

Strategy & International Security

Level 1

Core

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Notes
POL1028	Introduction to Strategic Studies	15	This module will provide you with an introduction to Strategic Studies. It focuses on the use of force and how force is employed to achieve political objectives.

Options

ARA1010	Politics and Economy of the Contemporary Middle East	15	The module is structured around main themes which provide a comparative perspective on politics in the Middle East. It particularly tackles the Arab-Israeli conflict, the political dynamics of key states (Egypt, Iran, Arab countries of the Gulf, Maghreb, Iraq), the politics of Islam, the political economy of oil, the politics of gender and human development, democratisation, and major wars.
ARA1036	Histories of the Middle East, 600-1800 C.E.	15	The primary aim of this module is to provide an introduction to the complex history of the Middle East utilising a variety of basic sources and providing relevant societal and historical context. It also aims at providing you with the concepts and tools necessary to develop an analytical approach to understanding the problems of war and peace in the Middle East.
POL1018	The Challenges of World Politics in the Twenty-First Century	15	Good all rounder - intro to global politics issues
POL1041	Data Analysis in Social Science	15	The purpose of the module is to introduce you to data analytical tools commonly used in social science research. It is designed for students with no previous experience of quantitative methods or statistics.

Level 2

Core

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Notes
POL2082	Changing Character of Warfare	15	This module will provide you with an overview of the “Western” way of warfare and its evolution since the end of the Cold War.

Options

ARA2135	Conflict and Peacemaking Palestine/Israel	15	To provide an understanding of the factors which have affected attempts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Palestine/Israel problem. This involves a thorough knowledge of the dynamics of the conflict, the proposals which have been put forward to resolve the problem, the conduct of negotiations intended to achieve peaceful settlement, and the practical record of implementation of such measures as have been agreed.
ARA2028	Islamist Movements: From the Muslim Brothers to the Islamic State	15	In this module, you will explore the action rationale of these movements. You will learn to critically analyse the various debates surrounding the causes and the political consequences of the rise of Islamist movements. You will learn to assess the role of Islamist movements in major political transitions, such as revolutions, civil wars, armed insurgencies, and civil resistance to authoritarianism.
ARA2161	The Historiography of the Arab-Israeli Conflict	15	This module covers the major Islamist movements in the Middle East and Central Asia. Its aim is to explore the behaviour of these movements, understand their ideologies, and compare their similarities and differences in a cross-regional setting. The module will also address the causes and the political consequences of the rise of Islamist movements in the Muslim-majority states.
ARA2166	Revolution, Reform or Status Quo	15	This module on ‘Revolution, reform or status quo?’ is designed for those students, who have an interest in the Middle East and current affairs. Topics include Tunisia. Ben Ali’s regime and its demise: A facelift or profound change? Algeria. The bloodshed of the 1990s and the merits of authoritarianism; Morocco. The monarchy as a guarantor of stability: Domestic and international perspectives; Egypt. The 2010 elections and their aftermath: The end of the line for the Mubarak family?; Libya. Qadhafi and the War on Terror: Lessons on how to stay in power; Sudan. The reign of Omar al-Bashir and the secession of the south.
POL2051	War and Peace in the Middle East	15	This module will familiarise you with the key issues and main developments in the politics of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the impact upon the states and people involved.
POL2057	Security Studies	15	This module will introduce you to the study of war and the use of force in world politics. The module will focus first on strategic studies and the pursuit of order and national security, before going on to look at (international) security more broadly and the old and new concerns it raises, and then finally considering peace and international interventions to end conflict. Strongly advised if planning on taking POL3207.

POL2086	Strategy and Psychology in Foreign Policy	15	This module will introduce you to two different approaches to understanding foreign policy. First you will learn the role psychological factors such as emotions, morality, and deciding under pressure play in foreign policy and international relations. You will also be exposed to key decision-making models. This module will then introduce you to rational choice theory and how it can be applied to understand international problems and conflicts.
POL2116	Political Economy of Armed Conflicts	15	Since the 1980s, there has been a rapid expansion of literature on political economy of armed conflicts, civil wars or humanitarian emergencies. Traditionally, wars were perceived to disrupt conditions under which economic laws apply, however, wars generate new licit and illicit economies that, in turn, contribute to the longevity of armed conflicts. In this module, you will study about economic networks (international, national and local) that support and feed into armed conflicts e.g. companies benefiting from wars, warlords and war economies, economies of terrorism etc.
POL2106	America in the World	15	America has shaped the modern world but is its influence declining and if so, what does that mean for international relations? In this module you will examine America in the world, the nature of its foreign policy, its role in world order maintenance and how it can respond to possible decline. This module will provide students with a firm grounding in understanding America's role in shaping the modern world and possible changes in the post-war international system and how this may impact on human civilisation. In choosing this module you cannot also take POL3174 International Security and US Foreign Policy (POL3174 not running 2020/1)
POL2115	British Foreign Policy	15	This module is designed to help students understand and interpret the historical and geopolitical contexts of British foreign policy. It is also practical, combining case studies with simulations of foreign policy debate. The majority of the teaching sessions will include simulations of hearings of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. Topics can include: Historical contexts, 1707-1989: Empire and After; Britain and the rising powers – Russia and China: opportunity or threat?; Is Britain still a military power? The arms trade and the nuclear deterrent; Aid, intervention and small states: do British values and interests coincide?
SSI2005	Data Analysis in Social Science 2	15	Must have taken POL1041 / SSI1006 Data Analysis in Social Science 1. The purpose of the module is to introduce you to regression analysis methods commonly used in political science, sociology and criminology. A good understanding of data collection, analysis and interpretation is essential for much empirical research in social science. Moreover, quantitative methods are becoming increasingly relevant for the competitive professional world.
SSI2002	Data Analysis in the Workplace	15	Co-requisite SSI2005. This module gives you the opportunity to gain experience of using data analysis tools and techniques in a workplace setting. The organizations offering placements are across the private, public & charity sectors and you can choose to do your placement in Exeter or elsewhere in the UK and Europe. Workshops will prepare you for your placement and develop your employment skills.

ARA3107	Politics of Semi-democratic and Authoritarian Countries	30	The module begins with an overview of the different types of authoritarian regimes. We then discuss their internal politics such as the politics of redistribution and patronage, the role of civil society, and the presence of informal institutions. Examples are drawn from countries or regions across the world such as the Middle East, China, Russia, Africa, and Latin America. We also study contemporary popular resistance movements such as the Arab Spring, the supposed incompatibility between Islam and democracy, and attempts by leaders in countries such as China and Russia to “upgrade” their regimes in order to remain in power.
ARA3136	The History and Political Development of Iraq	15	The module is structured around main periods and themes of Iraq’s history since the beginning of the 20th century. It particularly considers issues of state-building, political structures, nationalism and identity, political economy, regional relations, and international relations, Saddam Hussein’s rule and the post-2003 reconstruction.
ARA3140	The Kurds: History and Politics	15	This course focuses on the major events of Kurdish history from the nineteenth century until the present day, covering the late Ottoman Empire, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Turkey and discussing the present volatile situation. The focus is very strongly on political development, not only of Kurdish nationalism, but also the relationships of the Kurds with their home governments, neighbouring populations, and international actors.
ARA3149	Ethno-Politics: Theoretical Considerations and Case Studies	15	This module seeks to provide students with the analytical tools required to examine theoretical and empirical issues related to ethno-politics. Its primary aims are: (1) to develop an understanding of foundational concepts but also theories/discourses used to interpret the politics of ethnic relations, including ethnic conflict; and (2) to enable students to apply this understanding to better comprehend contemporary politics.
ARA3158	Armed Islamist Movements: Jihadism and Beyond	15	This module aims to provide you with an understanding of the complex relationships between Islamism and various types of political violence including insurgency and terrorism. The module covers the major Jihadist groups as well as other versions of armed Islamist movements in the Middle East, North Africa, the Caucasus, Central Asia and Europe.
ARA3162	Britain in the Middle East, 1798-1977	15	In this module you will examine the record of British imperial involvement in the Middle East, beginning with the signing of the Anglo-Omani treaty of 1798 and ending with Britain’s military withdrawal from Oman 179 years later in 1977.

POL3000	Deadly Words: The Language of Political Violence	15	In this module you are introduced to the crucial role of language in political violence. Building on theories from various disciplines (psychology, rhetoric, social cognition, IR), we expose the main ways through which language is used to propel political violence: through persuasion, identity constitution, threat construction, and worldview modelling. Cases studied are chosen from across the political spectrum (from Salafi-jihadist propaganda to far-right prose, from deep ecology to pre-genocide communications in Rwanda) to highlight the common traits that characterise extremist language as well as to identify the specificities of each case.
POL3080	The International Politics of Religion	30	The module will introduce you to the complex role of religion in international relations. Some of the topics covered may include Religion, Sovereignty, State and Nation; Religion, Violence and Security; Religion, Peace, Justice and Conflict-resolution; Religion, Liberalism and Democracy; Religion and Foreign Policy; The War on Terror and Countering Violent Extremism.
POL3054	Nuclear Weapons in International Relations	15	The module is structured in three parts. 1) Following an introductory seminar, the module tracks the history of nuclear weapons since World War Two; 2) it examines a range of highly contested analytical and normative problems created in the nuclearized era; and 3) finally, it examines competing arguments for how states should approach and manage nuclear weapons in our time.
POL3120	War and Public Opinion	30	In this course, you will examine public opinion about war and international relations. Specific topics include: public support for going to war, the public opinion response to war, how public opinion shapes and constrains the choices of leaders and foreign policy makers in democratic states (comparing and contrasting to political motivations of autocratic ones), as well as the effects of political psychology variables on public and elite perceptions and decision-making processes.
POL3156	Central Asian Politics	30	Module will cover the following topics. Introducing and imagining Central Asia. History and historiography: before, during and after the Soviet Union / the making of modern Afghanistan. Theories and approaches: transition / political economy / state formation / nation, ethnicity and clan politics / symbolic politics. Issues and cases: Gender and bride-kidnapping / Livelihoods and labour migration / Religion and political Islam / Sovereignty and regional cooperation / Water politics and the Aral Sea crisis / Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and the resource curse / Intervention in Afghanistan since 911 / Peacebuilding in Tajikistan / Uzbekistan and the Andijon Uprising / Kyrgyzstan and the Tulip Revolution / China & Xinjiang
POL3168	War and its Aftermath: Interventions and Contemporary Conflict	30	This module explores effects of political violence in the contemporary setting with particular focus on the various efforts to intervene in armed conflict and seek redress for mass atrocities. In the first half of the course you will focus on the issues that arise during conflict. The module will consider contemporary trends in modern war, the decision to intervene, and how intervention shapes both the war and the post-war period. In the second half of the course you will study the various ways international and local actors have tried to address legacies of war crimes and mass atrocities after weapons have been laid to rest.

POL3214	Disrupting Western Hegemony: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency Post WWII	15	This module will provide you with a strong foundation in the conceptual, historical, strategic, operational, organisational and ethical issues associated with “irregular warfare”. Whilst looking at in-depth historical case studies of irregular warfare, the module will enable you to examine how varieties of irregular warfare have risen to prominence during the Twentieth Century. This module will help familiarise you with the sub-types of irregular warfare: mainly guerrilla warfare, insurgency, terrorism and counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism.
POL3207	Realism and International Security	15	No Pre-Req but strongly advise to have taken POL2057. This module will provide you with an opportunity to investigate the relevance or otherwise of realist thought to contemporary international politics in general, and security policy in particular. For instance, how do realist ideas manifest themselves in specific policy/issue areas: military threat assessment, contemporary Western relations with states like Russia and China, the (dis)advantages of trade and economic interdependence, nuclear weapons and deterrence, terrorism, and so forth?
POL3208	Maritime Power and Security in Global Politics	15	This interdisciplinary module will draw upon both history and political science to introduce you to the concepts, history and contemporary context of the components and policy of maritime power and maritime security. You will be encouraged to critically analyse the utility of both political and historical theory for practical application using real world contemporary case studies. The module begins with an introduction to maritime power and security – what it is and what it is not – followed by an assessment of historical aspects of maritime security before progressing to assess a number of comparative contemporary case studies where maritime power and security plays a crucial role in concepts of the balance of power in contemporary global politics.
POL3257	Understanding Terrorism and Counterterrorism	30	Whilst the module’s precise content may vary from year to year, it is envisaged that the syllabus will cover some or all of the following topics: Conceptual and theoretical frameworks in studying terrorism; Historical trends; Terrorism and technologies; Terrorism and Media; Gender in Terrorism; Critical Studies of Terrorism; Counter terrorism mechanisms; Reintegration, reengagement and reconciliation of former terrorists and violent extremists.
POL3260	Russian Foreign Policy	15	Whilst the precise content may vary from year to year, it is envisaged that the syllabus will cover all or some of the following topics: Introduction to the history of Russian and Soviet foreign policy; Different theoretical approaches to Russian foreign policy; Drivers of Russian foreign policy; Key actors in Russian foreign policy; Russia and the West; Sino-Russian relations, and Russia’s role in Asia; Russia’s resurgent role in the Middle East; Russia in Africa and Latin America; Russian views of world order.

SOC3036	International Criminal Justice: Application of Theory to Transnational and International Crime	15	Can be taken at levels 2 or 3. This module is an introduction to the nature and scope of international and transnational crime and how different criminological theories explain these crimes. You will be introduced to different philosophical approaches theorists have made in explaining crime and how each theory poses unique policy implications for how to address these crimes in societies. MUST ASK PERMISSION FROM SOCIOLOGY
SOC3112	Introduction to Terrorism Studies	30	Can be taken at levels 2 or 3. This Q-Step module will expose you to the controversial topic of terrorism and how research is conducted on this subject. You will learn about the history of political and religiously motivated violence, the subjective and debated definition of terrorism, as well as rates and trends of terrorism. MUST ASK PERMISSION FROM SOCIOLOGY
SSI3003	Data Analysis in Social Science 3	15	Pre-req or co-req SSI2005. Basic knowledge of statistics and data analysis is often not enough for dealing with more complicated problems in the social sciences, as well as in market research, applied policy analysis, and data-driven journalism. This module introduces you to more advanced techniques for social data analysis using the statistical programming language R and in particular the tidyverse framework.