

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME REGULATIONS
(for PGT programmes that will run under the new modular scheme)**

This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:		September 2017			
Awarding institution		Teaching institution			
University of York		University of York			
Department(s)					
Politics					
Award(s) and programme title(s)			Level of qualification		
MA in Political Theory			Level 7 (Masters)		
Award(s) available <i>only</i> as interim awards					
PG Diploma in Political Theory					
PG Certificate in Political Theory					
Admissions criteria					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Language requirements: IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6.0 in each component); PTE: 61, with no less than 55 in each component; CAE and CPE (from January 2015): 176, with no less than 169 in each component; CAE (before January 2015): 65, with 'Good' in writing; CPE (before January 2015): C; TOEFL: 87, with a minimum of 21 in each component; Trinity ISE: level 3, with Merit in all requirements. ▪ BA degree or foreign equivalent in the upper second class or higher. Applications from students with lower qualifications will be considered, particularly when the student has high marks in relevant modules and/or appropriate professional experience. 					
Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
MA in Political Theory	1 year (f/t) 2 years (p/t)		Face to face, campus based.		
Language of study		English			
Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)					
n/a					
Educational aims of the programme(s)					
<p>For the Masters:</p> <p>A systematic knowledge and critical understanding of problems and/or debates in political theory and its history; a comprehensive understanding of techniques in and approaches to political theory, critical, historical, and analytical; originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in political theory and the history of political thought; conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them. To develop and evince the capacity for engaging in original research in the production of a dissertation.</p> <p>For the Diploma</p> <p>A systematic knowledge and critical understanding of problems and/or debates in political theory and its history;</p>					

a comprehensive understanding of techniques in and approaches to political theory, critical, historical, and analytical; originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in political theory and the history of political thought; conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them.

For the Certificate

Advanced knowledge and critical understanding of problems and/or debates in political theory and its history; a comprehensive understanding of techniques in and approaches to political theory, critical, historical, and analytical; originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in political theory and the history of political thought; conceptual understanding that enables the student to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them.

Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes

This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:

A: Knowledge and understanding

Knowledge and understanding of:
For all Awards:

1. Some central questions in political theory e.g. how ought we to live? What reasons can we give for being moral? What is the relationship between reason and power
2. Knowledge of the history of thought within the broad field of political theory
3. How to engage with different approaches to the history of political theory
4. the remits of different modes of political theorising and the attendant methods of argument

For the Masters

5. How to conduct and present independent research in political theory

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Seminars (1-4)
- student-led presentations (1-4)
- private study (1-4)
- Feedback on written work and seminar performance (1-4)

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Essays (1-4)
- Dissertation (1-5)

B: (i) Skills – discipline related

Able to:
For all Awards:

1. deal with complex historical and philosophical issues both systematically and creatively
2. make sound judgements on the available evidence, and
3. communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences

For the Masters

4. Engage in original research in political theory

Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):

- Seminars (1-3)
- student-led presentations (1-3)
- private study (1-3, 4)
- feedback on written work and seminar performance (1-3, 4)
- research training (3, 4)

Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)

- Essay (1-3)
- Dissertation (4)

B: (ii) Skills – transferable	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For all Awards</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearly conceptualise and engage with historical, critical, and analytical problems in written and oral form 2. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level 3. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level 4. Show initiative and personal responsibility 5. Engage in decision-making in complex situations 6. Learn independently and develop capacity for continuing professional development. <p><i>For the Masters</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Engage in original research 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-6) • student-led presentations (1-6) • private study (1-7) • feedback on written work and/or seminar performance (1-7) • research training (3, 7) <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay (1-3, 6) • Dissertation plan (1-7) • Dissertation (1-7)
C: Experience and other attributes	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For all Awards:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work independently 2. Work in groups 3. Present independently derived essay/research problems in written form and in class. <p><i>For the Masters:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Present more in-depth theoretical contribution of dissertation in written form and in class 	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars (1-2) • student-led presentations (1-2) • private study (1) <hr/> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on seminar performance (1-3) • Essay (3) • Dissertation (4)
Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)	
<p>QAA: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/AssuringStandardsAndQuality/subject-guidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statements.aspx</p>	
University award regulations	
<p>To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.</p>	

Departmental policies on assessment and feedback

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the student handbooks and through the VLE.

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is in the student handbooks.

Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Core Module: Approaches to Political Theory (C, 20)	Three option modules from the list below (C, 20 each)	10-12,000 word dissertation supported by research workshop (C, 60)	10-12,000 word dissertation (C, 60) continued
Two option modules from the list below (C, 20 each)			

Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term,	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
	Autumn term essay submissions (week 1)	Spring term essay submissions (week 1)	Dissertation submission (first Monday in September)	Examination Board November
		Progression Board (week 6); Re-assessment submissions (week 9)		Resubmitted marginal fail dissertations November

For the Diploma and Certificate

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation
Core Module: Approaches to Political Theory (C, 20)	Three option modules from the list below (C,20 each)		
Two option modules from the list below (C, 20 each)			

Candidates who exit with the Diploma must pass **all 120 credits** of taught modules.

Candidates who exit with the Certificate must pass **60 credits** of taught modules.

Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level ¹	Credit value ²	Prerequisites	Assessment rules ³	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment ⁴	Independent Study Module? ⁵
Approaches to Political Theory	POL00001M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Dissertation (MA)	POL00041M	7	60		NC	SuVac	yes

Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment	Independent Study Module?
Analytical Political Philosophy	POL00005M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Challenges of Pluralism	POL00003M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Contemporary Issues in International Political	POL00008M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no

¹ The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in postgraduate programmes will be at Level 7/Masters. Some modules are permitted to be at Level 6/Honours but must be marked on a pass/fail basis. See University Teaching Committee guidance for the limits on Level 6/Honours credit.

² The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

³ **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

⁴ AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

⁵ **Independent Study Modules (ISMs)** are assessed by a dissertation or substantial project report. They cannot be compensated (NC) and are subject to reassessment rules which differ from 'taught modules'. Masters programmes should include an ISM(s) of between 60 and 100 credits. This is usually one module but may be more.

Economy							
Critical Theories of International Political Economy	POL00006M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Critical Theory	POL00017M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Ethics and World Politics	POL00032M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
Governing for the Environment	POL00067M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
New Security Challenges	POL00046M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SuT, week 1	no
PhD Proposal in Political Theory	POL00080M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
The Making of the Contemporary World: History, Politics and Ideas since 1945	HIS00053M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, timing tbc by Department of History	no
Themes and Theories in International Relations	POL00031M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no
Topics in the History of Political Thought	POL00079M	7	20	n/a		Essay, SpT, week 1	no

Transfers out of or into the programme	
Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee	
Exception	Date approved
Quality and Standards	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation • The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector • Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes • The acquisition of feedback from students by departments. <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office: http://www.york.ac.uk/admin/aso/</p>	
Date on which this programme information was updated:	12 June 2017
Departmental web page:	https://www.york.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/ma-political-theory/
Please note	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	