

Department of POLIS

Options Booklet for Third Year papers Politics and International Relations 2024-25

Students must return preliminary paper choices by
Friday 17th May

Department of Politics and International Studies

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In this booklet you will find information on the available POLIS papers for final year students of the HSPS and History & Politics Tripos. If you have any queries, please contact your Director of Studies in the first instance.

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Important information for 2024-25

New paper numbers

POL12 will become the Politics of Conflict and Peace

POL17 will become the Politics and Religion

Assessment

POL6: examined by a 5000-word project report and a 2-hour exam

POL19: Themes and issues in Politics and International Relations will be examined by two 5000 word long essays only.

POL21: The Politics of the Future will be examined by two 5000 word long essays only.

Caps

POLIS will do its best to accommodate as many student preferences as possible. But there are some papers where it is plausible that we will have more student interest than we have supervisors to supervise them. If we have to cap papers, we will give priority in the first instance to those whose preferences reached us by the deadline of 17 May.

How to submit the paper choices

Please review this guide and discuss your choices with your Directors of Studies.

Submit your choices on the online system. The link will be circulated on 2nd May 2024.

2024-25 Available Papers

Politics and International Relations

POL6	Statistics and methods in Politics and International Relations
POL9	Conceptual Issues in Politics and International Relations
POL10	The History of Political Thought from c.1700-1890
POL11	Political Philosophy & the History of Political Thought since c.1890
POL12	The Politics of Conflict and Peace
POL13	British and European Politics
POL14	International Security
POL15	The Politics of Africa
POL16	The Politics of Global China

POL17	Politics and Religion
POL18	The Politics of the International Economy
POL19	Themes and issues in Politics and International Relations
POL20	The Politics of Latin American
POL21	The Politics of the Future, 1880-2080
POL22	Politics and Public Policy
History 6	States between States: The history of international political thought from the Roman Empire to the early nineteenth century (<i>Historical Tripos</i>)
HPS 5	Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science (<i>History and Philosophy of Science Tripos</i>)
HPS 6	Ethics and Politics of Science, Technology and Medicine (<i>History and Philosophy of Science Tripos</i>)
Economics 8	History and Philosophy of Economics (<i>Economics Tripos</i>)
EAS 2	The Cold War and Its Aftermath in East Asia (<i>Asian and Middle Eastern Tripos</i>)
Dissertation	Up to 10,000 words on a topic chosen by the student

For HSPS Part IIB:

These are the other HSPS papers available. Please see advice from the corresponding departments regarding these papers.

Social Anthropology : <https://www.socanth.cam.ac.uk/current-students/ug-part-two-b>

Sociology: <https://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/part-ii>

Social Anthropology:

SAN8	Environment, development and indigeneity
SAN10	The anthropology of post-socialist societies
SAN14	The anthropology of history, memory and time

Sociology:

SOC 5	Statistics and Methods
SOC 6	Advanced Social Theory
SOC 7	Media, Culture and Society (<i>Cap of 45 students</i>) *
SOC 8	Revolution, Empire and Exile
SOC 9	Global Capitalism (<i>Cap of 30 students</i>) *
SOC 10	Gender
SOC 11	Racism, Race and Ethnicity (<i>Cap of 30 students</i>)*
SOC 12	Empire, Colonialism, imperialism
SOC 13	Health, Medicine and Society (<i>Cap of 30 students</i>) *
SOC 15	Criminology, Sentencing and the Penal System (<i>borrowed from the Law Faculty</i>)

For History & Politics Part II:

Please see the list of History options available from the History & Politics options guide.

Paper Combinations

Paper choice rules for HSPS Part IIB Politics and International Relations track:

(i) POL9;

(ii) two papers chosen from POL10–22; one paper may be substituted by a dissertation on a subject approved by the Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies, which shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 19;

(iii) one paper chosen from the following: B2–B4 from Part II of the Archaeology Tripos, SAN8–15, SOC6–15, Paper 5 or Paper 6 for the subject History and Philosophy of Science in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos, Paper 6 from Part II of the Historical Tripos, Paper 8 borrowed from Part II of the Economics Tripos, Paper EAS.2 from the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, or a further politics paper chosen from POL6 and POL10–22;

Paper choice rules for HSPS Part IIB Politics and Sociology joint track:

(i) two papers chosen from POL6, POL10–22;

(ii) two papers chosen from SOC5–15;

(iii) a candidate may substitute for one paper a dissertation on a subject within the field of Politics or Sociology approved by the Head of the relevant Department, which shall be submitted in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 19.

*Students will have chosen a track in their second year. They are **not permitted to switch tracks between Part IIA and Part IIB** unless they switch from a joint track to a single track (for example: Pol/Soc Part IIA to PolIR Part IIB).*

Paper choice rules for History & Politics Part II:

All students take HP3. Students can take up to three additional POLIS papers, though please check the rules in the 'H&P procedure for Part II choices' document. You can find the link to the document here: <https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=19126575>

Politics and International Relations Paper Descriptions

POL6: Statistics and Methods in Politics and International Relations

(Paper Coordinator: Dr Pieter van Houten)

This paper introduces students to statistical methods used in the social sciences, illustrates how these methods can be used to study important issues in the study of politics and international relations, and gives students hands-on experience on using these methods and writing up the results of empirical research. The first part of the course introduces students to a variety of statistical concepts and methods – issues covered include descriptive statistics, bivariate association, multivariate linear regression, logistic regression and multilevel regression. These methods are illustrated through examples from research in politics and international relations. This part of the course is taught through online instructional videos, practical sessions and supervisions, and is assessed by an exam at the end of the year (making up 50% of the overall mark for the course). The second part of the course consists of a data analysis project, on which students write a 5,000-word report that is due early in Easter term (which makes up the other 50% of the overall mark). For this project, students choose a topic from a list provided by the course leaders, design a research project based on available data related to the topic, and conduct the data analysis for the project. This paper will give students useful skills both for conducting social science research and for various career options in the public and private sector.

POL9: Conceptual issues in politics and international relations

This is solely an examination paper. Candidates are required to answer one from a choice of twelve general questions about different dimensions of politics and international relations. POL9 gives candidates the opportunity to think about different kinds of general questions in politics and international relations, and to use the knowledge and understanding they have acquired to reflect on these and develop arguments of their own at length. The paper is set to avoid advantaging or disadvantaging any particular choice of papers elsewhere in Part II. Some questions can be answered from a knowledge of political thought, some from a knowledge of international or domestic politics; most will encourage candidates to connect the two. There are classes for the paper in the Lent term.

POL10: The history of political thought from c.1700-c.1890 (Historical Tripos Part IB Paper T2/ Part II Paper 4) (Paper Coordinator: TBC)

From the Enlightenment, and extending from the American, French and Haitian revolutions to the advent of novel forms of constitutional government and political legitimacy, this paper explores the formation of the fundamental concepts of modern politics. The paper is divided into two sections. The first covers canonical political theorists through study of their major political writings and includes figures such as Montesquieu, Rousseau, Burke, Wollstonecraft, Hegel, Mill and Marx. The second section looks at key concepts and debates in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century politics. Topics covered include the relationship between history and progress; novel ways of thinking about the relationship between

politics and culture; the rise of political economy as a way of understanding modern commercial societies; the concepts of 'revolution', of 'constitution', and of 'liberty'; debates about the status, social, cultural and political, of women; the modern concept of empire; the socialist critique of capitalism; and the mounting challenges to the institution of slavery.

POL11: Political Philosophy & the History of Political Thought Since c.1890

This paper explores some of the central texts and key ideas of twentieth and twenty-first century political thought, looking at both analytical concepts and their historical contexts and evolution. It provides the opportunity to trace the development of political ideas into the twentieth century and further into contemporary political philosophy. This includes many ideas that students will have encountered in other contexts – freedom, democracy, revolution, equality, international relations and global justice – as well as some ideas that may be new or less familiar – for instance, ecology, punishment or welfare. It also provides an opportunity to explore the history of political thought and political philosophy more generally, and to consider what studying politics historically or theoretically brings to our understanding of politics in practice.

The paper is divided into two parts, Section A covers a number of historical topics, Section B a variety of themes in contemporary political philosophy that have some historical, and some purely normative, elements. It is possible to concentrate on one side or other of the paper, but students will be required to answer at least one question from each section. Like the earlier History of Political Thought Papers, Section A encourages the contextual study of key political texts and debates. This section introduces students to important thinkers such as Nietzsche, Weber, Hayek or Rawls; to developments in the Marxist and liberal traditions of political thought; and to significant political debates, such as those accompanying the crisis of the Weimar Republic, or the emergence of American political science. Section B introduces students to themes in contemporary political philosophy. Through the study of such themes such as, for example, post-colonialism, property, sovereignty and obligation, students can explore how modern philosophical arguments can be simultaneously engaged both as a normative dialogue with a range of contemporary and classic texts, as well as being seen to emerge as historically specific claims about politics and political ideas in their own right.

Overall then, this is a varied paper that offers a chance to explore some familiar ideas in more detail or in more contemporary contexts; to encounter new ideas; and to reflect on what political philosophy means for the study of politics in the round.

Introductory readings:

For Section A

- T. Ball and R. Bellamy (eds.) *The Cambridge History of Twentieth-Century Political Thought* (Cambridge, 2003) [available at www.histories.cambridge.org]

For Section B

- W. Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction 2nd ed.* (Oxford 2001).

POL12: The Politics of Conflict and Peace

This paper explores issues of violent conflict and peace in contemporary international politics, with a particular focus on the Global South and transnational connections in armed conflict, migration and peace interventions. The paper considers competing theories and claims about the causes of conflict and the relationship between conflict, development, migration and other international processes. It analyses the range of responses to conflict and how they are justified, and also focuses on contests over the meanings and practices of peace and peace interventions. The possibilities and limitations of international institutions and international law in regulating conflict and building peace are highlighted throughout the paper. The paper will draw on extensive empirical case study examples and experiences from around the world.

Selected Reading

Christine Sylvester, *War as Experience*. London: Routledge, 2013.

Marthe Achtnich, *Mobility Economies in Europe's Borderlands: Migrants' Journeys through Libya and the Mediterranean*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

David Chandler, *Peacebuilding: The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1997-2017*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

POL13: British and European Politics

POL13 usually consists of two modules, one on the UK and the other on the European Union, but in 2024/25 (owing to academic leave) it will focus entirely on British politics. The paper is designed to enable students to develop a detailed understanding of British political history since 1945, to engage critically with the political science literature on the UK, and to set contemporary debates over UK government and politics in a historical and comparative perspective. In 2024/25 the lecture series will be given by Professor Peter Sloman and Dr José Tomas Labarca and will explore British politics since the Second World War (including the rise and fall of the post-war settlement, Thatcherism, and New Labour), party competition and electoral behaviour, debates over constitutional reform, devolution to Scotland and Wales, and policy-making in fields such as economic policy and immigration.

Selected readings:

- David Edgerton, *The Rise and Fall of the British Nation: A Twentieth Century History* (2018)
- Aled Davies, Ben Jackson and Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite (eds.), *The Neoliberal Age? Britain since the 1970s* (2022)
- Julie Smith, *The UK's Journeys In and Out of the EU: Destinations Unknown* (2017)

POL14: International Security

“Security” is a contested concept in international relations. To some analysts, it refers primarily to issues related to the use and control of military force. Others contend that this definition is unhelpfully narrow, and suggest that climate change, migration, and other transnational phenomena should also be understood as security issues. Much is at stake here: what we label security issues and what we don’t may have serious implications for how we prioritize and approach different policy problems.

This paper introduces students to the academic field of “security studies”, broadly conceived. Much of the focus of the paper will be on “traditional” security issues. Why do wars happen, and how do they end? What do nuclear weapons deter, and how might a conventional conflict escalate to a nuclear exchange? How should we think about the influence of rapid changes in military technology on crisis stability? Questions like these are particularly pressing in today’s geopolitical context, and the paper will accordingly devote substantial attention to them. However, the paper also explores alternative perspectives on security, and helps students to think about the security implications of issues like global climate change and pandemic disease.

The paper will be taught in four parts. Part I will explore the causes, conduct, and termination of interstate war; Part II will focus on coercive diplomacy; Part III will introduce students to various aspects of “great power competition”; Part IV will explore alternative understandings of international security, and the politics of the process by which some issues become understood as security problems while others do not.

Selected readings:

- Stephen Walt, “The Renaissance of Security Studies,” *International Studies Quarterly* vol. 35, no. 2 (1991)
- Alex Weisiger, *Logics of War: Explanations for Limited and Unlimited Conflicts* (Cornell University Press, 2013)
- Caitlin Talmadge, *The Dictator’s Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes* (Cornell University Press, 2015)
- Neta Crawford, *The Pentagon, Climate Change, and War: Charting the Rise and Fall of U.S. Military Emissions* (MIT Press, 2022)

POL15: The Politics of Africa

This paper explores the rich and diverse politics of this century's fastest growing continent (in population terms). From the past to the present, it probes the domestic and international factors that have influenced the social, economic and political trajectories of African states and citizenries. Bringing a perspectival approach to political studies, students will consider how the study of Africa can challenge ways of understanding politics that have been grounded primarily in the western experience, as well as how discourses on 'Africa' or 'the global South' relate to the economic, strategic and ideological projects of those who shape and deploy them. Students are also encouraged to seek out and understand political experience through the agency, thought and voices of African peoples and political actors, alongside the powerful external knowledge-creators and actors working on the continent from colonialism until the present day.

The course is taught thematically, examining central themes such as state formation and political organisation, state and society relations, violence and war, identity and ideology, mobilisation and authority, economic development, global political order, resistance and struggle, etc, through historical and contemporary lenses. Students develop case study knowledge of the diverse range of African countries' experiences through readings, essays and classes.

The paper's core parts begin with a critical reflection on where 'Africa' fits into world politics. We consider the continuities and changes in Africa's position in the global order, from European colonialism through independence and the Cold War, to humanitarian and security agendas of recent western policy, the rise of China and the emergence of south-south solidarity. This understanding of the international context frames our analysis of the history of state formation on the continent, looking at precolonial and colonial systems of rule, the ideologies and strategies of anti-colonial struggle, and their legacies in post-independence politics. We then probe deeper into the nature of political authority, mobilisation and legitimacy in independent Africa, and how these relate to different forms of political participation and domination, order and disorder: one-party rule, multiparty democracy, popular protest and conflict. The paper then explores more contemporary themes in-depth, in the form of three modules comprising four lectures each. These modules vary from year to year, currently they are focused on African political thought, environmental politics, and African politics in a digital age.

Selected readings:

- Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Penguin, 1961)
- Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton University Press, 1996).
- Nanjala Nyabola, *Digital Democracy, Analogue Politics: How The Internet Era Is Transforming Kenya* (Zed Books, 2018)

POL16: Politics of Global China

China's increasingly prominent role in the world has attracted all kinds of attention, ranging from adulation to anxiety and war-mongering. Despite the spotlight given to Global China, much of it uncovers only glimpses and shadows. The reason for this is that it focuses on only part of the picture. It is difficult, if not impossible, to disentangle China's global aspirations from its domestic politics. This paper will begin with an overview of twentieth-century history in China, with special attention given to pivotal moments in the history of the People's Republic of China. During the Michaelmas Term, the paper will delve into the core issues of domestic politics, including: legitimisation, ideology, and discourse; organisation and institutions; political economic models and their internal tensions; energy and environmental politics; as well as, China's borderlands and minority nationalities. In the Lent Term, the paper will expand its scope to track several of the multiple trajectories and disputed impacts of China's presence across the globe. Throughout the paper, it will be necessary to reflexively grapple with how concepts and narratives come with their own sedimented histories and normative inscriptions. Any engagement with Global China requires an attentiveness to multiple voices and perspectives, which are too often submerged in the framing of US-China rivalry.

Selected Readings:

Rebecca Karl, *China's Revolutions in the Modern World: A Brief Interpretive History* (Verso, 2022).

Dali L. Yang, *Wuhan: How the Covid-19 Outbreak in China Spiraled Out of Control* (Oxford University Press, 2024).

Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment in Africa* (University of Chicago, 2018).

POL17: Politics and Religion

Politics and Religion begins by introducing students to a range of social science approaches to the study of religion in relation to institutional formation and change, empire, state power and authority, legitimacy and resistance, nationalism, democracy, and the secular. Course readings are supplemented by material from media, performance, and the public sphere. In the second half of the course, students select two modules, which explore these themes in a range of global and political contexts.

These introductory readings serve as a guide for those considering this course and should be consulted before choosing the course (all available online):

- Jose Casanova, "The secular and secularisms," *Social Research*, 76(4) 2009, 1049-1066.
- Eric Hobsbawm, "Introduction: Inventing Traditions," in E. Hobsbawm & T. Ranger (Eds.), *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1983.
- Elizabeth Hurd, "The Political Authority of Secularism in International Relations." *European Journal of International Relations* 10, no. 2 (June 2004): 235-262.

POL18: The Politics of the International Economy

This paper looks at modern politics in the context of the international economy. It considers the political opportunities and the political constraints that participation in different kinds of international economies create under changing geopolitical and energy conditions. It puts today's debates about the nature of the international economy and its implications for modern politics in a historical context. The paper develops an historical understanding of arguments about economic life and its relationship to geopolitics, government decisions in response to international economic issues, and the political reactions to those decisions. It uses this understanding to illuminate different aspects of the domestic and international politics of a wide range of modern nation-states today in a world going through a transformative energy transition.

Selected Readings:

- Helen Thompson, *Disorder: Hard times in the 21st century* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).
- Jeffrey A. Frieden, *The fall and rise of global capitalism* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2006).
- H. M. Schwartz, *States versus markets: the emergence of a global economy*. (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2009).

Please see the paper guide that will be available during the summer for a further update about this paper.

POL19: Themes and Issues in Politics and International Relations

This paper consists of two essays of up to 5,000 words each, which are both formally assessed. There is no exam or general teaching (other than an introductory session at the start of Michaelmas term) for this paper, and students will have three supervisions for each of their essays. The essays will address questions chosen from a list provided by the Department. The questions on this list focus on a wide range of theoretical and empirical issues covered in the study of Politics and International Relations. This paper is, therefore, an opportunity for students to explore in some depth two issues in Politics and International Relations of their interest.

POL20: The Politics of Latin America

This paper examines the politics of Latin America, past and present. Since the conquest of the Americas in the fifteenth century, the region has been uniquely embedded in the global economy and society. The paper traces Latin America's political development, focusing on state-society relations, inequality, political institutions and participation, and international relations. What explains the prevalence of political instability in the region? How do the joint legacies of colonialism and authoritarian rule influence democracy today, and how do social movements participate in it? Why does this region stand out as 'the world's most violent'? Why do its police kill so much, and what might that have to do with organised crime? What role does Latin America play in shaping international institutions and the human rights regime? How has the region conceptualised and implemented development projects, and with what results? Moreover, what do its economies and political regimes reveal about the enduring forces of colonialism, racialisation, and capitalism? Lectures on this paper consider these and other questions across theory, empirics, and engagement with the everyday life of citizens. Drawing on a wide range of scholarship from politics, political economy, and ethnographic and interpretivist approaches, this paper raises crucial questions about political life and society in this distinctive and vibrant region.

Selected readings

- Michel Gobat, 'The Invention of Latin America: A Transnational History of Anti-Imperialism, Democracy, and Race', *The American Historical Review*, 118 (2013), pp. 1345-1375.
- Mala Htun, *Inclusion without Representation in Latin America: Gender Quotas and Ethnic Reservations* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- Diana Kapiszewski, Steven Levitsky and Deborah J. Yashar, *The Inclusionary Turn in Latin American Democracies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021).
- Gerardo L. Munck and Juan Pablo Luna, *Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022).

POL21: The Politics of the Future, 1880-2080

Political thinkers have long sought to imagine better worlds. The most famous texts in the Western tradition include *Plato's Republic* and Thomas More's *Utopia*, the latter of which gave this style of thinking a name. This course explores the modern utopian tradition. It examines accounts of the future produced in Britain and North America from the 1880s to the present. Combining work in literature, political theory, and intellectual history, the course encompasses both utopian and dystopian visions, as well as recurrent attempts to produce a social science of the future. To do so, we read a sample of important utopian/dystopian speculative writings – from William Morris and H.G Wells, through George Orwell and Ursula Le Guin, to Margaret Atwood and William Gibson – as well as theoretical literature on the nature and value of utopian thinking.

The course proceeds in a broadly chronological fashion. It is divided into 3 broad periods: 1890–1925; 1925–1970; 1970–the present. Each concentrates on two main themes though it is important to recognise that these are cumulative, each building on the previous sections. Section I traces the intellectual and imaginative impact of Darwinism and debates over possible socialist societies. Section II focuses on attempts to make sense of

totalitarianism and nuclear war. Section III turns to the potential of bio-technological transformation and of environmental catastrophe, culminating in discussion of Artificial Intelligence and the possible emergence of post-human beings.

Particular attention is paid to the gendered and racialised dimensions of future visions.

Throughout the course we will reflect on three broad themes: how writers – whether novelists, philosophers or public intellectuals – (1) imagined alternative social, political, and economic structures; (2) reimagined the self in relation to new technologies and forms of political association; and (3) debated the possibilities and the value of thinking about the future. The course is not intended to be an exhaustive survey of modern utopian thought; rather, the aim is to identify and explore the most significant foci for writing and thinking about the future.

POL22: Politics and Public Policy

This paper introduces the politics of democratic policymaking, with the aim of laying the foundations for empirically substantiated and critical evaluation of the actions of governments. It is structured in two parts. Part one, in Michaelmas term, introduces conceptual, analytical and theoretical tools that can help us make sense of how governments in different countries respond to social and economic pressures. We will explore how policy problems are shaped and defined by political actors, which policy tools are available to them, and how we might judge success and failure in policymaking. Part two, in Lent term, is an opportunity to delve deeper into some specific policy issues. We will analyse four policy challenges that are of pressing importance in the 21st century, in a series of guest lectures and seminars delivered by experts from the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. There will be one revision session in Easter Term.

Introductory readings:

Peters, B. Guy. (2015) *Advanced Introduction to Public Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Kingdon, J. (2013) *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies*. Essex: Pearson. Second Edition.

Grube, D.C. (2022) *Why Governments Get it Wrong*. London: Pan Macmillian.

BORROWED PAPERS –

History Paper 6: States between states: The history of international political thought from the Roman Empire to the early nineteenth century

This paper looks historically at the different ways in which this ‘international’ space has been constructed. We begin in ancient Rome, with a word, Imperium, that of itself crosses the inside/out divide, being both a word for ‘internal’ rule and a word for the concrete, ‘external’ extension of rule – the ‘empire’; and we end with intellectual challenges to European conceptions and practices of empire in the early nineteenth century. Importantly, however, the intellectual history of the ‘inter-political’ or ‘international’ is not simply the intellectual history of imperial formations. As the paper shows, this dimension of the history of political thought involves all sorts of ‘inter-political’ concepts, ‘states between states’: unions, federations, confederations, composite monarchies, leagues, alliances, friendly states, hostile states; as well as new spaces of ‘inter-political’ citizenship.

Further information on the course is available:

<https://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/states-between-states-history-international-political-thought-roman-empire-early-nineteenth-century>

History and Philosophy of Science Paper 5: Epistemology and Metaphysics of Science

This paper considers a series of central questions in the philosophy of science. Topics covered include whether we should believe that our best scientific theories are true, whether there are fundamental laws in science and what kind of things they are, how probabilistic reasoning is used in science and philosophy, what it means to explain something in science, whether and how science progresses through the reduction of various theories to more fundamental ones, and how knowledge relates to actions and practices.

History and Philosophy of Science Paper 6: Ethics and Politics of Science, Technology and Medicine

Science, technology and medicine play a central role in the modern world. However, there are many on-going political and ethical controversies over the role they ought to play. These include debates over whether, when and how, ethical and political values should shape scientific research and practice, and over when and how scientific results and new technologies should be used. Furthermore, these important disputes relate to more fundamental questions about the relationship between truth, values and objectivity. The

aim of this paper is to introduce students to both practical and theoretical debates over the politics and ethics of science and to examine their inter-relationships.

Economics Paper 8: History and Philosophy of Economics

The paper is intended to help the students fully appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of the economic theories contained in other courses in the Tripos. It aims to do so by teaching them: (i) the major theoretical innovations and debates that have marked the evolution of economics (history of economics); and (ii) the key issues involved in the assessment of different methods of economic investigation (philosophy of economics).

At the end of the Paper, students will acquire: (i) the knowledge of the main innovations in economic theory and how they have emerged and evolved in response to real world problems as well as to intellectual debates; (ii) the knowledge of how economic theories have affected the world, not just by reforming economic policies but also by changing the way people look at the world; (iii) the understanding of relative strengths and weaknesses of different methods of investigation in economics; (iv) the appreciation of the importance – and also the blind spots – of the economic theories that they learn in the rest of Tripos; and (v) a more sophisticated understanding of the current debates in economics, based on the knowledge of the historical roots and the philosophical underpinnings of different economic ideas.

The paper consists of 30 lectures (16 for the history of economics and 14 for the philosophy of economics).

The 'History of Economics' part of the Paper will be examined by a 2,500-word essay (which will count for 50% of the final mark). The 'Philosophy of Economics' part of the Paper will be examined by a 2-hour examination, in which students will be expected to answer two of the four questions (which will count for the other 50%).

Selected Readings

- Chang, H-J., *Economics: The User's Guide*, ch. 4
- Medema, S., *The Hesitant Hand*
- Lawson, T., (2019) *The Nature of Social Reality: Issues in social Ontology* (Routledge)
- Reiss, J., (2013) *Philosophy of Economics: A Contemporary Introduction* (Routledge)

The Cold War and Its Aftermath in East Asia, EAS 2

This is seminar-based course, open to both undergraduates and graduate students, that extends the comparative approach adopted in EAS.1. It concentrates on thematic and policy issues relevant to understanding Japan, the Korean peninsula, China (broadly defined), the Soviet Union (and its Russian successor state), India, and also Southeast Asia, as well as FAMES Undergraduate Handbook 2023-24: last updated 22 November 2023 (version 4.0) The Handbook may be revised. For the latest version see the Faculty intranet. Page 59 of 104 the role of the United States in East Asia. In particular, it analyses the tensions between security and the national interest on the one hand, and values and the promotion of democracy on the other, not only in the United States' policy toward the region, but increasingly in the policy of other nation-states in the region. The course considers the strengths and limitations of different disciplinary approaches in addressing this issue. The course runs over three terms and draws explicitly on historical research and social science methodology in addressing how best to conceptualize 'East Asia' as a region. Topics addressed will vary from year to year, but an indicative list of subjects covered in the course includes some, but not necessarily all of the following issues: the Cold War as a historical phenomenon; methodological differences and similarities between history and international relations, the US "loss" of China and the emergence of the People's Republic of China; the Korean War; the first, second and third Indochina Wars; the Sino-Soviet split; US alliance diplomacy with Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK); Indian foreign policy and the non-aligned movement; ASEAN in regional diplomacy; the North Korean nuclear crisis; new regional security architectures in East Asia; the European role in regional diplomacy; territorial disputes in East Asia, including the status of Taiwan and conflict over the South China Sea; populism as a phenomenon in East Asia; regional economic integration and economic and human security frameworks of analysis. Taught in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter.

Lectures and Classes

Total of 16 sessions of 2-3 hours and 2 supervisions

Form and Conduct

This paper will contain ten essay questions, of which candidates will be required to attempt three.

Administrators

If you have queries about a particular subject, or need to notify us of any changes, please contact the relevant Administration Team using the shared mailbox addresses below:

Politics & International Relations	<u>ugradadmin@polis.cam.ac.uk</u>
Social Anthropology	<u>undergraduate-enquiries@socanth.cam.ac.uk</u>
Sociology	<u>undergrad@sociology.cam.ac.uk</u>
History & Politics	<u>history-politics@hist.cam.ac.uk</u>
HSPS Teaching Administrator	<u>facultyteachingadmin@hsps.cam.ac.uk</u>