BA (Hons) Politics
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: BA (Hons) Politics

Programme Name: BA (Hons) Politics

Total credit value for programme: 360 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in Politics

Diploma of Higher Education in Politics

Duration of Programme: 3 years full-time

UCAS Code(s): L200

HECoS Code(s): (100491) Politics

QAA Benchmark Group: Politics

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 6

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: October 2022

Home Department: Politics and International Relations

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme: Not applicable

Programme overview

The BA (Hons) Politics degree at Goldsmiths combines the study of political institutions, processes, and ideas with a unique focus on the creative and cultural dimensions of contemporary politics. A Politics degree commonly promotes knowledge and understanding of the workings of the modern world and its conflicts, and it enables skills of reasoned analysis and explanation that serve as the basis to careers in public policy and administration, law, international organisations, as well as further study in the Social Sciences. At Goldsmiths, we add to these a unique attention to politics 'from the ground up', where ordinary experiences and diverse cultural perspectives – rather than just states and other institutions – frame our perceptions of power, knowledge, and justice. Politics, we believe, does not just happen but is something people actively engage in; what they do, and how

they seek to do it differently, we think, should form part of our horizon. The BA Politics degree thus incorporates Goldsmiths' distinctive orientation to the arts, critical theories, and creative practices, all of which explore the impact on public understanding of diverse sensations, unorthodox perspectives, and innovative approaches. Likewise, the Department of Politics and International Relations regard these as essential for engaging a world where cultural differences and historical legacies increasingly inform our politics. Staff in the department have expertise in subjects such as policy and government, political theory, and the politics of specific areas of the world – but also in heterodox approaches to political economy, post-colonial politics, and art and politics. This distinctive mix allows us to provide a rich and varied range of module options that expands understanding of what politics is, where it happens, and how we can learn about it.

Central to any Politics degree is the transmission of transferable skills that will prepare you for employment or for further training. Employers frequently underline the need for graduates not just to have knowledge and understanding of their areas of study but also skills to undertake analyses, develop informed interpretations of events, and to show critical judgement based on evidence. The BA Politics degree therefore combines its approach to studying political institutions, processes, and ideas with a strong emphasis on acquiring skills of research and analysis. Where other Politics degrees often focus on quantitative methods suited, for example, to the study of electoral politics, at Goldsmiths we focus, more broadly, on critical explanation and skills of project design, which prepares you for tackling complex problems in political life. This is a matter not simply of learning techniques to organise data but, rather, of cultivating analytical skills to help you think critically about how to approach evidence in politics, how problems and explanations are framed, and how to set about presenting research. A Goldsmiths degree in Politics aims to produce graduates who understand not only how the political world works and can recognise its arguments and debates, but who are also equipped with a questioning attitude and flexible skill set to confront new and unknown challenges.

How, then, are these ambitions woven into BA Politics? The degree is designed to teach you about different political systems and cultures around the world, the contrasting ideals and arguments that motivate political agents, and the intellectual strategies that may be adopted to develop and apply knowledge. As you develop through your degree, you move from learning about the foundations of politics to exploring a variety of specialist topics that reflect the expertise of our staff as well as, increasingly, you own chosen interests and practical experience. At the same time, you learn about the methods and approaches to studying and researching politics, culminating in a final year demonstration of an independent piece of research. By the end of the degree, you will have covered a broad range of political themes and cultures and developed and tested your skills of research and analysis.

The degree is formed of three levels – comprising a series of compulsory modules and options – through which you progress by gradually expanding your knowledge and focusing your skills. At level 4 (year 1), you will be introduced to the foundations of studying political institutions, processes, and ideas, with compulsory modules in comparative government, political theories and ideologies, plus a choice of modules introducing international politics. These modules are designed to equip you with the necessary grounding in concepts, arguments and ideas that shape contemporary political life. You also take two Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum modules, shared with students across the College, that lay the basis for critical and self-reflective approach to academic learning generally. At level 5 (year 2), you deepen your grasp of modern government and politics with modules that survey a range of topics in thematic areas, including compulsory modules in British politics and in political theory, which illuminate the practical challenges of contemporary government and the intellectual traditions that shape our responses to them. You also take the compulsory Researching Politics module to strengthen your grasp of the methods and skills involved in studying political life, and to prepare you for the research you will undertake in the next level. A further compulsory module – the Goldsmiths Elective – invites you to extend the interdisciplinary character of your degree by choosing from a range of modules across the College, including the optional modules in Politics and International Relations. Finally, a range of optional modules surveying different themes of politics and political cultures complete your choices at this level. At level 6 (year 3), you select from among a range of specialist modules that examine specific areas of political enquiry and undertake a compulsory dissertation on a research topic of your choice, which is supervised by an individual member of staff. Among your options, there is also a work placement module. Here, you have an opportunity to gain practical skills and to learn how knowledge relates to concrete contexts by contributing to the work of an approved external organization. In this final stage of your degree, the emphasis is on you deepening, practically demonstrating, and testing the skills you have learned to date.

Programme entry requirements

We do not assume that you have any previous knowledge of politics, and students with arts, social studies, humanities or science backgrounds are equally eligible for admission to the BA (Hons) Politics degree programme. Normally, you will be expected to have A level grades of BBB for admission. However, these are a guide and we can admit applicants without A levels if they can show evidence of their ability and commitment to university study. For example, we accept a significant number of applicants who have completed Access or Certificate modules in a related area. We welcome mature students (aged over 21) who may have non-traditional educational backgrounds.

A-level: BBB

BTEC: DDM

IB: 33 Points, HL655

Access: 60 credits overall with 30 distinctions and distinctions/merits in related subject.

Programme learning outcomes

Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 120 credits at Level 4 (Year 1) may exit the programme with the award of the Certificate of Higher Education in Politics.

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Understand the methods, concepts, and terminologies employed in the study of politics and the analysis and interpretation of political behaviour at specific sites and scales	All compulsory and optional first-year modules for this degree
A2	Differentiate the major political ideas and arguments advocated in modern politics around the nature of authority, power, freedom and justice; the motivating moral ideals and conceptual vocabularies of different and opposed political ideologies in western politics; and interpret the ways these concepts and ideologies relate to current social and political problems and arguments	The compulsory first-year module Political Theory and Ideologies
A3	Discern the key processes and institutions through which governance in the UK and Europe is carried out; the differences in functioning and outcomes between these political systems; and the practical and analytical issues and controversies that arise from them	The compulsory first year module: UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A4	Understand the main theoretical approaches, debates, and arguments in international politics; the motivating ideals, historical experiences, and conceptual vocabularies of contrasting approaches to politics across the globe; the relevance of these themes to current problems and controversies in international politics	Either of the two first-year optional modules: World Politics Colonialism, Power, and Resistance

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Interpret and make informed judgments about the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts, and debates in specific political domains	All first-year modules
B2	Detail the major concepts, theories, debates, texts, and ideas of key thinkers in politics	All first-year modules, particularly Political Theory and Ideologies
B3	Communicate political ideas and concepts in written and verbal form, and to identify and account for their differences	All first-year modules
B4	Investigate practical and analytical problems in politics, questioning how they arise and how they may be resolved	All first-year modules
B5	Analyse and evaluate alternative views of political action, institutions, and policies on the basis of empirical evidence	All first-year modules, particularly UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics
B6	Consider and question the complex and changing political ideas, norms, values, and ethics that shape politics	All first-year modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Communicate clearly in written form the basic interrelationships between political beliefs, actions, and processes of government	All first-year modules, but specifically the compulsory first year module UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics
C2	Investigate political problems by utilizing electronic and conventional library resources and material from secondary and primary sources	All first-year modules but especially the compulsory module: Identity, Agency and Environment 2
C3	Develop arguments by using the vocabulary of politics and political analysis at different levels of state activity	All first-year modules
C4	Develop skills, including communicating, negotiating and working with people from diverse backgrounds or with opposed views; building persuasive arguments by making use of analytical and empirical evidence; and giving and receiving criticism	All first-year modules

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Develop coherent arguments using different types of 'text', such as opinions, documentary evidence, and cultural knowledge	All first-year modules, but especially the compulsory module: Identity, Agency and Environment 1
D2	Analyse and interpret evidence, present reasoned assessments, and read and listen attentively	All first-year modules, but especially the compulsory module: Identity, Agency and Environment 2
D3	Work collaboratively as a member of a group	All first-year modules
D4	Foster good time management skills, including planning and organising your own work	All first-year modules
D5	Critically self-reflect on your learning and its relevance to your aspirations	The compulsory modules: Identity, Agency and Environment 1 & 2

Students who complete the Diploma of Higher Education in Politics successfully will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Critically understand the methods, concepts and terminologies employed in the study of politics and the analysis and interpretation of political action	All second-year modules but specifically the Researching Politics module
A2	Recognise the major political ideas, concepts and arguments that have shaped modern politics and political debates in and beyond the West	The compulsory module Modern Political Theory
A3	Comprehend the key processes, institutions, and debates in UK politics since 1979	The compulsory module Modern Britain
A4	Identify contrasting explanatory frameworks and techniques for undertaking practical research and analysis in politics	The compulsory module Researching Politics
A5	Understand critical, cultural perspectives and practices in contemporary politics	All second-year optional modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Critically assess a range of political ideas, concepts, and controversies; and identify and account for their differences	All second-year modules
B2	Comprehend the contrasting normative stances and their underlying philosophical motivations among modern political theories, thinkers, and their arguments	The compulsory second-year module: Modern Political Theory
B3	Utilise a range of relevant methodological techniques and research approaches to contemporary political problems	All second-year modules but specifically: Researching Politics
B4	Critically analyse and evaluate alternative views of political action, institutions, and policies by deploying evidence	All second-year modules but specifically: Modern Britain
B5	Develop coherent arguments about political behaviours and events, showing appreciation of their ethical and practical complexities	All second-year modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Effectively communicate in written form the complex interrelationships between political beliefs, actions, and processes of government, and the controversies that arise from them	All second-year modules, especially the compulsory Modern Britain module
C2	Initiate detailed research into political problems, utilizing electronic and conventional library resources and material from secondary and primary sources to present findings.	All second-year modules
C3	Adopt the appropriate specialist language and methodological techniques in politics and political analysis	All second-year modules, specifically the compulsory Researching Politics module
C4	Communicate detailed political arguments and assess these in clear and appropriate language	All second-year modules

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Apply critical and evidenced arguments drawing upon established academic literatures	All second-year modules
D2	Critically evaluate evidence, employ theories, and propose solutions to problems based on your knowledge	All second-year modules
D3	Work collaboratively and propose your own contributions to group work	All second-year modules
D4	Exercise time management skills, including: anticipating workload, preparing study materials, and critically reflecting on your own learning	All second-year modules
D5	Exercise independent judgement and open-mindedness	All second-year modules

Students who successfully complete the BA (Hons) Politics programme will be expected to have acquired the following knowledge, understanding and skills:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Systematically comprehend the methods, concepts and terminologies employed in the broad study of politics and the analysis and interpretation of political behaviour at specific sites and scales	All modules in this degree
A2	Develop detailed knowledge of the major theories, thinkers and case histories particular to different branches of political analysis	All modules in this degree
A3	Consolidate knowledge and understanding of complex practical problems and ethical challenges in specialist areas of contemporary government, policy and ideas, and alternative approaches and resolutions to them	All third-year modules
A4	Develop detailed knowledge of academic literatures at the forefront of a specific problem or specialist theme of political research	The compulsory Dissertation module

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Deploy the theoretical and methodological techniques, concepts and debates in specific political domains	All modules in this degree
B2	Understand and critique the major concepts, theories, debates, texts, and ideas of key thinkers in politics	All modules in this degree
B3	Critically evaluate alternative views of political action, institutions and/or policy-making processes, underlining the limits of current knowledge	All modules in this degree
B4	Communicate detailed and persuasive arguments about complex problems of political behaviour and/or events	All third-year modules
B5	Reference complex, changing, and highly contested political ethics, beliefs, actions and events	All third-year modules
B6	Initiate a specific, self-selected project of political research, explaining its significance, and justifying an approach to explore it	The compulsory Dissertation module

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Communicate in written form an in-depth grasp of the interrelationships between political beliefs, actions, and processes of government	All modules in this degree
C2	Initiate detailed and independent research into political questions by utilising electronic and conventional library resources and materials from secondary and primary sources to assemble, organize, and present findings/data	All third-year modules but especially the compulsory Dissertation module
C3	Deploy effectively the specialist vocabulary of politics and political analysis at different levels of activity	All modules in this degree
C4	Enhance your communication skills by negotiating and working with people from diverse backgrounds or with opposed views; building persuasive arguments by making use of analytical and empirical evidence; and giving and receiving criticism	All modules in this degree
C5	Comment upon recent political research and convey your own interpretations and assessment in clear and appropriate language	All third-year modules
C6	Devise arguments by making appropriate use of empirical resources and official data	All third-year modules
C7	Extend established techniques of political analysis in your assessments of political institutions and events	All third-year modules
C8	Communicate in written work that accords with academic standards and expectations capable of satisfying assessors and examiners and meeting the reasonable expectations of others in terms of presentation and organisation, relevance, referencing and bibliographical detail	All third-year modules
C9	Demonstrate an awareness of the limits of knowledge and the relationships between the study of politics and other disciplines within and beyond the social sciences	All third-year modules

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Devise your own detailed and critical arguments on the basis of different opinions, academic evidence, and methods of enquiry	All modules in this degree
D2	Systematically evaluate evidence, propose your own reasoned arguments, deploy established theories and techniques to solve problems	All modules in this degree
D3	Work both independently and collaboratively	All modules in this degree
D4	Manage your own learning by regular and systematic anticipation and reflection	All modules in this degree
D5	Convey independent judgement and open-mindedness	All third-year modules
D6	Support your learning by utilizing appropriate bibliographical, official, and academic resources in both hard copy and electronic form	All third-year modules
D7	Demonstrate information management skills	All third-year modules

Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	General Marking criteria: Knowledge and Understanding of the subject of politics Understanding the nature and significance of politics; applying concepts theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; demonstrating knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature of power and the contexts in which they operate; evaluating different interpretations of issues and event

		Generic Intellectual Skills
		Ability to gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources; ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems; construct reasoned argument, synthesize information and make use of feedback; manage own self-learning critically
		Personal transferable skills
		Ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing; use communication and information technology to retrieve and present information; work independently and demonstrate initiative, self-organization and time management
		At CertHE level: • comprehensive and precise knowledge, and confident understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary and primary literature; • extensive use of relevant secondary and primary sources; exposition of arguments and debates in a very well structured, analytically precise, accurate and nuanced way; demonstrating strong individual judgement and ability to reason independently of set texts; • clear and consistent writing style and presentation; effective and appropriate use of IT.
		At DipHE level: • comprehensive breadth of knowledge with confident and precise, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories; • extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; very well structured, analytically precise and nuanced exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong individual judgement; • clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; entirely consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT.
		At BA level: • a highly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a strong, consistently critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to

		argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong ability to advocate own solutions; entirely clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating strong ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	General Marking criteria: Knowledge and Understanding of the subject of politics Understanding the nature and significance of politics; applying concepts theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; demonstrating knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature of power and the contexts in which they operate; evaluating different interpretations of issues and event Generic Intellectual Skills Ability to gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources; ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems; construct reasoned argument, synthesize information and make use of feedback; manage own self-learning critically Personal transferable skills Ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing; use communication and information technology to retrieve and present information; work independently and demonstrate initiative, self-organization and time management At CertHE level: • comprehensive and precise knowledge, and confident understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary and primary literature; • extensive use of relevant secondary and primary sources; exposition of arguments and debates in a very well structured, analytically precise, accurate and nuanced way; demonstrating strong individual judgement and ability to reason independently of set texts; • clear and consistent writing style and presentation; effective and appropriate use of IT.

		At DipHE level: • comprehensive breadth of knowledge with confident and precise, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories; • extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; very well structured, analytically precise and nuanced exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong individual judgement; • clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; entirely consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT. At BA level: • a highly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a strong, consistently critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong ability to advocate own solutions; • entirely clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating strong ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	At CertHE level: • general and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary literature; • modest use of relevant secondary sources; overall exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • clear and consistent writing style and presentation; appropriate use of IT. At DipHE level: • broad knowledge and accurate, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories; • modest use of some primary sources, as well as secondary and other specified sources; effectively structured, analytical exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating some effort at individual judgement; • clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT.

		At BA level: • a fairly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a generally consistent critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • broad use of some primary, as well as secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating some ability to advocate own solutions effectively; • clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating clear ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	At CertHE level: • general knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing upon secondary literature; • effort to use relevant secondary sources; some exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • generally clear and consistent writing style and presentation; appropriate use of IT. At DipHE level: • broad knowledge and some effort at reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories; • modest use of primary sources, as well as secondary and other specified sources; some structure and analytical exposition; effort at evaluation of arguments and debates but demonstrating only minimal individual judgement; • generally clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; generally consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; appropriate use of IT. At BA level: • some detailed and accurate knowledge, and a some, but inconsistent, critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • use of some primary, as well as secondary and other specified sources; drawing broadly upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating some effort to advocate own solutions; • generally clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating some ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	At CertHE level: • some knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; modest effort to draw upon secondary literature;

		• some effort to use relevant secondary sources; ineffective exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • some clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; some or little appropriate use of IT. At DipHE level: • Little breadth and inconsistent knowledge; poor reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories; • little use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; ineffective structure and analytical exposition; little effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating little individual judgement; • some clarity and coherence in communication, not always to appropriate length; little or no consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT. At BA level: • demonstrate little and/or inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and little or inconsistent critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • little use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; drawing, ineffectively, upon a specified method to argue a case; minimal accuracy and clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating minimal effort to advocate own solutions; • some clarity and coherence in communication, not always using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating little ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
25-39%	Fail	At CertHE level: • minimal knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature; • no, or ineffective, effort to use relevant secondary sources; no, or ineffective, exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • minimal or no clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; little or no appropriate use of IT. At DipHE level: • no breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; poor or no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories; • no or ineffective use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; no or ineffective structure and analytical exposition; little or no effort at

		evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement; • minimal clarity and coherence in communication, not to appropriate length; little or no consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT. At BA level: • no or inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and no or inconsistent critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • no or ineffective use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; no or ineffective method to argue a case; little or no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating minimal or no effort to advocate own solutions; • minimal clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
10-24%	Bad fail	At CertHE level: • poor knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature; • poor or no effort to use relevant secondary sources; poor or no exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • little or no clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; little or no appropriate use of IT, At DipHE level: • no breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories; • no use of primary sources; no use of, or over-reliance on, secondary and other specified sources; no structure and analytical exposition; no effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement at all; • little or no clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT. At BA level: • no or wholly inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and no critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • no use of primary sources; no use of, or over-reliance on, secondary and other specified sources; no method to argue a case; no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating no effort to

		advocate own solutions; • little or no clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
1-9%	Very bad fail	**At CertHE level:** • no knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature; • no effort to use relevant secondary sources; no exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner; • no clarity or consistency in writing style and presentation; no appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • no breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories; • no use of primary sources; no use of secondary and other specified sources; no structure and analytical exposition; no effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement at all; • no clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; no appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • neither detail nor genuine knowledge, and no critical understanding of key concepts and theories; • no use of primary sources; no use of secondary and other specified sources; no method to argue a case; no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating no effort to advocate own solutions; • no clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	**At CertHE level:** A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment. **At DipHE level:** A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment. **At BA level:** A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Mode of study

Full time, on-campus.

Programme structure

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics	PO51009D	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Political Theory and Ideologies	PO51012D	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Identity, Agency and Environment 1 (Connected Curriculum)	CC51001A	15	4	Compulsory	1
Identity, Agency and Environment 2 (Connected Curriculum)	CC51002A	15	4	Compulsory	2
EITHER: World Politics	PO51010E	30	4	Optional	1-2
OR: Colonialism, Power and Resistance	PO51013E	30	4	Optional	1-2

Academic year of study 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Researching Politics	PO520xxx	15	5	Compulsory	1
Modern Political Theory	PO52002C	15	5	Compulsory	1
Modern Britain	PO52032B	15	5	Compulsory	2
The Goldsmiths Elective (Connected Curriculum)	TBC	15	5	Compulsory options	1-2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Modules to the value of 60 credits from a list approved annually by the Department of Politics and International Relations.	Various	60	5	Optional	1-2

Academic year of study 3

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Dissertation	PO53014C	30	6	Compulsory	1-3
Modules to the value of 90 credits chosen from a list provided annually by the Department of Politics and International Relations. Includes the option of a 15 credit, Work Placement module (see 'Placement Opportunities' below)	Various	90	6	Optional	1-2

Academic support

Additional academic support is carried out through the department's personal and senior tutoring system. In summary, personal tutoring in the department aims to enable students to achieve successful learning outcomes by supporting their academic progression and helping them navigate their individual learning journey from induction to graduation. All students are assigned a personal tutor during their period of study at Goldsmiths. Personal tutors will be expected to meet students at least once a term to discuss academic progression. They will be able to advise them on academic progression and on other matters, including personal development, employability and career planning.

Personal tutors are supported in their roles by a system of Senior Tutors. Amongst other things, Senior Tutors are responsible for considering and implementing any student and staff Personal Tutor change requests.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacies works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Placement opportunities

The Department offers an optional, final-year work placement module (15 credits). Students are offered dedicated support by the module convenor and Goldsmiths Careers Service in Autumn term to secure a work experience placement in weeks 2-9 of Spring term for up to 16 days (2 days per week). Sessions are offered on employment and job search training, including CV and covering letter workshops.

Students are placed with appropriate host organisations and offered support throughout their placement. Placement providers will include a range of organisations in the NGO sector such as charities, think-tanks and pressure groups, bodies connected with international organisations, appropriate businesses, and political parties. Recent placement providers have included: Members of Parliament; media such as We Are the News; charities such as Lawyers Against Poverty, the 999 Club and JAN Trust; NGOs and think tanks such as Amnesty International and Compass; and businesses such as ING Bank and ESG Mark Investment Analytics.

The work placement offers students the chance to apply previously-gained, theory-derived knowledge to a practical project within the host organisation. In doing so they critically evaluate and apply their experiences acquired to inform and enhance their own knowledge, offer alternative approaches and propose novel solutions to specific academic issues. They are able to evaluate their own skills, values and personal traits and create a strategy for development of further skills and career preparation.

Employability and potential career opportunities

Students graduating from the BA (Hons) Politics programme move on to a range of careers and employment areas, including the public and voluntary sector, the financial sector, journalism, teaching, and postgraduate study in related fields.

Students are eligible to take part in the Department's Work Placement Module (a 15 CAT option for third year students).

Programme-specific requirements

Not applicable

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/

Specific programme costs

Not applicable