

# School of Politics and International Relations

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## Case Studies in EU Policy Making

This module aims to provide detailed analysis of policymaking in practice to supplement the theoretical training received in the core module. The object is to enrich your understanding of the nature and practicalities of the policymaking process, using British case studies, and enhance awareness of how the political environment helps to shape the policymaking process.

After a preliminary survey of the policymaking environment the module will focus each week on a detailed case study of British policymaking in practice, with an accent on topicality. You will be encouraged to discuss and evaluate current issues and the way in which policymakers are addressing them.

In the process you will acquire a detailed knowledge of the policymaking environment and process in Britain and also, to some extent, a comparative perspective on how different kinds of policymaking machinery will shape different outcomes.



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## Implementation and Evaluation

This module aims to provide a critical overview of the theory and practice of two of the 'end' stages of the policy process: implementation and evaluation.

The module will explore the development of theoretical and empirical academic literature and provide opportunities for you to apply this material to selected case studies relevant to the group. Practitioners will be encouraged to reflect on their practices and experiences.

The module will be delivered by means of lectures, workshops and distance learning.

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## International Security: War and Peace in a Global Context

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 the causes of 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. Additionally, the responses of the international community to violent conflict will also be explored, looking broadly at the contested notion of the 'Just War', international law, and the role of the United Nations.

Overall, the module gives a broad perspective on the place of armed force in contemporary international relations.





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## Political Economy: Theory and History

The module will provide an advanced historical grounding in the development of international business in the context of the rise of global capitalism, and then uses this grounding to explore the work of key thinkers who focus on the politics of capitalism and specifically international business, focusing on the social, the political and the economic. It will look at writers such as Smith, Ricardo, Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Spencer, Keynes, Schumpeter, Polanyi, Hayek and Minsky, and the approaches these writers take to understanding international business, and how this fits into their wider understanding of capitalism and modernity, and also how these debates influence current debates on international business and politics.

*Availability of this module will be confirmed at the start of the academic year.*

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## Themes and Cases in US Foreign Relations

This module will consider the principal forms in which US foreign policy has been practised and interpreted since the foundation of the Republic. Amongst these are American Exceptionalism and Anti-Americanism, 'spheres of influence', liberal interventionism and protectionist isolationism, Cold War containment, the 'War on Terror' following 9/11, and the strains on unipolarity in the early 21st century. Amongst the case studies linked to these themes, we shall consider the role of Native Americans and immigration, the war of 1898, gunboat diplomacy in the Caribbean, the ideas of Woodrow Wilson, the Vietnam War, the consequences of the 9/11 attacks, and the challenges posed by China.

\*Please note the availability of this option module will be confirmed at the start of the academic year.



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## Theories of the Policy Making Process

The module introduces you to theories and concepts associated with the analysis of the contemporary policy-making process. It will explore the main approaches to policy-making by firstly focussing on the rational school of public policy. After exploring the limitations of this approach, we will then analyse some alternative perspectives. The remainder of the course is dedicated to exploring the different theoretical perspectives on key themes within the analysis of public policy including: agenda setting; networks; and institutions. By the end of the course successful students will have an understanding of their own position within the field. The course will also provide you with the opportunity to develop skills in applying theoretical concepts to empirical work and vice versa.

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## Global Politics of Health

The inter-connectedness of people and the growth of inequality from economic globalisation have led to new and complex health issues that threaten human and financial security. This module looks at conceptual and empirical understandings of global health and its increased importance to international politics. You will study the complexity of health issues such as HIV/AIDS, tobacco, and obesity and how they have generated a particular form of international relations between states, international organisations, non-governmental actors, private philanthropists and the body. The module will draw on questions of liberty, justice, and equality in how we think about health politics, how the United Nations aim of health for all can be realised, and what it really means.

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