

1. Programme Title(s) and Code(s):

<i>Programme Title</i>	<i>UCAS Code</i>	<i>GU Code</i>
MA (Social Sciences) with Honours in Politics	L202	L202-2308

2. Academic Session:

2018-19

3. SCQF Level (see [Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework Levels](#)):

10

4. Credits:

480

5. Entrance Requirements:

Please refer to the current undergraduate prospectus at: <http://www.gla.ac.uk/prospectuses/undergraduate/>

6. ATAS Certificate Requirement (see [Academic Technology Approval Scheme](#)):

ATAS Certificate not required

7. Attendance Type:

Both Full Time and Part Time

8. Programme Aims:

Politics is concerned with developing knowledge and understanding of government and society. The interaction of people, ideas and institutions provides the focus to understand how values are allocated and resources distributed at many levels, from the local through to the national, regional and global. Thus analyses of who gets what, when, how, why and where are central, and pertain to related questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty and decision-making.

¹ This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course handbooks and other programme documentation and online at www.gla.ac.uk/

The accuracy of the information in this document is reviewed periodically by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

The study of Politics involves the description of political phenomena, which we try to explain using general theories and on which we reflect normatively. Normative political theory or political philosophy concerns the normative study of the political values of society and the international order, investigated both historically and analytically. Explanatory political theory concerns the study of the general mechanisms and forces which steer the behaviour of individuals and institutions as they interact at domestic, regional and global levels to allocate values and resources. Political science or political analysis uses these theoretical perspectives to inform and assess the explanation of historical events, political behaviour, the workings of political institutions and actors, political processes and the policy outputs of governance and regulatory structures.

Our four-year Honours degree programme is carefully designed to provide a coherent core of compulsory material, seen as essential to the study of politics, along with a range of opportunities for specialist study. This is supported by a clear research culture, which informs Honours teaching in particular, as well as supervision and support for students undertaking an Honours Dissertation or an Independent Research Paper. Within this structure, individual courses are coherent and up-to-date, and are designed to promote breadth and depth of enquiry and to develop specialist, conceptual, and analytical skills.

9. Intended Learning Outcomes of Programme:

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

Subject-specific/practical skills (Knowledge and Understanding)

- A general knowledge of comparative and international political analysis and acquaintance with the range of methods in the study of politics;
- A detailed knowledge of the political institutions and political behaviour within a variety of political systems;
- An ability to evaluate political systems and theories, and analyse critically the arguments of scholarly authorities.

Intellectual skills

- Demonstrate the ability orally to frame and express arguments;
- Demonstrate the ability to frame in writing an intellectually coherent argument;
- The ability to undertake independent research;
- Ability to make valid intellectual connections and distinctions between the sub-disciplines of Politics.

Transferable/key skills

- Capacity to work in groups and so develop interpersonal skills;
- Strengthen general research skills through, for example, the use of IT and library facilities;
- Capacity to think in novel and lateral ways and so solve problems that require non-routine ways of thinking;
- Ability to communicate effectively and fluently in both speech and writing, and to communicate results concisely;
- Ability to undertake research projects which differ in style and scope;
- Ability to show good time-management skills, manage their own learning, and seek and make use of constructive feedback.

10. Typical Learning and Teaching Approaches:

Core Elements:

- Dissertation involves supervision. There is a methodology element to the Dissertation intended to inculcate the skills required to undertake a substantial piece of independent research.
- Methods: quantitative and quantitative skills for independent research

Options (Courses). Various methods are employed:

- Note: all learning and teaching approaches involve knowledge transfer. Every module has an extensive reading list, with weekly readings indicated. Students must make judgements about what is appropriate to be read. The capacity to use the library and on-line resources is central. Most of the 200 hours associated with each 20-credit course involve reading.

- All courses involve at least one hour per week (with the other a lecture hour) of seminar discussion per week and many are wholly seminar-based.

Beyond the core skills of reading and seminar participation teaching methods vary between courses. The following are employed:

- Lectures – capacity to follow an argument; comprehension skills.
- Seminar discussion based on close reading of a text – oral, comprehension and interpersonal skills.
- Group (that is, collaborative) work – interpersonal skills; ability to frame an argument in writing.
- Small group work within the larger course group – interpersonal skills.
- Reflection journals – capacity to reflect on reading; comprehension skills.
- Role-playing (simulation) exercises – ability to negotiate; empathetic identification.
- Computing lab work – quantitative and qualitative skills.
- Individual student presentations – ability to present an argument orally, with or without support aids, before a group of peers.
- Web-based research – capacity to use the net in a discriminating and creative way.

11. Typical Assessment Methods:

Core Elements:

- Quantitative or Qualitative Methods in Social Sciences. Students are required to take one of these School courses in their Junior Year (or an equivalent course in their other Subject). It provides students with knowledge, intellectual and transferable skills.
- Dissertation or Independent Research Paper: these are major pieces of independent work intended to provide students with skills of independent research. The dissertation, which is double the length and number of credits, enable students to work more in-depth in a topic and gain greater methodological skills.

Optional Elements – the Courses.

The Subject has sought to widen the range of assessment methods so that students develop a wider range of skills and any unfairness that might arise if we concentrated on a more limited range of assessment methods will be eliminated in the mix of methods. The methods employed include the following:

- Unseen exams – 2 and 3 hours – capacity to frame a written argument under specific constraints.
- Course essays and projects of varying lengths (range: 2,000 words to 4,500 words) – capacity to frame a written argument and undertake relatively independent research as part of a particular course (as distinct from the Dissertation).
- 30-hour take-home papers – capacity to frame a written argument under specific time constraints.
- Group work – capacity to frame a written argument; development of skills of negotiation and team-work.
- Oral presentations and performance – capacity to develop an argument orally.

12. Programme Structure and Features:

PRE-HONOURS YEARS	
YEAR 1	Students must take (and pass with a grade D3 or better) at least <u>two</u> of the following: Politics 1A, Politics 1B, Public Policy 1A, Central and East European Studies 1B. 40 CREDITS + OTHER LEVEL 1 COURSES TO A TOTAL OF 80 CREDITS
YEAR 2	Students must take both Politics 2A and 2B 40 CREDITS + OTHER LEVEL 2 COURSES 40 CREDITS + OTHER LEVEL 1 COURSES TO A TOTAL OF 40 CREDITS
In order to obtain entry to Politics Honours at the end of the second year of full-time study, students must:	

- a) achieve 240 credits at levels 1 and 2 with a grade point average of at least 9; at least 140 of these credits must be derived from the list of recognised courses for the degree; and
- b) achieve a grade D or better in 200 credits; and
- c) achieve a minimum of 40 credits at level 2 at a grade point average of 12 in Politics 2A & 2B at the first attempt: and
- d) meet any further requirements set out in the degree's supplementary regulations; and
- e) meet any additional requirements set by the School or Schools in which the candidate is applying for entry to the Honours.

JUNIOR HONOURS (YEAR 3)

FIVE OPTIONS (Optional Modules)	Each course is worth 20 credits, creating a total of 100 credits. A student can choose whether to take two courses in Semester 1 and three in Semester 2 or vice-versa. The courses will be examined at the end of the Junior Honours year.
METHODS COURSE	A Research Methods course is compulsory. A student can choose to take either Quantitative or Qualitative Methods. They are both worth 20 credits.

SENIOR HONOURS (YEAR 4)

DISSERTATION or INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER (IRP)	Students must take one of these two modules of independent research. The dissertation is worth 40 credits and the IRP 20 credits
FOUR or FIVE OPTIONS (Optional Modules)	Each Option is worth 20 credits, creating a total of 80/100 credits. Ideally students will balance the credits equally across the two semesters. The courses will be examined at the end of the Senior Honours year

Note: it is possible to take up to 25% (60 credits) of courses in other subjects throughout the Junior and Senior Honours years, with the approval of the respective Heads of Subject. However, the credit weighting of the outside Options must fit with the degree programme.

Single Honours students may spend their Junior Year abroad

Assessment for all students is governed by the University's Code of Assessment:

<http://senate.gla.ac.uk/academic/assessment/index.html>

Early Exit:

Early exit point 1 is available at the end of year 1 to the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (Social Sciences/Arts) – SCQF Level 7 – subject to completion of courses totaling at least 120 credits, and where the grade point average is at least 8.5. The Certificate of Higher Education shall be awarded with Merit where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the certificate is at least 12, and with Distinction where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the certificate is at least 14.

Early exit point 2 is available at the end of year 2 to the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (Social Sciences/Arts) – SCQF Level 8 – subject to completion of courses totaling at least 200 credits, where a minimum of 80 credits have been gained from a course or courses at Level 2 or above, and where the grade point average is at least 8.5. The Diploma of Higher Education shall be awarded with Merit where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the diploma is at least 12, and with Distinction where the grade point average over the courses being counted for the award of the diploma is at least 14.

Early exit point 3 is available at the end of year 3 to the award of an MA (Social Sciences) General Degree – SCQF Level 9 by sitting Level 3 Special Examinations on the work of Junior Honours.

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/info/students/socialsciences/graduating3yeardegree/>

13. Programme Accredited By:

14. Location(s):

Glasgow

15. College:

College of Social Sciences

16. Lead School/Institute:

Social and Political Sciences [REG40500000]

17. Is this programme collaborative with another institution:

Select...

18. Awarding Institution(s):

University of Glasgow

19. Teaching Institution(s):

20. Language of Instruction:

English

21. Language of Assessment:

English

22. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (see [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/politics.asp)) and Other External or Internal Reference Points:

The wide range of optional courses cover all of the main areas of the discipline as set out in the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations, Section 3.1(2): Contents of Politics degree (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/politics.asp>). The QAA Statement is deliberately broad (and vague), but as a Subject we can confidently say that not only is our programme consistent with the QAA Statement but would be consistent with a more concrete statement. That more concrete statement would say that the study of Politics covers: **Area Studies** (including British and Scottish Government); **Comparative Politics** (or Analysis); **Normative Political Theory** (or Political Philosophy); **Political Behaviour**; **International Relations**.

As an illustration of this, below it is indicated how many of the Subject's courses offered in 2012-13 fall under each category. Note that some courses will fall into more than one category, thus the total exceeds the number of courses (i.e. 32).

Area Studies: 16

Comparative Politics: 12

Normative Political Theory: 10

Political Behaviour: 5

International Relations: 12

23. Additional Relevant Information (if applicable):

Support for students is provided by the Postgraduate/Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such LEADS (www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/leads/), Counselling & Psychological Services (www.gla.ac.uk/services/counselling/), the Disability Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/studentdisability/) and the Careers Service (www.gla.ac.uk/services/careers/).

Support for students is provided by the Undergraduate Adviser(s) of Studies supported by University resources such as the Effective Learning Adviser located in the Student Learning Service (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/tls/sls/>) and the Careers Service (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/services/careers/>) and the College's employability unit (<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/info/students/employability/>).

24. Online Learning:

No

25. Date of approval: