

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Myths and Mysteries in World Politics
Module code	IP1014
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	International Politics
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	4
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	N/A

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

This module provides a basic introduction to a range of questions and debates that define contemporary global politics and the study thereof. It adopts a thematic approach, using key terms, events, and concepts as a means through which to begin thinking critically about the myths, mysteries, and puzzles that shape and shake our understandings of global politics today.

Content outline

- What is power?
- Does the modern state protect or threaten us?
- Is capitalism a force for good in the world?
- What is the role of ethics and morality in world politics?
- Why does political violence persist in the modern world?
- Can international law uphold human rights?
- Do bankers rule the world?
- Is the age of imperialism over?
- Have we reached the end of history?

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Identify the key issues and questions that underpin the study of world politics
- Understand how different perspectives on these questions may themselves shed light on the nature of world politics
- Explore the relationship between key theories or approaches and the 'real' world developments they seek to make sense of
- Critically assess the strengths and limitations of relying upon common sense understandings of key issues in world politics.

Skills:

- Identify the key assumptions and claims that underpin the myths and mysteries of world politics
- Engage critically with these assumptions and the issues they raise

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- Develop and defend a position on these issues in light of contemporary scholarly debates

Values and attitudes:

- Identify and problematise common sense understandings of key issues in world politics by developing an explicitly critical and reflexive approach
- Begin using this reflexive approach to address the questions and puzzles posed in this module and beyond

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is promoted through a combination of lectures and interactive classes with a strong emphasis on students' presentations. You are encouraged to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject. You also receive feedback on your coursework to encourage you to reflect on what you have produced.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture-led	Lecture	10	40	0	50
Presentations, discussions and course work	Seminar	10	90	0	100
Totals		20	130	0	150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Short Essay (800)	Coursework	33%	30	N/A
Short Essay (800)	Coursework	33%	30	N/A
Short Essay (800)	Coursework	34%	30	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

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Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your mark and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

- Palan, Ronen (ed.) (2012) *Global Political Economy: Contemporary Theories*. 2nd Edition. London: Routledge.
- Cameron, Angus and Palan, Ronen (2004) *The Imagined Economies of Globalisation*. London: Sage.
- Edkins, Jenny and Zehfuss, Maja (2008) *Global Politics: A New Introduction*. London: Routledge.
- John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (2010) *The Globalisation of World Politics*, Oxford: OUP.
- [Columba Peoples](#) and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2010) *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge
- Paul Williams (2008) *Security Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge

- Bell, Duncan (ed), *Ethics and World Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).
- Hutchings, Kimberly, *International Political Theory* (London: Sage 1999).
- Simpson, Gerry, *Law, War & Crime: War Crimes, Trials and the Reinvention of International Law* (Cambridge: Polity, 2007).