

# Politics and International Relations

## Modules 23-24

### Overview

Module code	Module title	Semester
5HUM1179	Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics	A
5HUM2004	International Relations in the Anthropocene (no DMD?)	A
5HUM1141	Global Energy Politics and Governance	B
5HUM1151	The State in the 21st Century	B
5HUM1178	Comparative Perspectives in Political Research	B
5HUM1144	Modern Political Philosophy	AB
5HUM1146	Security and Governance	AB
6HUM1191	Terrorism and Security	A
6HUM1196	International Political Economy	A
6HUM2008	The European Union in International Relations: Policies and Actorness	A
6HUM1187	International Organisations	B
6HUM1189	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding	B
6HUM1192	The Politics of Gender	B

### Level 5

#### Semester A

<b>Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics</b>	Code: 5HUM1179
<b>Semester A</b>	Credits: 15

From Thatcher to Blair and Johnson – how can we make sense of the course of British politics? Building on the general knowledge of different political systems which you have established in the Comparing Political Systems module at level 4, this module offers an in-depth exploration of contemporary British politics and the issues, actors and structures that shape it. The main focal point is how British politics and political authority have changed and developed over the last 30 years. The module invites you to analyse how changing social, economic and political conditions from the rise of social media to continuous economic integration in the EU, growing social inequality and a multicultural British society have changed the nature of British politics. You will have an opportunity to critically unpack some of the complex issues and phenomena which have shaped contemporary British politics from New Labour to the Brexit referendum and the return of populism and discuss their effects in a national and international context.

**Assessment: 70% Coursework + 30% Practical**

<b>International Relations in the Anthropocene</b>	Code: 5HUM2004
<b>Semester A</b>	Credits: 15

Climate emergency, global warming, extreme weather events, Arctic melting, sea level rise, greenhouse gas emissions, mass deforestation, desertification, biodiversity loss, human displacement, extinction. Who has not heard about these terms in what some are defining as the current Anthropocene era? In this module, students will gain a solid understanding about how these planetary challenges are reconfiguring the theories and practices in the discipline of International Relations. Students will critically engage in debates about basic empirics behind environmental issues, radical reconceptualisations on the relations between the human and its material milieu as well as the responsive political undertaking designed by stakeholders from within the international environmental regime. By the end of the module, students will be able to meaningfully contribute to cutting-edge conversations on the Anthropocene event, which are essential for imagining liveable futures for the Earth.

**Assessment: 70% Coursework + 30% Practical**

## **Semester B**

<b>Global Energy Politics and Governance</b>	Code: 5HUM1141
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

This module introduces you to the main aspects of Global Energy Politics and Governance. It looks at issues and challenges in this field such as competition for energy resources, liberalization of energy markets and international cooperation. It also looks at the main actors involved in this field such as states, institutions and energy companies. During the module you will acquire the knowledge and skills to critically analyse and explain the main dynamics occurring in the global energy scenario. In addition to lectures the module will

be delivered through tutorials and workshops where you will have the opportunity to debate on the topics covered in the module.

**Assessment: 100% Coursework**

<b>The State in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b>	Code: 5HUM1151
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

In 1996, Susan Strange published *The Retreat of the State* in which she argued that the central role of the state in both domestic and international politics was diminishing. However, in recent years political developments across the globe, including the policies of Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin, BREXIT, and the 2008 Financial Crisis, have shifted focus back onto the state as the primary arena for the conduct of politics. Through a combination of theoretical discussions and applied case studies, this module will explore how and why the state is returning as well as what its return means for the broader narrative of domestic and international politics.

**Assessment: 70% Coursework + 30% Practical**

<b>Comparative Perspectives in Political Research</b>	Code: 5HUM1178
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

Does socio-economic background explain voting behaviour? How does devolution affect communities? How can we measure values? Building on the foundational conceptual and methodological training in the level 4 module *Comparing Political Systems*, this research module deepens your theoretical and conceptual knowledge of comparative politics and allows you to implement it in your own research projects. The module gives an overview of the issues which shape contemporary debates in comparative politics with a view to developing your research projects in relation to these debates. You learn to formulate research interests as questions and hypotheses, operationalise ideas for empirical research, design qualitative and quantitative studies and gather primary data through interviews, focus groups and surveys. As the module gives you an insight in research design and empirical political research using different methods, it provides the foundation for the independent research you will undertake as part of your dissertation in level 6.

**Assessment: 80% Coursework + 20% Practical**

## **Semester AB**

Note: these modules run across two semesters and therefore you can only take them if you study at UH for the whole year (starting in September/October)

<b>Modern Political Philosophy</b>	Code: 5HUM1144
<b>Semester AB</b>	Credits: 15

This module builds on the level 4 core module 'Introduction to Politics' which introduces students to important political concepts such as the state, freedom and justice. 'Modern Political Philosophy' will open up a more advanced, critical insight to how the ideas and arguments which lie at the heart of current political debates are developed in the works of central modern and contemporary political thinkers. When is state action legitimate? What is more important – the political protection of individual rights or the well-being of a society as a whole? And how does our knowledge of the world support structures of power, hierarchies and exclusions within and beyond political institutions? The module will explore how different schools of modern political thought, such as liberalism and republicanism, have developed in their historical context and invites you to critically analyse how they can be challenged through post-foundationalist approaches.

## Assessment: 100% Coursework

<b>Security and Governance</b>	Code: 5HUM1146
<b>Semester AB</b>	Credits: 15

This module will provide you with an in-depth exploration of the causes and contributing factors of international and domestic conflict. The main themes will touch upon issues of national and international governance of dissent and disputes, before going on to look at conflict resolution at the local and international levels. The module will use knowledge and skills developed in year 1 and apply those theoretical narratives to new ideas and issues, at the micro, meso and meta levels of analysis. This module specifically prepares you for more in-depth study of peace-building and the governance of post-war societies in year 3 by focusing the discussion of conflict around issues of failures of governance.

**Assessment: 100% coursework**

## Level 6

### Semester A

<b>Terrorism and Security</b>	Code: 6HUM1191
<b>Semester A</b>	Credits: 15

Following the events of 11th September 2001, and 7th July 2005, public concerns surrounding terrorism, and its associated threats, have inevitably, perhaps irreversibly, deepened. Terrorism and security are, therefore, issues near the top of the political agenda in countries from across the globe. This module will provide students with knowledge and understanding of the various approaches to studying terrorism and initiatives that are intended to counter it. In particular, the history of terrorism, the evolution of relevant terrorism and its related concepts, domestic and international case studies, and current issues will all be considered in detail with a view to providing students with the means and ability to assess these areas critically. Central to the module is an analysis of the role of the state in respect of how it responds to terrorism, how it may attempt to prevent terrorism, and its role as a potential instigator and sponsor of terrorism.

**Assessment: 70% Coursework + 30% Practical**

<b>International Political Economy</b>	Code: 6HUM1196
<b>Semester A</b>	Credits: 15

This module seeks to familiarise students with the discipline of international political economy. The module begins by explaining the key characteristics of this discipline and its field of study. Different thinkers and traditions within political economy will be discussed (e.g., Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Keynes, Polanyi, Hayek and Friedman) and students will gain understanding of the complexities and nuances of globalisation in its different aspects (e.g., production, trade, finance, culture etc.). Students will also be introduced to the relationship between the state and the economy through the discussions of various policies and their effects on underlying economic conditions. Economic and financial crises will also be discussed in some depth.

**Assessment: 100% Coursework**

<b>The European Union in International Relations</b>	Code: 6HUM2008
<b>Semester A</b>	Credits: 15

The EU has gone through troubled times from its beginning in the 1950s, and this was even more pronounced when it became a political entity in 1993. A topical debate in today's society particularly in the UK, this module will look at these issues in depth in an attempt to address some of the broader questions surrounding the EU in policy areas particularly. You will learn whether there is indeed an informed answer to whether the European political project was successful, and indeed, whether it will ever become successful. This will be done by looking especially at its political and legal systems, the laws and policies, and how these frameworks have affected its relationship with its own 28 Member States as well as those outside its borders.

**Assessment: 100% Coursework**

## Semester B

<b>International Organisations</b>	Code: 6HUM1187
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

This module intends to explore the increasingly common feature of global politics, international organisations. Using a wide range of international organisations as our starting point, including the UN, WTO, IMF and ICC, students will be introduced to the various roles institutions play in contemporary politics. You will consider three main themes over the course, why states join international organisations, what commitments states make to these groups, and whether they fulfil their mandates within international society. In addressing these concerns, you will explore the political differences and questions that arise in international responses to issues.

**Assessment: 70% Coursework + 30% Practical**

<b>Peacebuilding and Statebuilding</b>	Code: 6HUM1189
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

This module will provide you with an outline of seminal as well as current paradigms in peace studies. The main themes will touch upon issues such as governance of insecurities, peace-making and peace-building, before going on to look at local critiques of foreign peace-building and state-building and alternative perspectives on post-war reconstruction. The module will use knowledge and skills developed within years 1 and 2 of the Programme and apply those to new issues and emergent debates. This module specifically equips students with detailed knowledge of current approaches to and understandings of peace and state-building and of governance in post-war societies. The module also uses subject-specific knowledge to develop and enhance critical analytical skills and original thinking.

**Assessment: 100% Coursework**

<b>The Politics of Gender</b>	Code: 6HUM1192
<b>Semester B</b>	Credits: 15

This module builds on the level 4 core module "Introduction to Politics" and the level 5 module "Modern Political Philosophy" in which you are introduced to important concepts, schools of thought and lines of argumentation in the history of political theory. Against this background, the module will introduce the concept of "gender" to this established canon of political thought to explore how, and to what extent, established political ideas, ideals and practices rely on and reproduce lines of gendering, gendered discrimination, and exclusion. A guiding question will be the extent to which Feminist political approaches pose a fundamental challenge to traditional political theory and practice. Is it sufficient to simply

add “gender” to the former? Or do feminist approaches compel us to new or different methodologies, conceptual tools and even definitions of politics?

**Assessment: 100% Coursework**