UCD School of Politics and International Relations
Stage 2 & 3  Majoring Politics

Level 1 Core Modules

Students who completed the following Stage 1 Modules will be able to proceed to Stage 2/3 Politics.
- INRL10010 Foundation of Political Theory & International Relations
- POL10160 Foundations of Contemporary Politics

Level 2 Core Modules

You may choose Politics as
1) Politics Single Major¹ or 2) Joint Major

The following modules are core for all Politics students in the academic year 2017-18. (Tutorials are attached to all of them.)

Semester 1
- POL20010 Individuals and the State: Social Contract Theory from Hobbes to Rousseau
- POL20020 Comparative Politics

Semester 2
- INRL20040 Theories and Concepts in International Relations
- POL20050 Approaches to Analysing Politics

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<th>1) Politics Single Major¹</th>
<th>2) Example: Joint Major with Economics</th>
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<td><strong>Stage 2 (Year 2)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics: 50 credits</td>
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<td><strong>Stage 3 (Year 3 or 4)</strong></td>
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<td>Politics: 50 credits</td>
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<td>10 option modules</td>
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<td>Economics: 25 credits</td>
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¹ Stage 1 students wishing to take up Politics as a single subject major, should have a B minus (3.2 GPA) average in first year politics modules.
² The application deadline is the beginning of Semester 2, Year 2. For further information, see http://www.ucd.ie/spire/undergraduatestudies/currentundergraduatestudents/erasmus/
N.B. All Politics undergraduate modules are worth 5 credits unless specified otherwise.
List of Option Modules

Level 2
- DEV20130 Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- INRL20060 International Organizations
- INRL20160 Introduction to European Union Politics
- POL20060 Law, Politics, and Human Rights
- POL20180 Capitalism and Democracy
- POL20190 Contemporary Autocracies
- POL20220 Political Institutions & Development
- POL20230 Political Behaviour & Psychology

Level 3
- INRL30020 International Justice
- INRL30050 Integration, Fragmentation and the Global System
- INRL30080 Gender in War & Peace
- INRL30130 International Political Economy
- INRL30190 Middle East Politics
- INRL30270 Terrorism & Political Violence
- INRL30280 Psychology & International Relations
- INRL30290 Politics of Peace and Conflict
- POL30080 Irish Politics and Policy
- POL30350 Politics and Policy of the EU
- POL30360 Parties and Party Systems
- POL30370 Justice in Education
- POL30380 Introduction to Asian Politics
- POL30430 Data Analytics for Social Sciences
- POL30440 Political Risk & Foreign Investment
- POL30450 Political Activism in the Middle East
- POL30460 Democratic Transitions & After
- POL30480 Military Intervention & Peace
- POL30300 Advanced Seminar in Politics

For Further Information

School Website: www.ucd.ie/spire

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3 List of Level 2 & 3 Option modules can vary from year to year. N.B. There is no Level 3 core module.
4 10 credits/Maximum Enrolment: 15 students. To be eligible to take this course, you must be a Year 3/4 student who has completed Core Level 2 Politics modules. Only students with a GPA of 3.0 and above will be eligible for consideration. http://www.ucd.ie/spire/undergraduatestudies/currentundergraduatetestudents/advancedseminarinpolitics/
Appendix: Module Descriptions

Level 2 Core Modules

POL20010 Individuals and the State: Social Contract Theory from Hobbes to Rousseau
Dr Alexa Zellentin

What is the state? Do we need it? Why? Where does its authority come from? Is state authority compatible with individual freedom? If so, just how? This module examines the influential approach that sees individual consent and social contract as the answer to these questions. Those adopting this approach tend to see the state as an artificial entity based on a contract that provides order and protects certain individual rights. But then they have to address issues such as: which come first: individual rights or political order? Is the solution to the problem of order strong government, limited government, or self-government? What really makes political authority legitimate - power, or the consent of the governed? Is it possible to be free under government? Are there good reasons why we should obey government? Can we see society as based on a contract at all? We examine these issues mainly through the arguments advanced by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau and Rawls, four contrasting thinkers, who significantly influenced the development of western political thought and institutions, and whose arguments still present a challenge today.

POL20020 Comparative Politics
Dr Stephanie Dornschneider

This module introduces students to issues and methods in comparative politics. The first part explores why comparison is important, the problems that arise in doing comparative politics, and the analytical tools that are needed. Part Two shows how a comparative approach has deepened our understanding of issues such as transitions to democracy, violent and non-violent political change, protection of human rights against state power, variations in institutional design and their consequences for democratic performance. These themes are explored drawing on the experiences of many different countries across the world.

INRL20040 Theories and Concepts in International Relations
Dr Tobias Theiler

This course explores the main theoretical strands in the contemporary study of international relations. Students are introduced to several key approaches in the study of international relations, including realism, neorealism, Marxism, liberalism and interdependence theory and democratic peace theory, and to the central empirical questions these seek to address: Are states the only significant actors in world politics? Is the international system constituted in a way that makes war sometimes inevitable? Is the international conduct of many states guided more by economic objectives than by the quest for military security? Are democracies set never to go to war against one another? Is war partially rooted in human psychology? What are the political consequences of growing social and economic interaction between states and societies? What is the role and relevance of international institutions? Does international trade liberalization promote or reduce economic inequality between states?

POL20050 Approaches to Analysing Politics
Dr Johan (Jos) A. Elkink

As an introduction to the approaches in the empirical study of politics, this course will give an overview of both qualitative and quantitative research methods in political science. The course is divided in two halves: the first half will be an introduction to empirical research, discussing the role of theories and hypotheses, of concepts, of measurement, and of overall research designs, and will focus in particular on qualitative research methods, including case study design and comparative methods. The second half will be about quantitative methods, including sampling and basic statistical analysis. Some maths are required to perform basic statistical calculations.
Level 2 Option Modules (2016-17)

DEV20130 Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

In this module, we examine the most topical and pressing sustainable development challenges. We do this through an examination of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We start the course by asking what the SDGs are, whether they can be achieved. We then move on to consider key areas related to the 17 different SDGs, covering the most relevant academic and policy debate. Topics include: Measuring Sustainable Development, Poverty Dynamics, Famine, Income Inequality, Health, Education, Gender, Partnership, Industrial Development, Cities, Forests, Oceans, Water and Climate Change. This course adopts a multi-disciplinary perspective that will be of interest to students in all disciplines, including Politics, Economics, History, Sociology, Law, Public Health, Medicine, Geography, Engineering, Anthropology and Agriculture. Throughout the course students are set tasks and forced to ask questions of the material they are presented. Class participation and active learning is emphasised throughout. To get a better feel for the course take some time to look at the readings which can be found on Blackboard. The course is accessible to those with little or no social science background and will be useful to a number of future career paths - not just those interested in development work. As the world becomes ever more closely integrated a good understanding of the developing world is increasingly valuable and important.

INRL20060 International Organizations

Dr Samuel Brazys

The subject of International Organizations is broadly concerned with international political institutions, such as the UN, IMF, WTO, GEF, in international relations. The course introduces this subfield of political science, analysing the politics of the formation, structure, function and influence of international organizations. We will analyse such important questions as: why do international organizations exist? Are they autonomous actors or do they represent the interests of powerful states? What determines membership in these organizations? What is the influence of these organizations? The analysis of these and other questions will provide students with a better understanding of international relations. The module culminates through a Model UN simulation exercise.

INRL20160 Introduction to European Union Politics

Dr James Cross

This course offers an overview of the politics of the European Union. It studies the way the EU works and how its policy output and powers affect the lives of European citizens. The course has the objective to give students a solid grasp of the institutions, decision-making processes and major policies of the EU.

POL20060 Law, Politics, and Human Rights

Dr Alexa Zellentin

This module examines the moral foundations of the law, politics and human rights. We also examine the normative questions relating the interaction of law, politics, and human rights. Special attention is given to the theoretical bases for granting people rights. Some of the questions the module will address are: What is it to have a moral right? How can human rights be justified? How can we deal with situations where rights clash? Should basic rights be protected by constitutions? Under what circumstances may human rights be restricted?

POL20180 Capitalism and Democracy

Dr Aidan Regan

Political economy is about the study of who gets what, when, and how. This course introduces students to the complex historical relationship between democracy and capitalism in the advanced regional economies of the world (particularly North America and Europe). We will do this through a close reading of Thomas Piketty’s ‘Capital in the 21st Century’. The focus of the course is on the different ways in which governments have sought to promote economic growth and redistribute resources in favour of different political interests. The course presents key concepts and theories in the study of comparative capitalism, and uses these to compare institutions and policies across countries and over time. The core aim of the course is to understand the changing nature of capitalism and the politics of economic inequality in the 21st
century. We will seek to address the following questions: why have some countries grown faster than others? why are some more unequal than others? what is the inequality R>G? why have some countries adapted to globalisation and European integration in such different ways? Key themes include the politics of inequality, the role of organised interests in shaping distributional outcomes, the structural influence of business power over public policy, and the consequences of the international financial crisis for the democratic state in Europe and the USA.

**POL20190 Contemporary Autocracies**
*Dr Alexander Dukalskis*

What is authoritarianism and what varieties of it exist? How do autocratic regimes stay in power? Why would people ever support a nondemocratic government? What can people who oppose authoritarianism do about it? This course will address these questions in the context of authoritarian regimes that have existed in the post-Cold War era. In the first part of this course, we will consider various theoretical perspectives on authoritarianism by studying selections from political scientists and political theorists. In the second part of the course, we will think about these theoretical questions in the contexts of four case studies of contemporary authoritarian regimes. In the third part of the course, we will ask what people do when they want to resist authoritarianism. In so doing we will address various forms of non-violent resistance and debate the potential of the Internet to pry open closed regimes. Students who successfully completed POL10150 (Contemporary Authoritarianism) in the fall semester of 2014 should NOT register for this module.

**POL20220 Political Institutions & Development**
*Dr Krishna Vadlamannati*

This course takes as its starting point the new literature on institutional economics. Institutions have proven important for economic and social development. Much discussion nevertheless revolves around which types of institutions matter, and to what extent these institutions change over time. The course covers these and other topics including: corruption; crony capitalism; causes and consequences and how to measure crony capitalism; democracy and development; and failed states, discussed recently in institutional economics.

**POL20230 Political Behaviour & Psychology**
*Dr Eva Wegner*

Why do some people vote and others don’t? Does support for extremist parties follow from rational self-interest or from emotions or identity? Why do many poor people support parties who want to cut taxes for the rich? When do people engage in protest? This course addresses this type of questions by introducing students to key themes of political behaviour from a political psychology perspective. Its focus is on the social and psychological processes by which individuals and groups engage in political life. Important topics in this module are the formation of political beliefs, determinants of electoral support, the role of group membership for political attitudes, the importance of personality in leadership decisions, and reasons for engaging in different forms of political participation such as voting or protest. In addition, the course will introduce students to some methods used in the study of political behaviour and to the broad range of public opinion data that is available on most countries of the world. We will look into examples of political behavior from developed and developing countries alike.

**Level 3 Modules (2016-17)**

**INRL30020 International Justice**
*Dr Graham Finlay*

In an increasingly connected and unequal world, it is increasingly difficult to argue that the claims of justice can be limited to the society or group we happen to find ourselves in. This course examines the main rival theories of justice and their application, first on a national and then on a global level. We will first examine certain key concepts such as justice and human rights, second the main moral and political theories of global justice and finally we will conclude with an examination of concrete policy issues related to global inequality.
INRL30050 Integration, Fragmentation and the Global System  Dr Tobias Theiler
International politics today features growing levels of trade and communication, various trans- and supranational actors, and in the partial homogenization of lifestyles and consumption patterns. Yet it has also witnessed the breakup of some multinational states, intensifying religious and ethnic conflicts, and a growth in what some depict as "civilizational clashes." This course seeks to gain a conceptual handle on these at first glance contradictory tendencies. After reviewing more established approaches in International Relations it turns to accounts of economic "globalization," models of "international society" and regional integration, cultural and "civilizational" paradigms, and the construction and dissemination of international norms.

INRL30080 Gender in War & Peace  Dr Hannah Partis-Jennings
This is a comprehensive, active-participatory course exploring the relations between gender, war, militarism, violence and peace from both theory and practical perspectives. First, the course will introduce a critical framework for exploring international relations and examine various topics that illustrate the connection of gender, war/conflict and peace. Second, it will explore the connection between gender, war/conflict and peace in different conflict regions in a comparative fashion.

INRL30130 International Political Economy  Dr Samuel Brazys
The field of International Political Economy is broadly concerned with the interrelationship between political and economic processes in international relations. The course introduces this subfield of political science, analysing the politics of trade, development, international finance, and exchange rate regimes. We will analyse such important questions as: what drove the far-reaching liberalisation of international trade policies over the last half century? Why do some countries fail to develop economically? What happened during the financial crisis in Asia in the late 1990s and in the developed world in the late 2000s? The analysis of these and other questions will provide students with a better understanding of global economic relations.

INRL30190 Middle East Politics  Dr Vincent Durac
The politics of the Middle East have rarely played as significant a role in international affairs as they do today. This module introduces students to the emergence of the modern Middle East and key concepts, theories and themes in the political life of the region. The first part of the module addresses broad historical background, including the emergence and consolidation of the modern state-system in the Middle East. The second part of the module examines a number of contemporary issues including political economy, gender and the public sphere, political Islam and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The module concludes with an engagement with the impact of external actors on the Middle East and the implications of recent changes in the politics of the region.

INRL30270 Terrorism & Political Violence  Dr Vincent Durac
The concepts of Terrorism and Political Violence loom large in contemporary politics and policymaking but are frequently misunderstood and undertheorised. This module will introduce students to a range of approaches to terrorism and political violence. The first part of the module will explore the history of terrorism and to a diversity of understandings of, and theoretical approaches to terrorism and political violence. The second part of the module will explore a range of topics including: types and causes of terrorism, the state and terrorism, the role of religion, policy responses and the so-called ‘war on terror’.

INRL30280 Psychology & International Relations  Ms Emma Mathias
This module will introduce students to key concepts of psychology in relation to human behaviour and interactions in international relations. The module will examine the relationship and appicability of psychology to international relations as a critical discourse, and will introduce students to a range of key texts in order to formulate perspectives of analyses. Psychology is the study of the human mind, the ways in which it functions, and how this affects the motives and actions of human behaviour, including group interactions. As international relations deals with relationships between and within states, studying psychology can offer valuable insights into the
motives and patterns of these interactions. It can help us better analyse the past, present, and possible futures of international relations. Topics covered will include: Political Psychology, Psychology of War and Peace, Global Security Practices, Post-colonial Psychology, Cross-cultural Psychology, Psychology of Aid, Psychology of Power, Psychology of Nationalism, Psychology and World Orders, and the role of Psychology in Post-conflict Societies.

INRL30290 Politics of Peace and Conflict Ms Heidi Riley

In an increasingly globalized world the boundaries between different violent contexts and between political violence and post-conflict situations have become increasingly blurred. This module examines the dynamics and implications of modern conflict situations by addressing the following questions: What is conflict? What underlies differing typologies of political violence and why does it take particular forms? What are the effective means of conflict resolution and the critical debates that inform them? What are the consequences of different types of political violence and what implications do these have for post-conflict? The module introduces relevant concepts and theories of peace and conflict studies and explores the processes and dynamics of conflict resolution and peacebuilding. More specifically the module examines the origins of violent conflict, highlighting different types of conflict, the consequences, both direct and indirect of violent uprisings, and the processes of ending violent conflict. The module is interdisciplinary and incorporates aspects of security studies, gender, human rights, international intervention and transitional justice. In order to explore the theory in relation to practice, the module uses case study analysis to illustrate the key theoretical discussions. Among others, case study examples will include, Nepal, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kosovo and Syria.

POL30080 Irish Politics and Policy Prof Niamh Hardiman

Why do governments do what they do? How distinctive are Irish patterns of political organization and policy making? This course adopts a comparative perspective to analyse processes of policy making and the profile of policy priorities in Ireland. The first part examines how political power is contested and secured. The second part explores how power has been exercised in various policy domains. The third part assesses the consequences for the distribution of resources and opportunities in Irish society. There will be opportunities for discussion and class work during the semester.

POL30350 Politics and Policy of the EU Dr Caroline McEvoy

In a referendum held on the 23rd June 2016, the United Kingdom became the first country in history to announce an intention to withdraw from the European Union. As an international organisation that has been developing for over fifty years, this new political landscape means that detailed knowledge of how the EU works, its powers, its successes and its failings, is more important than ever. This course aims to equip students with a core understanding of the EU. It surveys the development of European policy making and introduces students to the EU's political system and the day-to-day politics of EU policy making. We will discuss theories of European policy making and examine major challenges that the EU faces at the beginning of the 21st century. The course is research lead, in that it focuses upon the political science literature that seeks to explain various aspects of European politics and policy making. This is reflected in the extensive reading list provided with the course. The course is aimed at those wanting a full and detailed introduction to (1) the political institutions of the EU, (2) its policy-making processes, and (3) current and future challenges facing the EU as a political system. The course does not assume any prior knowledge of the EU or EU politics.

POL30360 Parties and Party Systems Ms Mary Brennan / Mr Luke Field

Political parties are central to the functioning of liberal democratic political systems. This course examines the following main themes: the emergence and development of parties and party systems in the established democracies; how party systems are changing; how parties are changing; the threat to parties (and associated threat to democracy). The ultimate question to be addressed is whether ‘the party’ is over, and if so whether there are alternatives to parties?
POL30370 Justice in Education  Dr Alexa Zellen
This course examines a number of questions regarding education and schooling from a normative perspective. We will look at the relevant criteria for evaluating the moral rights and duties of children, parents and states with regard to education. Students will be introduced to some of the most important concepts in political theory such as justice, equality, liberty, autonomy and community. We will discuss the different aims of education as well as which agents have which responsibilities with regard to enabling children to acquire the capacities for full membership in society. We will consider which understandings of freedom and equality should inform our thinking about multicultural education and/or demands for equal opportunities for the socially disadvantaged and discuss whether and in how far state schools ought to be neutral with regard to religious and/or cultural norms relating to conceptions of the good life.

POL30380 Introduction to Asian Politics  Dr Alexander Dukalskis
Some observers look to the 21st Century as a potential "Asian Century" in which the center of gravity of world political and economic power will shift from West to East. After taking this course, students will have a greater understanding of this dynamic and important region. The course will cover the recent history and politics of China, Northeast Asia, and Southeast Asia. Except in parenthetical ways, the course will not address India and its South Asian neighbors. Students will leave this course with a well-grounded overview of the political histories and domestic regimes of important states in the region, an understanding of relations between states in the region and with external powers such as the United States, and the ability to analyze contemporary issues and problems in the Asian region from a more informed perspective.

POL30430 Data Analytics for Social Sciences  Dr Johan (Jos) A. Elkink
This module provides an overview of common statistical methods applied to the social sciences, with particular focus on political science, sociology, public policy and development. It starts with a brief recap of the basic principles of statistical analysis, then discusses how to access, manipulate, and summarize data, and then moves on to a range of different methods - regression analysis, logistic regression, dimension reduction techniques, quantitative text analysis, etc. - that are commonly used in social science empirical research or in contemporary data science applications. It reviews both long established and cutting-edge techniques. All material is discussed using real world examples of data analysis, with both micro- and macro-level data, and also form the basis for the continuous assessments. Rather than delving deeply into the mathematical properties of various techniques, this module focuses on the application and the types of problems where particular techniques can be applied.

POL30440 Political Risk & Foreign Investment  Dr Krishna Vadlamannati
This course provides an introduction and a review of the field of political risk - a field that focuses on the socio-political events, characteristics and processes that can negatively impact the multinational companies’ achievement. More specifically, it involves the often conflictual interface between foreign investors and host countries. The lectures support to several branches of scholarly literature, including the literature on international business, international political economy, civil and corporate social responsibility, and, not least, international politics. Many topics discussed in the course, including economic nationalism, the relationship between governance and foreign investors; natural resource sector and political risk, security risk, expropriation and nationalization; regime type and political risk; and economic impact of the international distribution of power.

POL30450 Political Activism in the Middle East  Dr Stephanie Dornschneider
This module introduces students to political activism in the Middle East. Many recent events, such as the Arab Spring or the rise of ISIS, have emphasized the importance of non-state actors in the Middle East. This module explores both violent and nonviolent activism since the emergence of the modern state system. First, we discuss how political activism (beyond the Arab World) has been studied by academic scholars, and how it has developed in the Middle East during the last century. We also introduce a typology of non-state actors in the Arab World. Then we turn to
particular cases that include actors such as religious movements (e.g. Muslim Brotherhood), trade unions and syndicates (e.g. the UGTT in Tunisia), human rights groups (e.g. the Nadeem Center in Egypt or the AMDH in Morocco), opposition parties (e.g. the New Wafd), and violent groups (e.g. al-Qaida and ISIS).

POL30460 Democratic Transitions & After  
Mr Martin Okolikj
Since the 1974 and the “third wave” of democracy, a large number of countries in the world have radically transformed their political systems from autocratic to democracy. This path was not straight-forward bringing much of political instability in some countries, while others were successful in consolidating their democratic governance. Yet, after 25 years of promotion of democracy and democratic institutions, the expected economic prosperity is not reached. Thus, this course will go beyond democratic transitions and consolidations and also discuss various topics of Electoral integrity, Quality of Government and Civil Society. The content will be divided in three parts: transitions, consolidations and afterwards. Throughout, the semester we will discuss different factors that promote democratization, whether democracy and Quality of Government can be universal, different processes of democratic change, importance of impartial institutions and etc. The focus of this course is to explore the relation between democracy, Quality of Government and development, including competing goals such as law and order, economic growth, individual rights and freedoms. Students will look at several case studies and regional democratic spillovers to critically connect established theories with empirical cases. Thus this is not going to be purely informatively based lectures, but students would be encourage to develop, challenge and exchange ideas.

POL30480 Military Intervention & Peace  
Dr Hannah Partis-Jennings
This course will explore the key theories, ethical questions and perspectives in the study of military intervention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the twenty-first century. It will introduce prominent debates around the need and threshold for military intervention, the use of soldiers in peace work, and the viability of the liberal peace paradigm in conflict-affected countries. With a focus on norms such as the responsibility to protect, and an engagement with case studies – Libya, Afghanistan and Liberia – this course touches on issues and questions at the core of international relations which are also central to policy and governance in the global arena. It also offers insights into critical perspectives, particularly the critical liberal peace scholarship, feminist approaches and postcolonial approaches providing students with a broad-spectrum range of analytical tools.

POL30300 Advanced Seminar in Politics  
Dr Johan (Jos) A. Elkink / Various Lecturers
This module is a 10 credit module that gives advanced undergraduate students the background, training and supervision needed to engage in a substantial piece of research. A number of members of staff of the School of Politics and International Relations will provide foundational background and methodology lectures in their various fields of expertise. Students will then produce a research proposal outlining a topic for which supervision is available and be assigned a supervisor. With supervision, students will submit a 6000 word Honours Thesis. Participation in this module involves a large amount of independent work, and the self-discipline and initiative required to do substantial research.