Minor Specification

International Relations

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution
University of Southampton

Teaching Institution
University of Southampton

Name of minor
International Relations

FHEQ level of final award
As for the Major programme

QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference
Politics & International Relations

Faculty that owns the minor
Social Sciences

Minor Leader
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Date specification was written
18-10-2013

Overview of Minor

1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor provides a basic grounding in the theories, issues, and methodologies of International Relations, with a specific focus on understanding International Relations as an aspect of a wider phenomenon best thought of as global politics. This includes analysis of both state and non-state actors, international institutions, global economic systems, and other issues that complicate the actions of state actors and challenge the notion of the nation-state as the primary unit of analysis.

This minor is not available to students on BSc Politics or BSc Politics and International Relations.

2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods concentrate on relating theory to practice, developing analytical abilities and skills, and examining the impact of actions in historical and contemporary contexts. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities, some employing simulation exercises and case study analysis.

3 Assessment

Assessment methods allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes by prioritising analysis of complex material that is subject to multiple reasonable interpretations. Essays and group projects allow students to develop and present cases and arguments, focusing on the ultimately contested nature of explanations in International Relations.

Educational Aims of the Minor
Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of global/international politics.
- Knowledge of selected issues and events within global/international politics.
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of global/international politics, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into global/international political issues, using appropriate methodologies.
- Skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working co-operatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes.

Learning Outcomes for the Minor

Knowledge and Understanding

Having successfully completed this minor you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The nature and significance of international relations and politics.
- International institutions, the organization and exercise of power and governance in global politics.
- The application of concepts, theories and methods relevant to the understanding of the dynamics of global politics.
- Different interpretations of global political issues and events.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

Assessment methods

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, assessed classroom activities

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate your ability to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems
- Developed reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback
- Manage your own learning self-critically

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.
Assessment methods
Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

Transferable and Generic Skills
Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate your ability to:

- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals
- Identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence.

Teaching and Learning Methods
Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent work, etc.

Assessment methods
Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

Subject Specific Practical Skills
Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate your ability to:

- Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information.
- Identify issues for political inquiry.
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources.
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions.
Structure of Minor

1 Typical content

The minor in International Relations introduces and develops your understanding of global political events, as well as the competing traditions of enquiry and analysis that help scholars explore the field of study. The effort to explain global political phenomena has to accept at the outset that cultural, historical, and practical circumstances will strongly influence not only interpretations of events, but also ideas about the kinds of reasons and evidence that will support any given conclusion. Politics broadly concerns those things about which people disagree and in the study of International Relations, the disagreement is complicated by those issues of history and culture. In addition, within this kind of analysis is the unavoidable presence of power – which stretches from the ‘soft’ power diplomacy to the ‘hard’ power of military force. Along the way, economic power, the power to influence or even set the agenda for debate, the power to control resources will also play a part in how we analyse what is happening in global politics. Indeed, these issues will challenge what we think needs to be analysed, not merely how analysis is conducted.

2 Special Features of the programme

None.

3 Details of the minor

The minor consists of the following, although not all modules may be available in any given year:

Part 1: 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)
PAIR1001 Introduction to International Relations
PAIR1007 Crises of the 21st Century

Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)
PAIR2001 Theorizing International Politics
PAIR2021 The Politics and Governance of the EU
PAIR2024 Chinese Politics
PAIR2026 Democratic Theory
PAIR2032 Democracy and Democratization in Global Politics
PAIR2012 Global Governance
PAIR2017 European Security Governance
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in Global World
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)

Please note: Students cannot take a year 3 versions of a module they have previously taken.

PAIR3014 Globalisation and World Politics
PAIR3015 Contemporary Theories of Justice

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PAIR3018 Global Governance
PAIR3021 Chinese Politics
PAIR3026 European Security Governance
PAIR3030 The Politics and Governance of the EU
PAIR3040 Democracy and Democratisation in Global Politics
UOSM2004 Global Health
UOSM2010 Global Challenges
UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in Global World
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

4 Progression Requirements

The programme, of which this minor comprises a part, follows the University’s regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar: 
http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found on the minor website at https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page.

Revision History

1. R.K. Bentley, 18 October 2013
2. CQA team 28th April 2014
3. CQA team July 2015
4. CQA team July 2016
5. S.Casey 18/19 revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18