

Undergraduate Certificate in Politics

2022-2023

Course code: 2223CCR877

COURSE GUIDE

Welcome to the **Undergraduate Certificate in Politics**, a University of Cambridge award offered by the Institute of Continuing Education (ICE). The Certificate is taught and awarded at FHEQ level 4 (i.e. first-year undergraduate level) and attracts 60 credits. The award is completed in one calendar year. For further information about academic credit please see our website: www.ice.cam.ac.uk/info/academic-credits-cats-points

The course offers three termly units and a syllabus and reading and resource list for each of these units are included in this course guide.

The programme will be taught remotely, through pre-recorded lectures which students can access at times convenient to them in addition to scheduled live sessions where the tutor and students will gather for discussion. While attendance at the live sessions is encouraged, all sessions will be recorded and will be accessible via the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Discussion forums and suggestions for additional reading and resources will also be found on the VLE.

The programme aims to:

1. Introduce students to key concepts and theories, as well as methods of analysis, within politics as a discipline
2. Promote knowledge and understanding of politics, including political theory, domestic politics and comparative politics
3. Enable students to identify and explore continuities and discontinuities in political thinking
4. Promote critical thinking and analysis, and enable students to interpret and evaluate evidence and construct scholarly arguments
5. Allow students the opportunity to progress to further studies in politics and related disciplines

Transferable skills for further study and employability

1. The capacity for independent thought and judgement
2. The development of independent learning, study and time management skills
3. The deployment of skills in critical reasoning
4. The development of competence in using IT to support one's work
5. The ability to work with others, productively and equitably
6. The qualities necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility and the demonstration of high levels of motivation and personal commitment through part-time study
7. An ability to identify the strengths and limitations of concepts and theories pertaining to political thinking
8. The capacity to evaluate and interpret evidence in order to develop an argument, synthesising evidence from a range of sources
9. An ability to communicate clearly and appropriately, demonstrating a sense of audience, with structured and coherent arguments

Study hours

The award of academic credit is a means of quantifying and recognising learning and within the UK, one credit notionally represents 10 hours of learning¹. Each of the units in this course attracts 20 credits so students should expect to need to study for approximately 200 hours in total to complete each unit successfully. However, it is recognised that students study at different paces and use a variety of approaches, so this is a recommendation, rather than a hard-and-fast calculation.

¹ 'Academic credit in higher education in England – an introduction'. The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, 2009

Teaching staff

Academic Director and Course Director

Dr Nigel Kettley is University Associate Professor and ICE's Academic Director for Education and Social Science. Nigel has had a wide-ranging teaching and research career in the fields of social science, educational studies, research methods and teacher training. Nigel teaches on a variety of courses for the Institute, supervises postgraduate students, and runs the Postgraduate Certificate in Learning Design and Teaching Innovation. His main published works are *Educational Attainment and Society* (2007, London: Continuum) and *Theory Building in Educational Research* (2012, London, Continuum). He is also a member of the editorial advisory board of the *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, a Director of Studies in Education, Tutor and Fellow at Wolfson College, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.

Tutors

Dr Carina O'Reilly has taught politics, sociology, policing and criminal justice at undergraduate and Masters level, and developed and led several undergraduate and Masters degrees at Anglia Ruskin University. She is a Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader at the University of Lincoln. Her research focuses on legitimacy and values in local policing.

Carina has an MA from Cambridge University in Social and Political Sciences and also holds a Masters in Strategic Studies from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. She left IHS Jane's after seven years as a writer, editor and senior analyst on European security. She is a specialist on politics, policing and security issues in Europe, and until 2016 was Deputy Leader of Cambridge City Council.

Dr Max Stafford has taught at six universities, on a range of social sciences courses. He is a specialist in British Politics, political leadership, comparative politics and international urban developments. He has been teaching in Higher Education since 2013 and has taught adults since 2016. He previously worked for two former cabinet ministers and advised on political campaigning, and he uses this to highlight employability-related aspects of his teaching. His teaching style is discursive, with active preparation and extra-curricular learning encouraged.

Max is currently working on a book examining mayors as political leaders and another examining the Downing Street Chief-of-Staff. He also advises the Qualitative Election Study of Britain on measuring political leadership. He obtained a PhD – entitled “Strong Mayors’ Leadership Capital: New York, London & Amsterdam (2000-2016)” – in 2020.

Dr Jasper Miles completed his PhD in politics at the University of Liverpool on the Labour Party's approaches to electoral reform. He lectures in British and comparative politics at the University of Lincoln. He also lectures in politics on the Pre-Masters Programme and the International Foundation Year at Queen Mary, University of London. Previously he lectured at the universities of Goldsmiths, Liverpool Hope, Winchester and Liverpool. Jasper's teaching style is rooted in a student-centred approach, placing the student at the centre of the learning process. The objective is to develop independent and critical thinking, aided by a range of pedagogical methods. He specialises in British politics and has written on the Labour Party's political thought.

Administrative staff

Arts and Sciences Enquiries
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Institute of Continuing Education

The Institute of Continuing Education's administrative headquarters are at Madingley Hall, an elegant country house built in the 16th century and set in gardens of about seven acres, designed in the 18th century by Capability Brown. Please visit www.ice.cam.ac.uk and www.madingleyhall.co.uk for further information.

Contact details of ICE

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Please also refer to the 'information for students' section on our website <http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/studying-with-us/information-for-students> and the 22/23 Student Handbook for further information and guidance relating to all aspects of the course including study skills, assignments, assessment and moderation. The Course Information and Help and Guidance section of the ICE VLE will also contain valuable information specific to your course.

Information correct as at 11 March 2022

Syllabus for first unit
Michaelmas term 2022

Power, politics and the modern state

Start date	7 October 2022	End date	4 January 2023
Day	Various (see session list below)	Time	Various (see session list below)
Venue	Remote delivery		
Tutors	Dr Carina O'Reilly	No of meetings	Introduction and 6 live teaching/open sessions plus pre-recorded lectures.

Aims

- To provide students with a comprehensive conceptual and theoretical grounding in politics
- To ensure students have a solid understanding of political ideologies and the liberal state
- To introduce students to a range of ideas about democracy

Content

This unit provides an introduction to the key concepts, theories and methods of politics which have been used to analyse the relationship between power, authority, ideology and the state. The first part of the unit explores: the concepts of power and authority, drawing on a range of theorists; the nature and origin of the modern state from a variety of theoretical positions; and the notion and forms of political ideology. In particular, it seeks to explore the nature and origin of the modern state from a range of perspectives, and to underline the contingency of liberal democracy as the dominant mode of political organisation in the West. It also explores the limits of liberalism and liberty in ideological debates. The unit then moves on to examine theories of democracy and the relationship between modern democracy and capitalism, and finally, students will look at the concept of politics and its relationship with war, power and morality, and what this means in practical terms for how we understand politics, the meaning we give to political decisions, how we decide what falls within the realm of politics rather than outside it, and why it matters.

Presentation of the unit

The unit will be taught in a series of pre-recorded lectures and 'live' teaching sessions via Zoom. Live teaching will involve directed discussion and reading, with short talks from tutors and small-group work in breakout rooms. There will be comfort breaks during each session and opportunities for general Q&A with the tutor.

Please also look at the VLE for each block's dedicated **discussions** and **forum activities** which are designed to guide your reading and to introduce you to relevant contextual and critical resources.

Teaching Sessions

For each block pre-recorded lectures will be available a week before the live teaching session.

Live teaching sessions will be on **Saturdays between 13.00-15.00 and 16.00-18.00 pm GMT.**

Please watch each lecture before the live sessions and follow the discussion forums on the VLE.

Introduction	Friday 7 October 19.00-20.00	Hello and welcome A chance to meet your classmates and tutor and to become familiar with the online classroom environment.
Block One	Saturday 8 October	The Nature and Origin of the Modern State This block will take you through classical and modernist theories of the state, and ask you to think about the development of liberalism and its dominance today. You will also begin to consider the role of ideology in modern liberal democracies.
Block Two	Saturday 22 October	The Limits of Liberty The second block will look at challenges to liberalism and liberal democracy. In particular, you will focus on Marxism; nationalism and self-rule; the influence of religion on politics; and Nietzsche's ideas about the role of morality.
Open Session	Wednesday 26 October 19.00-20.00	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework.
Block Three	Saturday 5 November	Perspectives on Democracy The third block of teaching will focus on the roots of representative democracy and how and why democracy facilitates – and is subject to – change. You will consider and critically assess theories of democracy, and the relationship between capitalism, democracy and prosperity.
Block Four	Saturday 19 November	The Persistence of Politics The final block in this unit will focus on politics as an idea. It will examine politics as a concept and the persistence of political disagreement; the role of power and violence in politics, and whether morality can and should play a central role in modern pluralistic societies.

Open Session	Wednesday 23 November	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework
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Learning Outcomes

As a result of the unit, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- (i) Demonstrate a solid grasp of classical and modern theories of the state
- (ii) Analyse and discuss a range of ideological approaches to modern politics
- (iii) Show a critical conceptual understanding of politics and democracy

Student assessment

Students will be assessed through two essays reflecting the overall learning outcomes of the unit. The maximum word count for each of these is 2,000 words. Students will have the opportunity to submit an essay plan of no more than 500 words as part of their formative assessment for feedback from the unit tutor. The essays will be submitted through the ICE VLE.

Each essay will be worth 50% of the total mark for Unit One. Students may select any two of the following essays but will find the first four reflect the learning undertaken in the first half of the unit, and the last four reflect the learning in the second half.

Closing date for the submission of **plans for feedback**:

Essay One: Saturday 19 November 2022 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Essay Two: Saturday 17 December 2022 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Closing date for the submission of **assignments**:

Essay One: Wednesday 7 December 2022 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Essay Two: Wednesday 4 January 2023 by 12.00 noon GMT*

*Greenwich Mean Time

Essay titles

If students wish to create their own titles this **must be agreed in writing with the tutor first to ensure it meets the learning outcome of the unit.**

1. To what extent does authority always have to be legitimate? Discuss with reference to the works of at least one political theorist.
2. Why has the concept of sovereignty proved such a powerful political idea?
3. Why do the meanings of ideas like freedom, equality, and justice matter?
4. 'Marxism and fascism are irrelevant to twenty-first century political life.' Discuss.
5. Does democracy confer a unique right to legitimate authority, and if so, why?
6. Is representative democracy necessary for economic prosperity?
7. Are political parties beneficial to politics?
8. Is political disagreement inevitable?

Reading and resource list

Core Texts

You may find these texts useful across more than one teaching block.

- Adams, I. (2013). *Political Ideology Today*, Manchester: Manchester University Press.
Beetham, D. (2013). *The Legitimation of Power*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Dunn, J. (1993). *Western political theory in the face of the future*, second ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Jackson, R. (2007). *Sovereignty: The Evolution of an Idea*. Cambridge: Polity.
Leftwich, A. (2004). *What is politics?* New edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Supplementary reading

Block One: The Nature and Origin of the Modern State

- Dunn, J. (1993). 'Political obligation,' in *The history of political theory and other essays*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Hobbes, T. and Tuck, R. (1996). *Leviathan* (Revised student ed., Cambridge texts in the history of political thought).
Lassman, P. (2000). "The rule of man over man: politics, power and legitimation." pp. 83-98 in *The Cambridge Companion to Weber*, edited by Stephen P. Turner. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Locke, J. (2005). *Second Treatise of Government*. Project Gutenberg.
Skinner, Q. (1989). "The state," in Ross, D., Skinner, Q. and Tully, J. (1989). *Political innovation and conceptual change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Weber, M. (1994). 'The profession and vocation of politics,' in: P. Lassman and R. Speirs (eds.) *Weber: Political Writings*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp.309-369.

Block Two: The Limits of Liberty

- Marx, K. and Engels, F. (2002). *The Communist Manifesto*, trans. Samuel Moore, ed. Gareth Stedman Jones. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Nietzsche, F. (2007). *On the genealogy of morality*. Ed. Keith Ansell-Pearson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Singer, P. (2000). *Marx: a very short introduction* (Revised ed., Very short introductions; 28). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Tanner, M. (2000). *Nietzsche a very short introduction* (Very short introductions). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Weber, M. (2002). *The Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

Block Three: Perspectives on Democracy

- Acemoglu, D. and Robinson, J. (2013). *Why nations fail: the origins of power, prosperity and poverty*. London: Profile.
Gilens, M. (2000). *Affluence and influence: economic inequality and political power in America*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Pitkin, H. (1967). *The concept of representation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Runciman, D. (2017). *The Confidence Trap: A History of Democracy in Crisis from World War I to the Present*, 2nd Ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Block Four: The Persistence of Politics

- Caplan, B. (2008). *The myth of the rational voter: why democracies choose bad policies*, new edition

- Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Dunn, J. (1993). 'Conclusions,' in *Democracy: the unfinished journey 508 BC to AD 1993*, ed. John Dunn, Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 239-266.
- Haidt, J. (2013). *Why good people are divided by politics and religion*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.
- Schmitt, C. (2008). *The concept of the political: Expanded edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Sleat, M. (2018). *Politics recovered: realist thought in theory and practice*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Syllabus for second unit Lent term 2023

States and regimes

Start date	2 January 2023	End date	22 March 2023
Day	Various (see session list below)	Time	Various (see session list below)
Venue	Remote delivery		
Tutor	Dr Max Stafford	No of meetings	6 live teaching/open sessions plus pre-recorded lectures

Aims

- To introduce students to the temporal nature of nations and states, and the processes of change
- To give students an appreciation of the layered nature of power and authority in modern states
- To develop students' comparative understanding of regimes and polities

Content

This unit looks at the structure and formation of the state. It begins by examining the historical and political contingency of particular patterns of state formation, before turning its focus on the role of the nation state from a domestic perspective. It examines nationalism in depth; from the way in which non-European states have been shaped by such forces, to the role of nationalism in the formation of sub-national entities. The unit also explores the effects of factors such as supranational organisations and the expanding force of globalisation on the functioning of domestic polities. The unit then turns to the development of different political regimes, from democracy to authoritarianism, and what causes such regimes to collapse. It examines comparative regime types, constitutions, the separation of powers, and the implications of all of this for the resilience and legitimacy of particular types of regime – and of nation states themselves.

Presentation of the unit

The unit will be taught in a series of pre-recorded lectures and 'live' teaching sessions via Zoom. Live teaching will involve directed discussion and reading, with short talks from tutors and small-group work in breakout rooms. There will be comfort breaks during each session and opportunities for general Q&As with the tutor.

Please also look at the VLE for each block's dedicated discussions and forum activities which are designed to guide your reading and to introduce you to relevant contextual and critical resources.

Teaching Sessions

For each block pre-recorded lectures will be available a week before the live teaching session. Live teaching sessions will be on **Saturdays between 13.00-15.00 and 16.00-18.00 pm BST**. Please watch each lecture before the live sessions and follow the discussion forums on the VLE.

	'Live' teaching session dates	Content
Block One	Saturday 7 January	The Formation of States The unit will begin by exploring theories of state formation, before looking at case studies of Western Europe and at the wider international community. You will also look at the way that states have been constructed from the outside, both in the shift away from empire and more recent state development, and the effects of these processes on internal politics.
Block Two	Saturday 21 January	Nations and Nationalism The first block sets the scene for Block Two which looks at the nation-state as a particular entity and what this form means for domestic politics. You will also look beyond the nation-state: at globalisation; supranational entities such as the EU; and sub-national governments and systems and their effects on politics at a national level.
Open Session	Wednesday 25 January	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework.
Block Three	Saturday 4 February	Political Regimes This block will look at the development of democracy as the dominant political regime not just in the West but increasingly in the developing world – and the indications that this dominance may have stalled. It will examine the processes of democratisation, the resilience of authoritarianism, and how regimes of all types come to collapse.
Block Four	Saturday 18 February	Comparative Regimes Your final block will take a more granular look at particular types of regimes. It will compare constitutional structures, and institutional details such as the separation of powers. Finally, you will consider the implications of this analysis for the legitimacy and resilience of political regimes more generally.

Open Session	Wednesday 22 February	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework.
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Learning Outcomes

As a result of the unit, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to demonstrate:

- (i) Comprehension of theories of state formation, along with practical examples
- (ii) Appreciation of the processes involved in the rise and fall of particular regimes
- (iii) Understanding of different domestic political structures and their effects on resilience and legitimacy

Student assessment

Students will be assessed through two essays reflecting the overall learning outcomes of the unit. The maximum word count for each of these is 2,000 words. Students will have the opportunity to submit an essay plan of no more than 500 words as part of their formative assessment for feedback from the unit tutor. The essays will be submitted through the ICE VLE.

Each essay will be worth 50% of the total mark for Unit Two. Students may select any two of the following essays but will find the first four reflect the learning undertaken in the first half of the unit, and the last four reflect the learning in the second half.

Closing date for the submission of **plans for feedback**:

Essay One: Saturday 4 February 2023 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Essay Two: Saturday 4 March 2023 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Closing date for the submission of **assignments**:

Essay One: Wednesday 22 February 2023 by 12.00 noon GMT*

Essay Two: Wednesday 22 March 2023 by 12.00 noon GMT*

*Greenwich Mean Time

Essay titles

If students wish to create their own titles this **must be agreed in writing with the tutor first to ensure it meets the learning outcome of the unit.**

1. What is the role of ideas and ideology in the formation of states?
2. Can states be built from the outside? Answer with reference to at least two examples
3. Has globalisation eroded the distinction between domestic and international politics?
4. How far has the modern nation-state had to surrender powers to supranational systems and/or societies? Answer with reference to at least one international political organisation
5. How do democracies emerge? Discuss with reference to at least one example
6. What explains the persistence of authoritarian regimes?
7. Are some democratic regime types better than others?
8. What are the implications of the constitutional structure of a democratic state for its resilience and legitimacy?

Reading and resource list

Core texts

- Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (eds.), (2014). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to Politics and International Relations*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: OUP.
- Fukuyama, F. (2012). *The Origins of Political Order; From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. London: Profile.
- Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2004). *Comparative government and politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Held, D. (1995). *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Lijphart, A. (2012). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. Yale: Yale University Press.
- Sisk, T. D. (2014). *Statebuilding*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Tilly, C. (2007). *Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Supplementary reading

- Ashdown, P. (2007). *Swords and Ploughshares: Bringing Peace to the 21st Century*. London: Orion.
- Blair, R. A. (2021). Civil War and Citizens' Demand for the State: An Empirical Test of Hobbesian Theory. *British Journal of Political Science* [Online].
- Brooker, P. (2014). *Non-Democratic Regimes*. London: Palgrave.
- Chandler, D. and Sisk, T. (eds.), (2013). *Routledge Handbook of International Statebuilding*. London: Routledge. Chapters 12-15.
- Delatolla, A. (2016). War and state formation in Lebanon: can Tilly be applied to the developing world? *Third World Quarterly*, 37(2), 281-298.
- Fukuyama, F. (2004). *State-building: governance and world order in the 21st century*. London: Profile.
- Gandhi, J. (2008). *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gandhi, J. (2019). The Institutional Roots of Democratic Backsliding. *Journal of Politics*, 81(1), 11-16.
- Gandhi, J. and A. Przeworski (2007). Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats. *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(11), 1279-1301.
- Grugel, J. and Bishop, M. L., (2014). *Democratization: A Critical Introduction*. Second edition. London: Palgrave.
- Holton, R. J. (2011). *Globalization and the Nation-State*. London: Macmillan.
- Jackson, R. (1996). *Quasi-States: Sovereignty, International Relations and the Third World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Joshi, D. K., B. B. Hughes, and T. D. Sisk (2015). Improving Governance for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals: Scenario Forecasting the Next 50 years. *World Development*, 70, 286-302.
- Lachmann, R. (2010). *States and Power*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Lijphart, A. (2007). *Thinking about Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge.
- Mann, M. (2012). *Sources of Social Power, Vol. 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Milward, A. S. (1992). *The European Rescue of the Nation-State*. London: Routledge.
- Sisk, T. D. (2013). Power-Sharing in Civil War: Puzzles of Peacemaking and Peacebuilding. *Civil Wars*, 15(1), 7-20.
- Tilly, C. (2004). Terror, Terrorism, Terrorists. *Sociological Theory*, 22(1), 5-13.

Block One: The Formation of States

- Ashdown, P. (2007). *Swords and Ploughshares: Bringing Peace to the 21st Century*. London: Orion.
- Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (eds.), (2014). *The Globalization of World Politics: An*

- Introduction to Politics and International Relations*. Sixth Edition. Oxford: OUP.
- Blair, R. A. (2021). Civil War and Citizens' Demand for the State: An Empirical Test of Hobbesian Theory. *British Journal of Political Science* [Online].
- Chandler, D. and Sisk, T. (eds.), (2013). *Routledge Handbook of International Statebuilding*. London: Routledge. Chapters 12-15.
- Delatolla, A. (2016). War and state formation in Lebanon: can Tilly be applied to the developing world? *Third World Quarterly*, 37(2), 281-298.
- Fukuyama, F. (2004). *State-building: governance and world order in the 21st century*. London: Profile.
- Fukuyama, F. (2012). *The Origins of Political Order; From Prehuman Times to the French Revolution*. London: Profile
- Sisk, T. D. (2014). *Statebuilding*. Cambridge: Polity.

Block Two: Nations and Nationalism

- Holton, R. J., (2011). *Globalization and the Nation-State*. London: Macmillan.
- Jackson, R. (1996). *Quasi-States: Sovereignty, International Relations and the Third World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Joshi, D. K., B. B. Hughes, and T. D. Sisk (2015). Improving Governance for the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals: Scenario Forecasting the Next 50 years. *World Development*, 70, 286-302.
- Lachmann, R. (2010). *States and Power*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Milward, A. S. (1992). *The European Rescue of the Nation-State*. London: Routledge.
- Sisk, T. D. (2013). Power-Sharing in Civil War: Puzzles of Peacemaking and Peacebuilding. *Civil Wars*, 15(1), 7-20.
- Tilly, C. (2004). Terror, Terrorism, Terrorists. *Sociological Theory*, 22(1), 5-13.

Block Three: Political Regimes

- Brooker, P. (2014). *Non-Democratic Regimes*. London: Palgrave.
- Gandhi, J. (2008). *Political Institutions under Dictatorship*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Gandhi, J. (2019). The Institutional Roots of Democratic Backsliding. *Journal of Politics*, 81(1), 11-16.
- Grugel, J. and Bishop, M. L. (2014). *Democratization: A Critical Introduction*. Second edition. London: Palgrave.
- Held, D. (1995). *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Lijphart, A. (2007). *Thinking about Democracy: Power Sharing and Majority Rule in Theory and Practice*. London: Routledge.
- Lijphart, A. (2012). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-six Countries*. Yale: Yale University Press.
- Mann, M. (2012). *Sources of Social Power, Vol. 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tilly, C. (2007). *Democracy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Block Four: Comparative Regimes

- Gandhi, J. and Przeworski, A. (2007). Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats. *Comparative Political Studies*, 40(11), 1279-1301.
- Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2004). *Comparative government and politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Syllabus for third unit
Easter term 2023

Liberal Democracy in Practice

Start date	27 March 2023	End date	09 June 2023
Day	Various (see session list below)	Time	Various (see session list below)
Venue	Remote delivery		
Tutor	Dr Jasper Miles	No of meetings	6 live teaching/open sessions plus pre-recorded lectures

Aims

This course aims to

- Encourage students to take a comparative perspective with regard to political systems
- Enhance students' understandings of the variety of actors in democratic polities and the institutions through which they act
- Develop students' critical evaluation of contemporary liberal democracy

Content

This final unit explores the way that politics is practiced in contemporary nation states. A focus of the unit will be the operation of democracy through political parties, and the unit will take a comparative approach, looking particularly at the US and European experiences of various party systems. It will then turn to an examination of other actors that take part in the democratic process, including but not limited to civil society, trade unions, business interests and the media, embedding these practical examples in a range of contemporary theoretical perspectives. The unit will also take a comparative approach to democratic systems legislatures, elections, referenda, and patterns of voting. The unit will conclude with an examination of the arguments for a crisis of the liberal state, including immigration and the welfare state; the rise of populism; cultural and identity politics; and look at the current state of health of democracy in Western polities.

Presentation of the unit

The unit will be taught in a series of pre-recorded lectures and 'live' teaching sessions via Zoom. Live teaching will involve directed discussion and reading, with short talks from tutors and small-group work in breakout rooms. There will be comfort breaks during each session and opportunities for general Q&As with the tutor.

Please also look at the VLE for each block's dedicated **discussions** and **forum activities** which are designed to guide your reading and to introduce you to relevant contextual and critical resources.

Teaching Sessions

For each block pre-recorded lectures will be available a week before the live teaching session. Live teaching sessions will be on **Saturdays 13.00-15.00 and 16.00-18.00 pm BST/GMT**. Please watch each lecture before the live sessions and follow the discussion forums on the VLE.

	'Live' teaching session dates	Content
Block One	Saturday 8 April	Politics in practice This week's session focuses on the practice of democracy: from democratic systems, to the structure and workings of legislatures, to elections and referenda. This session will also look at changing voting patterns in the West and will ask whether politics in developed countries is entering a new period of instability.
Block Two	Saturday 22 April	Political Parties The second session will pick up where the first left off, by looking at the development and operation of political parties in various political systems. It will focus on political parties within Europe and in the US, and compare the strengths and weaknesses of the systems and the parties within them. It will conclude by asking whether the traditional party system is under threat from disruptive populist outsiders.
Open Session	Wednesday 26 April	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework.
Block Three	Saturday 6 May	Democracy outside the party system The election of representatives is not the only way in which democracy is expressed. This third block will explore the participation of other actors in the democratic process, including the workings of civil society, the influence of economic interests and trades unions, the role of the media in the democratic state. It will also look at theoretical perspectives on the role and importance of non-party organisations in a healthy democracy.

Block Four	Saturday 20 May	The crisis of the liberal state? We conclude the course by gathering many of the strands developed during this final unit. This last block focuses first on immigration, the welfare state and the effects of globalisation, and asks whether the growth of populism in the West represents an existential threat to these democracies. It focuses also on the development of cultural and identity politics as forces that threaten the theoretical and moral underpinnings of liberal democracies themselves, and asks if this is a survivable crisis for the liberal order.
Open Session	Wednesday 24 May	An open session for informal discussion, chat and questions about coursework.

Learning Outcomes

As a result of the unit, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of a variety of political systems and the effects of these structures on the workings of democracy
- Understand political themes and trends, and identify which elements of these are specific to given political systems
- Critically analyse specific challenges to the liberal order such as populism and identity politics

Student assessment

Students will be assessed through two essays reflecting the overall learning outcomes of the unit. The maximum word count for each of these is 2,000 words. Students will have the opportunity to submit an essay plan of no more than 500 words as part of their formative assessment for feedback from the unit tutor. The essays will be submitted through the ICE VLE.

Each essay will be worth 50% of the total mark for Unit Three. Students may select any two of the following essays but will find the first four reflect the learning undertaken in the first half of the unit, and the last four reflect the learning in the second half.

Closing date for the submission of **plans for feedback**:

Essay One: Saturday 22 April by 12.00 noon BST*

Essay Two: Saturday 20 May by 12.00 noon BST*

Closing date for the submission of **assignments**:

Essay One: Wednesday 10 May 2023 by 12.00 noon BST*

Essay Two: Friday 9 June 2023 by 12.00 noon BST*

*British Summer Time

Essay titles

If students wish to create their own titles **this must be agreed in writing with the tutor first to ensure it meets the learning outcome of the unit.**

1. Is there such a thing as an ideal electoral system?
2. Should referenda be banned?
3. How important is the role that political parties play in modern liberal democracies?
4. How can mainstream political parties in the West respond to populism?
5. To what extent are classical liberal views still reflected in the modern practice of political economy in liberal democracies?
6. Can groups other than political parties be legitimate and representative political actors?
7. 'Samuel Huntington's Clash of Civilisation thesis provides a useful framework for understanding the role of political culture in world politics': Discuss
8. Should we be optimistic or pessimistic about the future of democracy?

Reading and resource list

Core texts

- Bale, T. (2008). *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction*. Palgrave.
- Ball, A and Peters, G. (2005). *Modern Politics and Government*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Bara, J. and Pennington, M. (2009). *Comparative Politics*. London: Sage.
- Caramani, D. (2020) *Comparative Politics*. Oxford: OUP.
- Clark, W., Golder, M. and Golder, S. (2018). *Foundations of comparative politics*. Washington DC: CQ Press.
- Drogus, C. A. and Orvis, S. (2021) *Introducing Comparative Politics: Concepts and Cases in Context*. Thousand Oaks, California: CQ Press.
- Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2004). *Comparative government and politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Heywood, A. (2019) *Politics*. London: Red Globe Press.
- Orvis, S. and Drogus, C. (2020). *Introducing comparative politics. The essentials* (2nd ed.) Thousand Oaks, California: CQ Press

You may also wish to consult the following journals. An indicative list includes:

Comparative Political Studies
Journal of Democracy
Comparative Politics
Journal of Comparative Politics
Government and Opposition

Supplementary reading

Block One: Politics in Practice

- Ball, A. and Peters, G. (2005) *Modern Politics and Government*, 7th edn. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 8, 'Representation, Elections and Voting Behaviour'.
- Farrell, D. (2011) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Flinders, M., Gamble, A., Hay, C. and Kenny, M., (eds.) (2009). *The Oxford Handbook of British Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stoker, G. (2016) *Why Politics Matter*. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 4 'The politics of mass democracies: designed-in disappointment?'

Block Two: Political Parties

- Dalton, R.J., Farrell, D.M. and McAllister, I. (2011). *Political parties and democratic linkage: How parties organize democracy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Dalton, R. and Wattenberg, M. (2000). *Parties Without Partisans: Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Katz, R. and Crotty, W. (2006). *Handbook of Party Politics*. London: Sage.
- Mair, P. (2013). *Ruling the void: The hollowing of Western democracy*. London: Verso.
- Ware, A. (1996). *Political parties and party systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Webb, P., Farrell, D. and Holliday, I. eds., (2002). *Political parties in advanced industrial democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Block Three: Democracy Outside the Party System

- Boulding, C. (2014). *NGOs, political protest, and civil society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dalton, R. J. and Welzel, C. (eds.) (2014), *The Civic Culture Transformed: From Allegiant to assertive citizens*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- Lang, S. (2012). *NGOs, Civil Society, and the Public Sphere*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Putnam, R. D. (ed.) (2002), *Democracies in Flux: The Evolution of Social Capital in Contemporary Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Stanyer, J. (2007) *Modern Political Communication: Mediated Politics In Uncertain Times*. Cambridge: Polity.

Block Four: The crisis of the liberal state?

- Fukuyama, F. (2018). *Identity: The demand for dignity and the politics of resentment*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Mudde, C. (2007). *Populist Radical Right Parties in Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Norris, P. (2011). *Democratic deficit: Critical citizens revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Norris, P. (2020) 'Measuring populism worldwide', *Party Politics*, Vol: 26: 6 pp. 697-717
- Norris, I. and Inglehart, R. (2019). *Cultural backlash: Trump, Brexit, and the rise of authoritarian populism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Uslaner, E.M. ed., (2018). *The Oxford handbook of social and political trust*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wiarda, H. J. (2014). *Political culture, political science, and identity politics: An uneasy alliance*. Farnham: Ashgate Publishing, Ltd.

TIMETABLE

All Saturday live sessions run from 13.00-15.00 and 16.00-18.00

Michaelmas: Power, Politics and the Modern State	
Introductory session	Friday 7 October 2022 19.00-20.00
Block One	Live session Saturday 8 October 2022
Block Two	Live session Saturday 22 October 2022 Open session Wednesday 26 October 2022 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 1	Saturday 19 November 2022
Submission deadline 1	Wednesday 7 December 2022
Block Three	Live Session Saturday 5 November 2022
Block Four	Live session Saturday 19 November 2022 Open session Wednesday 23 November 2022 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 2	Saturday 17 December 2022
Submission deadline 2	Wednesday 4 January 2023
Lent: States and Regimes	
Block One	Live session Saturday 7 January 2023
Block Two	Live session Saturday 21 January 2023 Open session Wednesday 25 January 2023 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 1	Saturday 4 February 2023
Submission deadline 1	Wednesday 22 February 2023
Block Three	Live Session Saturday 4 February 2023
Block Four	Live session Saturday 18 February 2023 Open session Wednesday 22 February 2023 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 2	Saturday 4 March 2023
Submission deadline 2	Wednesday 22 March 2023

Easter: Liberal Democracy in Practice	
Block One	Live session Saturday 8 April 2023
Block Two	Live session Saturday 22 April 2023 Open session Wednesday 26 April 2023 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 1	Saturday 22 April 2023
Submission deadline 1	Wednesday 10 May 2023
Block Three	Live Session Saturday 6 May 2023
Block Four	Live session Saturday 20 May 2023 Open session Wednesday 24 May 2023 19.00-20.00
Plan deadline 2	Saturday 20 May 2023
Submission deadline 2	Friday 9 June 2023

Assignment submission dates are provided for each unit in the Course Guide (above).

Whilst every effort is made to avoid changes to this programme, published details may be altered without notice at any time. The Institute reserves the right to withdraw or amend any part of this programme without prior notice.

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Nigel Kettley 11.03.22