Programme Title: MA in Critical Theory & Global Politics

Queen Mary
University of London

Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MA in Critical Theory & Global Politics
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	24 months (PT)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	L2S8
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	22 Aug 2013
Responsible School / Institute	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

How do we understand changes in local and global politics today? What does globalisation mean for identity and culture? What is the role of religion in modern, globalised societies? What are the important changes in contemporary politics and society? Is imperialism back? Is it possible to be critical of Western liberal democracies and still affirm the values of democracy and individual freedom? What does it mean to be progressive today? These are some of the questions at the heart of this innovative MA programme where students use new theoretical, methodological and critical perspectives to analyse how changes in global society create new forms of political activity and identity. The programme combines study of critical theories of society and politics with the study of IR theory and issues from the context of global politics.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the MA programme in Critical Theory and Global Politics are:

• To introduce students to the dominant theoretical paradigms used in the analysis of global politics and, in particular, to new approaches challenging the dominant paradigms.
• To give students a solid grounding in new theoretical approaches in contemporary critical political theory.

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• To enable students to use the approaches and paradigms to study current and historic events and issues in global politics.
• To develop a critical awareness of approaches to the study of global politics.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

Academic Content:	
A 1	Compare different approaches to the study of global politics and identify the differences between them.
A 2	Identify the assumptions made and concepts used by different theoretical approaches to the study of global politics.
A 3	Idenitify the differences between diverse approaches and the implications of those differences for how one studies politics and for how one positions oneself on political issues.
A 4	Critically discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the competing approaches studied on the programme.
A 5	Reflect on nature of theory as well as on the role of theory in the process of analysing empirical phenomena.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Communicate ideas, both orally and in written form, to others and in a clear, coherent and detailed fashion.
B 2	Articulate, both orally and in writing, a theoretical account and critique of different approaches in political theory and in the study of global politics.
B 3	Demonstrate an ability to apply such approaches to the analysis of current and historic events and issues in global politics.
B 4	Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate methodologies in political theory and in the study of global politics and undertake a piece of extended, independent research.
B 5	Critically reflect on their peers' and their own arguments, orally as well as in writing.

Attributes:	
C 1	Able to do independent research.
C 2	Critical knowledge of contemporary theories of politics and society.
C 3	Able to apply theory and methods to concrete issues and cases.

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How Will You Learn?

The programme will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars and individual tutorials.

How Will You Be Assessed?

Assessment will be by essay and examination.

Assessment details:

Critical Theories of Contemporary Politics Essay (50%); Exam (50%)

Theories of International Relations: Essay (50%); 2-hour in class test (50%)

Options:*   Essay (50%); Exam (50%)

* There may be some variation in the assessment for particular options offered across the School and Faculty.

How is the Programme Structured?

Students enrolling on this new MA programme will take the following core courses, each worth 30 credits:

• Critical Theories of Contemporary Politics (Autumn term) - Year 1
• Theories of International Relations (Autumn term) - Year 2

Students will also be given the option to take the 0 credit training module Political Analysis in their first year.

In addition, students must choose two optional modules (worth 30 credits each), one from list A and one from list B. List A includes 'theory' modules and List B 'global politics' modules, thus reflecting the overall profile of the MA programme with the integration of the study of global politics with the study of social and political theory. The optional modules have been restricted to those whose contents reflect the overall profile and aims of the MA programme.

List A (Critical Theory modules)
• Rethinking the Political Subject: Subject, People, Mass, Multitude
• Nationalism, Democracy and Cosmopolitanism
• Deconstruction and Politics Beyond the Nation-State

List B (Global Politics modules)
• International Politics of Democratisation
• Democracy in Plural Societies
• Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development
• International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context
• Globalisation and International Relations
• Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy
• International Relations of the Middle East: Islam, Imperialism and State Formation
• Approached to Political Economy

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• The Americas in Comparative Perspective II: Modern Politics and Society
• Decolonising International Relations
• International Public Management
• Implementation and Evaluation
• Case Studies in British and EU Policy-Making
• The Americas in Comparative Perspective I: Historical Roots
• Sub-Saharan Africa: States and Societies

Before taking any other optional modules, students must seek the approval of both their advisor and the course convenors of the modules they wish to take.

Students will then prepare a dissertation, worth 60 credits (12,000 word length to be confirmed).

Academic Year of Study   1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Critical Theories of Contemporary Politics	POLM032	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Theories of International Relations	POLM023	30	7	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Dissertation	POLM017	30	7	Core	2	Semester 3
Rethinking the Political Subject: Subject, People, Mass, Multitude	POLM033	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Nationalism, Democracy and Cosmopolitanism	POLM016	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
The International Politics of Democratisation	POLM053	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Democracy in Plural Societies	POLM014	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Globalisation and the International Political Economy of Development	POLM026	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context	POLM027	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Globalisation and International Relations	POLM028	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Themes and Cases in US Foreign Policy	POLM040	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
International Relations of the Middle East: Islam, Imperialism and State Formation	POLM043	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Approaches to Political Economy	POLM059	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
The Americas in Comparative Perspective II: Modern Politics and Society	POLM042	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Decolonising International Relations	POLM047	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Deconstruction and Politics Beyond the Nation-State	POLM034	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
International Public Management	POLM002	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Implementation and Evaluation	POLM003	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Case Studies in British and EU Policy-Making	POLM052	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
The Americas in Comparative Perspective I: Historical Roots	POLM041	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2
Political Analysis	POLM058	0	7	Study only	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Sub-Saharan Africa: States and Societies	POLM046	30	7	Elective	2	Semester 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Upper-second class honours degree in Politics, International Relations, Critical Theory or a related discipline.
Proficiency in English equivalent to IELTS 7.5

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in this Committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

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All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the module evaluations.

Academic Support

Students take part in a School wide induction programme. They will have a designated personal tutor as well as a designated dissertation supervisor, both of whom will meet with the students on a regular basis. The School has a Senior Tutor for MA students who will also be available to see students.

Students are also kept informed about support and help available either within the school, such as dedicated personal adviser weeks, or support workshops organised by Advice and Counselling at QM or the Language and Learning Unit, via the postgraduate administrator and school office.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:
• Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
• Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
• Arranging DSA assessments of need
• Special arrangements in examinations
• Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
• Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
• Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
• Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
• Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

N/A

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Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Lasse Thomassen

Person responsible for management of programme

Lasse Thomassen

Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee

8 Aug 2013

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board

22 Aug 2013

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