

Modules

Information on modules, content, readings and deadlines can be found on the QMUL e-learning platform QMPlus. You can access QMPlus with your QMUL login details provided at enrolment.

POLM976 Contemporary World Politics – Semester 1

This module provides an introduction to, and critical understanding of, the key concepts and theoretical traditions in International Relations, and their relevance for understanding contemporary themes in world politics, such as migration, violence and poverty.

The module provides students with a nuanced understanding of the various social forces and processes shaping world politics including the co-constitutive relationship between the theory and practice of International Relations. The module will also develop students' capacities to reflect critically about the main claims, strengths and weaknesses of theories in International Relations.

POLM974 International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context – Semester 1

Violent conflict and the use of force remain salient issues in contemporary international relations. While some have theorised that the advent of globalisation and spread of liberal democracy would make the use of force and violent conflict less relevant to the world, war and conflict have remained an integral part of the international system, as well as forming an obstacle to providing stability and security for many states.

The module offers an examination of the ways in which violent conflict and the use of force impact on international relations, how force is used by states and other actors, and how force is managed in world politics. The module surveys a variety of perspectives on war and peace in order to better examine the roots of violent conflicts and security problems in the present day. A major theme is looking at war in a global context, not only in terms of integrating contemporary concerns with globalisation, but also by looking at interconnections between north and south, and war and society. Overall, the module gives a broad perspective on the place of armed force in contemporary international relations.

POLM973 Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development – Semester 2

This module provides students with a detailed examination – and critique - of theories of globalisation and assessment of contemporary globalising processes, and how these particularly influence the developing world. It examines these influences through detailed analysis of contemporary manifestations of 'globalisation', including neo-liberalism, US hegemony and

contemporary imperialism, capital flows, global commodity chains, state-market relations, patterns of global inequality, international institutions, and questions of cultural homogenisation/imperialism. The module also examines the ways in which 'globalisation' is resisted, focusing on the rise of transnational social movements and NGOs, and the politics of 'anti-globalisation', and how this relates to an ostensibly 'post-development' era. In addressing these issues, the course concludes by asking the most important question: how do we think of 'development' in an era of 'globalisation', US hegemony, neo-liberalism and imperialism?

POLM978 Placement Module: Doing International Relations – Semester 2

This module introduces MA IR (PARIS) students into international politics as a practical activity engaged by everyone including students themselves. It reviews the latest theories and methods in studying social and political life as a practical activity. It teaches students how to study the ways in which people become international political actors in doing things with words, images, and sounds by deploying these theories. It enables students to use methods appropriate for studying international politics as a practical activity and initiates students into thinking about themselves as international political actors. The module also introduces students to theories of performativity and enactment and their use in understanding contemporary international politics. Theories of performativity and enactment have increasingly become influential in humanities and social sciences shaping scholarship for practical understandings of social and political life. Their influence on the study of international politics has been so far limited although we have now literatures on how various actors including states perform politics. This module introduces students to the latest theoretical developments in performativity and enactment and enables them to work through these theories with illustrative examples. Students also develop an understanding of 'site analysis' as a method to study international politics as a practical activity.

POLM977 Dissertation – Semester 3

The Masters' Dissertation is an independent programme of study of an approved topic within the field of International Politics completed over the spring and summer months (April-August) of your degree programme. It is a compulsory element of your degree amounting to sixty credits (providing one-third of the credits for your degree) and the recommended length is 12,000 words. It is designed to enable students to undertake independent research and, through this, allow them to develop a specialised knowledge in an area of the discipline which is of particular interest to them. Thus, it may draw upon and develop an existing topic or issue associated with a module that they have studied in the earlier part of their programme, or emerge out of a student's specific research interest in an area not covered by other course modules. Although the dissertation is meant to be an exercise in independent research and writing, each student will be offered guidance and support through the assigning of a supervisor within the department who will oversee the progress of the dissertation.