Nottingham Trent University
Module Specification

	Basic module information	
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1	Module Title:	Foundations and Challenges to Politics and International Relations
2	Module Code:	INTR10113
3	Credit Points:	40
4	Duration:	Full-Year
5	School:	Arts and Humanities/Social Sciences
6	Campus:	Clifton
7	Date:	September 2017

8	**Pre, Post and Co-requisites:**
	These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

Pre, Co, Post   Module Code   Module Title

9	**Courses containing the module**

Level	Core/Option	Mode	Code	Course Title
4	Core	FT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
4	Core	PT		BA Joint Honours Humanities
4	Core	SW		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
4	Core	PT		BA Joint Honours Modern Languages
		FT	EURX003	European Exchange Full Year
		FT	INTX001	International Exchange Full Year

10	**Overview and Aims**

This module introduces students to key political concepts and a range of ideologies which have underpinned the development of political and international relations theory. In addition, traditional approaches are contrasted with critical theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and to experiences of resistance and challenge to established orthodoxies and interests in global relations. It also introduces students to the importance of normative approaches to the study of

international relations.

The key aims of this module are:

1. To provide an introduction to a number of key political concepts.
2. To provide a clear understanding of a range of political ideologies.
3. To provide a background to the conceptual and historical areas necessary for understanding the dynamic nature of contemporary international relations.
4. To explain in detail the historical roots and 20th century manifestations of Realist and Liberal traditions in IR.
5. To provide clear understanding of the core assumptions of Realist and Liberal thought concerning human nature, conflict, cooperation, the role of the state, war and economics.
6. To explain the difference between traditional and critical approaches in IR.
7. To examine the development of critical/alternative approaches that emphasise the importance of societal, cultural and aesthetic factors, as well as processes of knowledge production, rather than focusing on the state. These include structuralism, post-structuralist/post-modernism, feminism, green theory and Critical Theory.
8. To ensure students develop generic employability skills and an understanding of the employability options open to them from studying a course in Politics or International Relations.

11	**Module Content**

Key political concepts including Power; Authority; Legitimacy; State; Government; Governance; Democracy; Freedom; Justice; Equality; Citizenship.

A range of political ideologies from among the following: Liberalism; Conservatism; Neo-conservatism; Neo-liberalism; Socialism; Marxism; Anarchism; Nationalism; Religious fundamentalism; Fascism; Feminism; Ecologism; Multiculturalism.

The historical and conceptual contexts of IR as a discipline: the Realist tradition including Thucydides, Machiavelli and Hobbes; the Liberal traditions (economic, political, philosophical and moral); early Marxism; Neo-Realism (Morgenthau, Waltz, Aron, Wight); Neo-Liberalism (Morse, Keohane and Nye, Fukuyama, Krasner); critiques of the Realist, Liberal and Marxist approaches.

Structuralism, post-structuralism/post-modernism, Critical Theory, Feminism, Green Theory and non-Western perspectives.

The module also seeks to develop students' understand and ability to explain contemporary politics and international relations by analysing contemporary actors, issues and processes including:

Economic, social and political issues associated with globalisation and interdependence, social movements; identity; the politics of demonstrations, popular uprisings and revolutions; forms of conflict and cooperation; environmental change;

and the mass media.

The module also includes the equivalent of 5 credit points of employability content. This entails 6-9 hours of classes (lectures and seminars) on careers in Politics and International Relations.

12	**Indicative Reading**

Baylis, J., Smith, S. and Owens, P. (2013), The Globalization of World Politics: Introduction to International Relations, 6th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Burchill, S. et al., (2009) *Theories of International Relations*, 4th edition, Basingstok Macmillan.

Edkins, J. and Zehfuss, M. (eds.), (2013), Global Politics: a New Introduction, New York: Routledge.

Festenstein, M. and Kenny, M., (2005), *Political ideologies: a reader and guide,* London: Open University Press.

Heywood, A., (2012), *Political Ideologies: An Introduction* 5th Ed., Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kegley, C. and Wittkopf, E., (2012), *World Politics: trend and transformation*, 2012-2013 edition, Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.

Kegley, C.W. and Wittkopf, E.R., (2007), *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, 1 edition, New York: St Martin's Press.

Steans, J., Pettiford, L., Diez, T. and El-Anis, I., (2010), *An Introduction to Internatio Relations Theory: Perspectives and Themes,* 3rd Edition, Harlow: Pearson Longma

Almond, G. A. et al., 2010, *Comparative Politics Today: a World View*, 9th edition, N York: Pearson.

Vincent, A., (2009), *Modern Political Ideologies* 3rd Edition, London: Blackwell.

13	**Learning outcomes**

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the development of IR as a critical academic discipline.

2. Understand the development of, and concepts associated with, a range of political ideologies.

3. Understand a number of key political concepts.

4. Explain in detail the historical roots and 20th century manifestations of Realist, Liberal and Marxist traditions in Politics and IR.

5. Provide a clear understanding of the core assumptions of Realist, Liberal and Marxist thought concerning human nature, conflict, cooperation, the role of the state, war and economic processes.

6. Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of different theoretical approaches to Politics and IR.

7. Understand the experiences and representational forms of challenge and resistance in international relations and underlying processes that shape our world.

8. To ensure students develop generic employability skills and an understanding of the employability options open to them from studying a course in Politics or International Relations

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

1. Relate theory to practice and apply different theories to different contexts.

2. Demonstrate effective oral, written, audio-visual and electronic communication skills.

3. Deploy the skills of analysis, evaluation, and critical reasoning in debate and the production of academic work (written and oral).

4. Collect, organise, analyse and present principally secondary, but also primary, material/data.

5. Carry out individual/independent learning.

6. Engage successfully with negotiation, cooperation and communication whilst working in a team.

7. Undertake self-reflection, workload planning and effective time management.

14	**Teaching and Learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

Weekly 2-hour lectures and weekly 1-hour seminars.

Total Contact Hours   72

Range of other learning methods

This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research

In addition to indicative reading lists contained in the module handbook, the university's virtual learning environment (NOW) will be used to provide students with module material such as lecture presentations, electronic copies of book and journal material, and links to other relevant internet-based material.

An online discussion forum will also be accessible through the NOW learning room with discussion topics posted weekly, providing students with the opportunity to discuss module-related material with each other and teaching staff. A number of

online quizzes/tests will be provided on the NOW learning room for students to take allowing the students to track their understanding of core elements of the module.

Total non-contact hours: 328

15	**Assessment methods**

This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements and sub-elements in the module

Element number	Weighting	Type	Description (include ay sub_elements)
1	50%	Coursework	One essay of 1500 (+/-10%) words.
2	50%	Exam	2 hour exam

Diagnostic/ formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module

mark

This module aims to enhance self-reflection through the use of Question-Bank and online quizzes/tests delivered via the dedicated NOW learning room. Crosswords, film-screenings and reflective group discussions will also be used to engage students in self-reflection as well as peer and staff feedback. These e-learning tools (as outlined above as part of the dedicated learning room on NOW) will act as a forum for formative independent study and self-review. Seminar discussion of pre-set questions/discussion points will also lead to peer and staff feedback.

Formative group presentations, which will take place during seminars in the second term, and follow-up reports will be utilised as the main type of formative assessment for this module. Feedback will be provided by peers and staff members on the day and through a report by the seminar tutor. Students will reflect on their work and the feedback they receive through a follow-up report which can vary in size.

Further information on assessment

This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate

N/A

	Document Management	
16	Module Title:	Foundations and Challenges to Politics and International Relations
17	Module Code:	INTR10113

18	Subject (JACS) Code	29	
19	Cost Centre	Politics & International Relations	
20	School:	Social Sciences	
21	Academic Team	Politics & International Relations	
22	Campus	Clifton	
23	Other institutions providing teaching	*Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable*	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation - Percentage not taught by NTU		
24	Date of approval:	January 2017 (School of AAH)	