory including democracy, freedom and rights. You'll then have a choice between The Politics of Other Cultures, and introductory modules in political economy, which look at the main theories, ideas and problems posed by economists.

In your second year, you'll have a choice of politics module options (see page 16).

Your third year sees you write a dissertation on a subject of your choice within the broad discipline of politics, and select further modules from specialised third-year politics options, including a work placement option.

BA (Hons) International Relations

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-international-studies

If you want to understand the impact of the Arab Spring or the ideology of ISIS, how US foreign policy is shaped by domestic politics, how international trade affects various parts of the world, how different cultures shape political decision making, or how international NGOs operate, this is the degree for you.

During the three years you'll explore the institutions, conflicts and dynamics that shape our contemporary world. You'll study the theory of international relations, global governance, international political economy, foreign policy and diplomacy. This is complemented by specialist area-focused modules on the Middle East, Africa, China and East Asia, which investigate how international relations play out in different places.

You can also pursue your personal areas of interest with optional modules as diverse as security, foreign policy, conflict and genocide, and development and human rights.

This theoretical learning is complemented by the opportunity to apply your academic knowledge to an optional work placement in the international relations sector. This will give you valuable experience that will set you apart as you embark on your career in areas such as government, international institutions, policy thinktanks, development agencies and NGOs.

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Political Theories and Ideologies
World Politics

Politics of Other Cultures

Plus

UK and European Comparative
Governance and Politics

Or

Introduction to Political
Economy *and* Introduction
to Economic Policy

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Contemporary International
Relations Theories

Global Governance and the
World Order

Critical Security Studies

Plus option modules such as:

Politics and International
Relations of the Middle East

US Politics and Foreign Policy

International Political Economy

Europe Since 1945

International Trade

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Dissertation

Options:

Work placement

*Plus three to six politics options
(see page 18)*

BA (Hons) International Relations & Chinese

4 years full-time (including a year in China)
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-international-relations-chinese

The 2008 global economic crisis led to a shift in global power and China was at the forefront of this change. While Europe and the United States have been gripped with an age of uncertainty, in China one finds a newfound assertiveness and confidence.

In this degree you'll spend a year in Beijing where you'll get comprehensive language training and gain first-hand experience of everyday Chinese life, gaining the advanced linguistic, cultural and theoretical skills needed to fully understand Chinese political culture. Expressed in ways that all too often appear to Western journalists as a totalitarian nation, you'll be provided with the tools to tell a more complex, nuanced and culturally embedded story.

In your first two years, you'll gain foundation knowledge in international relations, global politics, and comparative area studies and/or political theory. You'll also undertake intensive language training at Goldsmiths' Confucius Institute.

You'll then spend a year studying advanced Chinese at Capital Normal University in Beijing. There you'll gain first-hand experience of everyday life in China, meeting like-minded students from all over the world and practising your Chinese with the friends you'll make in Beijing.

Upon your return you'll start the final year of your degree at Goldsmiths during which you'll complete a dissertation and continue with advanced-level Chinese modules with the Confucius Institute.

After you graduate, you'll be eligible to enrol in a further year of study in China, which can lead to the award of BA Chinese Language from Capital Normal University.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

World Politics
Political Theory and Ideologies
Mandarin 1
Mandarin 2
Or
Mandarin 3
Mandarin 4

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Contemporary International Relations Theories
Global Governance and the World Order
Critical Security Studies
Mandarin 3
Mandarin 4
Or
Mandarin 5
Mandarin 6

Year in Beijing, China

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Dissertation
Advanced Audio-Visual News Comprehension
Advanced Practical Writing
Advanced Chinese Journal Reading
Contemporary Chinese Issues
Plus two politics options (see page 18)

BA (Hons) Economics, Politics & Public Policy

3 years full-time or 4 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-economics-politics-public

Through the study of the real-world practice of government, you'll learn that politics always and everywhere has an economic dimension, and that economics is, in its turn, always political. You'll study the most important concepts and ideas in economics, and explore how, invariably, these concepts lead to a specific set of real-world debates and problems. How big should the state be? What should it seek to do? What can institutions do and use to achieve their goals?

After your first year, in which you'll gain a strong grounding in political theory, political economy, and UK, European and global politics, you'll have a choice of studying either the economic processes that political economists use to explain social and economic outcomes, or the more specific tools and theories economists have used to understand the international economy.

In your third year, you'll be invited to study the latest cutting edge research on the European Union or on the political economy of environmental protection. You'll also be able to study the radical critiques introduced in the second year in more detail in the module New Radical Political Economy, and alongside this you'll be able to explore the issues that fascinate you most in your dissertation. And if you've still got an appetite for political economy, you'll be able to do our work placement module in an economics or policy-oriented organisation.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Political Theory and Ideologies
World Politics
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics
Plus
Introduction to Political Economy *and* Introduction to Economic Policy
Or
Introductory Economics

Year 2

Compulsory module:

Political Economy
Or
International Trade *and* International Monetary Economics
Plus politics options such as:
Modern Political Theory
International Political Economy
Modern Britain: Politics from 1979-today
Europe Since 1945

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Dissertation
Third year politics modules (see page 18), plus:
Optional work placement module

BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics-philosophy-economics

You'll gain an understanding of the world around you through Goldsmiths' unique approach to the combination of subject areas known as 'PPE'. Through a critical exploration of the core themes and ideas in politics, philosophy and economics, you'll be introduced to new approaches and viewpoints, which you'll use to challenge established political and economic policies, institutions and methods.

Our PPE programme takes you through contemporary, real-world problems so that you can hit the ground running when you start your career in public policy, NGOs, media, consulting or social innovation.

In your first year, you'll take five compulsory modules that cover the foundations of economics, philosophy, and contemporary issues in political economy. You'll then choose from The Politics of Other Cultures, World Politics, or UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics.

Your second year becomes more interdisciplinary and critical. In your economics modules you'll look at economic anthropology and explore the nature of money, property and markets. The philosophy module brings in elements of continental philosophy and critical theory. You'll also choose from a range of politics modules.

By your third year, you'll see the various connections between the separate fields of politics, philosophy and economics, and be able to combine them in critical and imaginative ways. You'll also have the chance to develop your original ideas into a dissertation of your choice.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Issues in Cultural and Political Economy

Problems of Ethics

Introduction to Political Philosophy

Introduction to Economics

Plus one option from:

UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics

The Politics of Other Cultures

World Politics

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Political, Economic and Social Change

Knowledge and Subjectivity

Aesthetics

Plus:

Political Economy

Or

International Trade *and*

International Monetary

Economics

Plus two second year politics modules (see page 16)

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Global Cultural Politics

Dissertation

Three to six third year politics modules, plus:

Optional work placement module

BA (Hons) Sociology & Politics

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-sociology-politics

On this degree you'll gain a thorough grounding in sociology and politics, in methods of social and political research, and in interdisciplinary approaches to political analysis. You'll be learning in one of the UK's top sociology departments, staffed by academics who are pioneers in their fields and who write the books on your reading lists.

The compulsory sociology modules in your first year will introduce you to sociological research methods and the 'sociological imagination'.

You'll study the key concepts in political theory in your compulsory politics module. These concepts include the state, democracy, freedom, rights, power and authority. You'll also choose one politics option.

In your second year, you'll consider the making of the modern world and its sociological context in three compulsory sociology modules and choose one sociology option. You'll look at how to study a society, encompassing issues of agency and structure, class and conflict, political action and social change.

In your politics modules, you'll examine how the subject has become associated with social movements, environmentalism and globalisation. Alongside your compulsory politics module, Modern Political Theory, you'll have another choice from a range of politics options.

In your third year, you'll take compulsory module Theorising Contemporary Society, in which you'll look at topics such as recent and contemporary capitalism, developments in the economy, technology and the future, and politics and social movements. You'll choose two politics module options and complete a supervised dissertation on a topic of your interest.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Researching Society and Culture

Modern Knowledge,

Modern Power

Political Theory and Ideologies

Plus one politics option from:

World Politics

UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Central Issues in Sociological Analysis

The Making of the Modern World

Social Change and Political Action

Modern Political Theory

Plus one or two politics options (see page 16)

Plus one sociology option such as:

Sexuality

Emotions and Social Life

Migration, Globalisation and Citizenship

The Body - Social Theory and Practice

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Theorising Contemporary Society

Dissertation

Plus two to four politics options (see page 18)

Plus one sociology option such as:

Race, Racism and Social Theory

Citizenship and Human Rights

Privacy, Surveillance and Security

Sociologies of Emerging Worlds

TYPICAL MODULES

BA (Hons) History & Politics

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-politics

You'll explore ways in which thinking about politics is vital to a study of history - and how the past development of social and political institutions and ideas is crucial to an understanding of contemporary politics.

During the degree you'll have the opportunity to gain work experience through our History at Work scheme. You can be paired with one of the UK's most well-respected historical institutes where you'll be offered a taste of working with the raw materials of history held in museums, archives and libraries.

In your first year you'll start with a foundation module in historical methods and concepts, as well as one other option of your choice from cultural history, the history of ideas, modern political history or religion, peace and conflict. You also choose two first-year politics modules.

In your second year you'll take modern political theory, plus a mix of politics and history options. You'll start to examine the links between the two disciplines and form your own ideas about the role of history in contemporary political debates. You'll also be able to choose history modules from other University of London institutions - this is also the case in your third year.

In your third year you'll write an interdisciplinary dissertation that will develop your own personal interests and demonstrate an integrated understanding of both history and politics. You can also take specialist modules from both politics and history.

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Concepts and Methods in History

Plus two politics options such as:

World Politics

Political Theory and Ideologies

UK and European Politics

Plus one history module such as:

Dictators, War and Revolution

Religion, Peace and Conflict

Self, Citizen and Nation

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Modern Political Theory

One optional politics module (see page 16)

Plus history options such as:

The Birth of Modern

Britain 1900-1939

Histories of Sexualities

The Age of News 1850-1990

You may also choose:

a module from another department

Erasmus+ exchange

Optional

History at Work placement in Year 2 or Year 3

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Dissertation

Plus politics options (see page 18)

One module can be from another UoL institution

Plus specialist history options such as:

Radicalism During the English Revolution, 1641-1660

Life in the Trenches:

Perspectives on British

Military History, 1914-1918

BA (Hons) Religion

3 years full-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-religion

This degree explores critically the relationships between religion and other aspects of society as diverse as culture, communication, politics, economy, nation, education, gender, law and ethnicities. It will give you the knowledge and expertise urgently needed in International Relations, local government, NGOs, charities, politics, media, corporate social responsibility, education and the arts.

Bringing together academic expertise from across the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Politics and International Relations, this degree will immerse you in the interdisciplinary approaches to this influential subject.

Unlike a traditional theology or religious studies course focusing on the specifics of religious beliefs, this degree examines how religious and non-religious people negotiate the tensions and nuances of contemporary societies.

Work placements

You will be encouraged to take a work placement module in the summer term with organisations such as: think tanks, pressure groups, media, NGOs. You may also choose to work with a particular ethnic group, undertake advocacy for refugee or disability rights, or work in the field of visual cultures. Your third year dissertation will be empirically based and you will be encouraged to conduct research during your placement.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Modern Knowledge, Modern Power

Culture and Society

Believing and Belonging in London and the World

The Politics of Other Cultures

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion

Philosophy and Methodology of the Social Science

Sociology of Religion in the Modern World

The Making of the Modern World

Plus two options from the Department of Sociology

Plus two from Politics and International Relations such as:

Ideologies and Interests: Political Thought in Modern Britain

Art War Terror

Politics and International Relations of the Middle East

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Contemporary Social Theory

Dissertation

Plus four relevant module options from Sociology or Politics and International Relations

OUR STUDENTS



Athlyn
BA Sociology & Politics

“I found that the combination of sociology and politics complemented each other so well, and I loved how they intertwined and I was able to bring in a bit of each discipline in the work I submitted throughout my degree.”

Laura
BA International Studies

“I genuinely only have positive things to say about my experience of studying at Goldsmiths; I’m extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to study in a politics department with such excellent and inspiring academics.

During my degree, I particularly enjoyed, and benefited from, the many courses that take critical and interdisciplinary approaches to subjects and those focusing on non-Western politics and scholarship. Studying at Goldsmiths certainly broadened and enhanced my understanding and knowledge of politics - from street-level to international institutions - and sparked an interest in the politics of cities. This undoubtedly influenced my decision to apply for a masters in Urban Studies at another London university, for which I received an unconditional offer.”



Francis
BA History & Politics

“As a History and Politics student, I’ve been exposed over these two years to various political thinkers and historical perspectives; this experience has made me become more analytical when reading articles or watching the news; it has also made me become a better writer.”



Krishna
BA Economics, Politics & Public Policy

“The Economics, Politics and Public Policy programme is a unique blend of academic disciplines which provides a truly holistic approach to the study of the social world, as well as politics as a real-life activity. Perhaps the best part of the course is that it gives students

the ability to extend beyond the traditional boundaries of politics, to learn about unconventional perspectives. On top of the core modules, there are a wide choice of modules to select from which appeal to everyone’s interests, including Life: A User’s Manual.”

Political Economy
Modern Political Theory
International Trade
Europe since 1945
Contemporary International Relations Theories
Modern Britain: Politics from 1979-Today
Politics and International Relations of the Middle East
Rough Politics
International Political Economy 1
Art War Terror
International Monetary Economics
Global Governance and the World Order
The Politics of Vision
Making Modern Japan
Ideologies and Interests: Political Thought in Modern Britain
US Politics and Foreign Policy

US Politics and Foreign Policy

From 1945 to the Cold War and today's War on Terror, you'll explore how domestic political dynamics have influenced the development of foreign policy and the role of the US in the international arena. You'll gain an understanding of US governmental structures and the main interest groups, policy-making processes and political and ideological trends involved in shaping the way the US acts as a world superpower. Considering contemporary issues, you'll also examine how these affect domestic debates, the US's perception of itself and its foreign policy for the future.

Making Modern Japan

This module addresses a number of themes, from questions of nationalism and imperialism to identity and gender. You'll trace Japan's emergence as a modern state, its imperial project and its catastrophic defeat, culminating in the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and occupation by Allied forces. This historical perspective is central to understanding Japan's troubled relationship with its neighbours and its claims of uniqueness, which have left their legacy in its position as both coloniser and colonised. You'll explore what cinema, animation, manga and other popular cultural forms can tell us about political anxieties and concerns not reflected in conventional forms of political activity.

Dissertation
New Radical Political Economy
Anarchism
Liberal Government and Power
Rhetoric and Politics
Contemporary Theories of Justice
An(Other) IR: Views from the South
Politics of Conflict and Peacebuilding in Contemporary Africa
An(Other) Japan: Politics, Ideology and Culture
The Political Economy of International Development Assistance
Beyond All Reason
Critical Security Studies
Colonialism and Non-Western Political Thought
An(Other) China: Streetscenes of Politics
Movements and Conflict in the Middle East: from the Arab Spring to ISIS
Finance and the Global Political Economy
Nationalist Conflict and International Intervention
Feminist Politics
Ethics and Economics of Environmental Protection
International Political Economy 2
Politics Work Placement

Movements and Conflict in the Middle East: from the Arab Spring to ISIS

In this module you'll examine the complex interaction between religion, culture and politics in Middle East societies in-depth. You'll explore the contemporary impact of ancient religious and political divisions, such as the conflict between Shia and Sunni Islam, alongside new democratic movements and the rapid emergence of Daesh or the 'Islamic State'. Covering themes such as democracy and despotism, gender, religion, new social and political movements, and the role of the media, you'll discover the contexts of conflicts we hear so much about in the media today.

Work Placement

Spending two days a week in a work placement in the NGO sector, you'll gain experience and an insight into careers in politics and international relations. You'll be encouraged to undertake your work placement with organisations that reflect your own interests, such as: charities, think tanks, pressure groups, bodies connected to international organisations, businesses, and political parties.

The transferable skills that you'll gain through a politics and international relations degree will set you up for success across all sectors. These skills include:

- Critical and analytical thinking
- Public speaking
- Developing and presenting an argument
- Report writing
- Independent, rational and creative thinking
- Networking

Career journey

Rosella (BA Economics, Politics and Public Policy, 2013), Business Analyst

“I came straight from sixth form to Goldsmiths as I knew my degree would broaden my knowledge and understanding of the world, especially of politics and world affairs, and greatly enhance my employment opportunities. I picked Goldsmiths because it had a reputation for excellence, which was confirmed by my experience.

I found the course challenging, yet engaging and thought provoking. The lecturers are very supportive, so I'd recommend all students take advantage of all the help and support available.

Since finishing university I've started work for EDF Energy as a Business Analyst. I plan to continue to pursue my interests in 'green energy' and environmental politics and economics.”

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: vimeo.com/channels/career

You could take advantage of the unrivalled links the Department of Politics and International Relations has with the Home Office, Department for Transport, local government and the European Commission.

Goldsmiths graduates go into a range of political and politics-related areas, including government departments such as the Foreign Office, think tanks, political parties, and local government, as well as journalism, the civil service, public policy and NGO work.

You may also consider roles in the private sector, including financial services, marketing, publishing, arts administration, public relations and the media.

Find out more about the
department and degrees at:
gold.ac.uk/politics

Watch our departmental film at:
vimeo.com/goldsmiths/politics

Get in touch with our
Enquiries team:
+44 (0)20 7078 5300
course-info@gold.ac.uk

The information in this booklet reflects the 2017-18 programme specifications and was correct at the time of print in June 2017. It is intended as a guide only and the information here is not intended to be binding. You can download the most up-to-date programme specifications from our degree pages by visiting gold.ac.uk/course-finder

Please visit gold.ac.uk/disclaimer for information about our publications

© Goldsmiths, University of London 2017