

COURSE GUIDEBOOK

AY25/26, SEM 1



ALL INFORMATION ACCURATE AS OF 20/7/2025

The Political Science Society of NUS

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Connect with us!

Want to know more about us and what we do? Join the Political Science Society as a member today and connect with like-minded students interested in Political Science!

Dearest friends of the Political Science community,

Editor's Message



We hope you have enjoyed your summer holiday. As we prepare for the new semester, the Political Science Society of NUS (PSSOC) presents the Course Guidebook for Semester 1 of AY25/26!

This guide contains the Political Science major, second major and minor requirements for different cohorts, CourseReg details, schedule, and most importantly, the course information of the courses offered next semester. The guidebook consolidates information from the PS department website, NUSMods, Canvas as well as personal insights from Professors in the department. We hope you will find this guidebook beneficial in selecting your courses this semester!

If you have any feedback or suggestions on this Course Guidebook, please email us at hr@nuspsoc.org. Your input is greatly welcome as we continue to improve our service to the student community!

The PSSOC Human Resource Directorate Political Science Course Guidebook, AY25/26 Semester 1

Disclaimer: *The team behind the Course Guidebook has ensured that the information provided in this document is correct at the point of publication to the best of their abilities. Neither the PS department, the instructors of the course, nor PSSOC shall be responsible for any consequences due to change(s) and/or error(s) in the course. This document is a compilation, and should not be a replacement for the official information on the faculty/department website(s) or Canvas.*

Acknowledgements

This Course Guidebook would not be possible without the Human Resources Directorate from the 56th PSSOC Executive Committee, which contributed to the design, editorial, and communicative aspects required of this issue.



Political Science Camp, 26th-28th June 2025

AY25/26 Semester 1 Matters

Adapted from the NUS Political Science Department & NUSMods

About CourseReg

CourseReg is a rules-driven, priority-based course allocation system. This means that CourseReg takes into greater account the students' curricular needs and seniority on top of the students' course preferences when allocating courses.

For more information on CourseReg, please refer to NUS' website [HERE](#):

The following PS courses, with one of the first 3 being compulsory for Political Science (PS) and Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) majors, are **protected** for **Round 1 of CourseReg**.

Global Studies Programme Major/2nd major and minor students can register for these courses from **Round 2 onwards**.

All other majors can register for these courses only from **Round 3 onwards**:

- PS2244 Public Administration in Singapore (Governance and Public Policy)
 - PS2249 Government and Politics of Singapore (Comparative Politics)
 - PS3249 Singapore's Foreign Policy (International Relations)
 - PS3257 Political Inquiry (Methods)
-

PS level 4000 courses are **protected** for

- Political Science (PS)
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Global Studies (GL),
- and recognised course majors only.

Round 1 is further protected for Honours year students, i.e. PS/PPE/GL majors who are not in their Honours year can register for level 4000 courses from **Round 2** onwards.

Other majors who have recognised PS level 4000 courses will be able to register for these courses during **Round 2 of CourseReg**.

Students (both PS and non-PS majors) who are unable to register for their desired PS courses may appeal for them using the appeal function in the CourseReg system.

CourseReg Schedule

(Information correct as of 20 July 2025)



<u>Event</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>
ACADEMIC PLAN DECLARATION (for existing students)	14 Jul 2025 0900 Hrs	18 Aug 2025 1700 Hrs
SELECT COURSES (Round 1)	21 Jul 2025 0900 Hrs	22 Jul 2025 1200 Hrs
SELECT COURSES (Round 1) — Results	24 Jul 2025, 0900 Hrs	
SELECT COURSES (Round 2)	29 Jul 2025 0900 Hrs	30 Jul 2025 1200 Hrs
SELECT COURSES (Round 2) — Results	1 Aug 2025, 0900 Hrs	
SELECT COURSES (Round 3)	4 Aug 2025 0900 Hrs	5 Aug 2025 1200 Hrs
SELECT COURSES (Round 3) — Results	7 Aug 2025, 0900 Hrs	
ONLINE APPEAL FOR COURSES	7 Aug 2025 0900 Hrs	21 Aug 2025 1700 Hrs
SELECT TUTORIALS/LABS (Round 1)	12 Aug 2025 0900 Hrs	12 Aug 2025 1700 Hrs
SELECT TUTORIALS/LABS (Round 1) — Results	14 Aug 2025, 0900 Hrs	
SELECT TUTORIALS/LABS (Round 2)	14 Aug 2025 0900 Hrs	16 Aug 2025 1700 Hrs
SELECT TUTORIALS/LABS (Round 2) — Results	20 Aug 2025, 0900 Hrs	
ADD/SWAP TUTORIALS (Note: Allocation process will be temporarily unavailable from 0830hrs to 1100hrs during this period)	20 Aug 2025 0900 Hrs	20 Aug 2025 1700 Hrs

AY25/26 Semester 1 Calendar

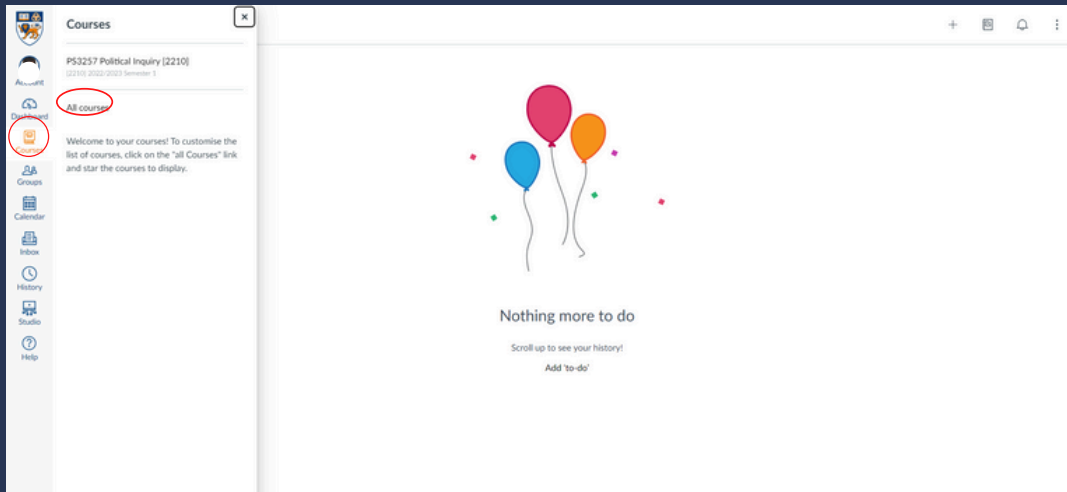
Regular Semester		Mini Semester	Week	Dates	
Regular Semester: 18 weeks	Orientation		0	Mon, 4 Aug 2025	~ Sat, 9 Aug 2025
	Instructional Period (6 weeks)	Mini Sem 1A: 8 weeks Instructional Period (6 weeks)	1	Mon, 11 Aug 2025	~ Fri, 15 Aug 2025
			2	Mon, 18 Aug 2025	~ Fri, 22 Aug 2025
			3	Mon, 25 Aug 2025	~ Fri, 29 Aug 2025
			4	Mon, 1 Sep 2025	~ Fri, 5 Sep 2025
			5	Mon, 8 Sep 2025	~ Fri, 12 Sep 2025
			6	Mon, 15 Sep 2025	~ Fri, 19 Sep 2025
	Recess	Reading		Sat, 20 Sep 2025	~ Sun, 28 Sep 2025
	Instructional Period (7 weeks)	Examination	7	Mon, 29 Sep 2025	~ Sat, 4 Oct 2025
		Mini Sem 1B: 9 weeks Instructional Period (6 weeks)	8	Mon, 6 Oct 2025	~ Fri, 10 Oct 2025
			9	Mon, 13 Oct 2025	~ Fri, 17 Oct 2025
			10	Mon, 20 Oct 2025	~ Fri, 24 Oct 2025
			11	Mon, 27 Oct 2025	~ Fri, 31 Oct 2025
			12	Mon, 3 Nov 2025	~ Fri, 7 Nov 2025
	Reading	Reading		Sat, 15 Nov 2025	~ Fri, 21 Nov 2025
	Examination	Examination (2 weeks)		Sat, 22 Nov 2025	~ Sat, 6 Dec 2025
Vacation: 5 weeks				Sun, 7 Dec 2025	~ Sun, 11 Jan 2026

Adapted from **Registrar's Office, National University of Singapore**
<https://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/calendar>

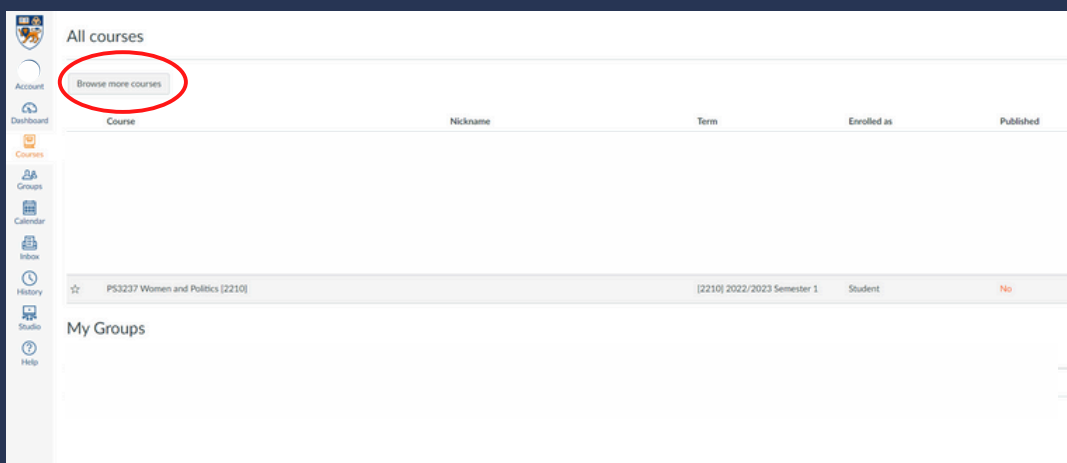
Course Search @ Canvas



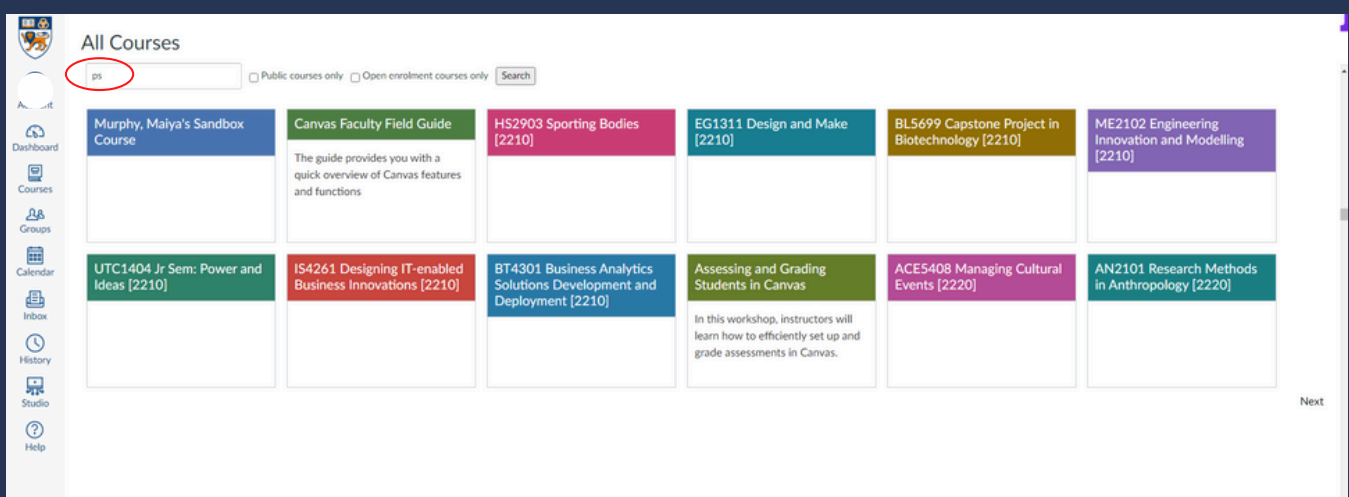
First, log in into Canvas and Click "Courses". Then Click "All Courses".



Second, Click "Browse more courses".



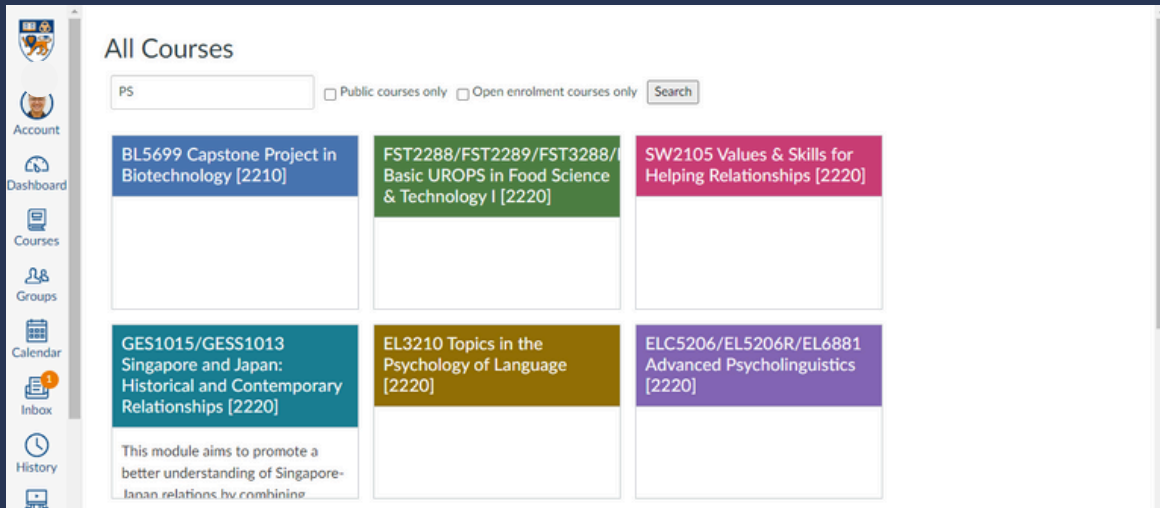
Lastly, type "PS" into the search bar, click the search icon and the results will appear. Don't panic if the course was scheduled to be offered but does not appear amongst the results. It may be the case that the instructor of the course has not set up the course page on Canvas. Check back closer to the start of the semester.



Course Search @ Canvas

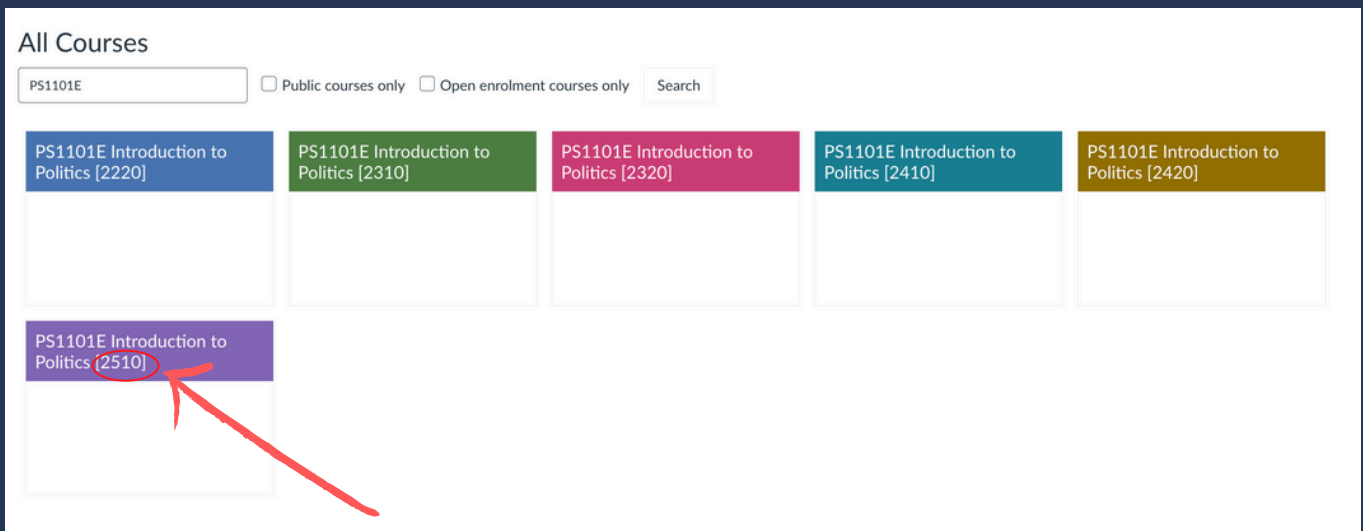


The results should show something like this.



Do remember to check that the course has the code "[2510]" affixed to them, which means that that course is indeed offered for the upcoming semester.

Alternatively, if you are looking for a specific course, simply key in the course code.



AY25/26 Semester 1 Courses

Colour Legend



Core/Methods



Comparative Politics



International Relations



Political Theory



Governance & Public Policy

Monday

PS2249 Government & Politics of Singapore	1000 — 1200
PE4103S Meritocracy	1200 — 1500
PS4220/HM Rhetoric and Politics	1500 — 1800
PS3257 Political Inquiry	1600 — 1800
PS4332/HM Researching Singapore Politics	1600 — 1800

Tuesday

PS2204 Modern Western Political Thought	1000 — 1200
PS3240 International Security	1000 — 1200
PS3273 Singapore Politics from a Comparative Perspective	1200 — 1500
PS3215 Equality and Justice	1400 — 1600
PS3256 Politics and Film	1400 — 1600
PS3311 International Ethics	1600 — 1800



Information for this page can be found at <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/pol/timetable/>

This timetable is subject to changes, do double-check the website for the latest version of the course timetables for the most accurate information. Course offerings are not finalized and may be subjected to changes at any point of time before the start of Coursereg.

AY25/26 Semester 1 Courses

Colour Legend



Core/Methods



Comparative Politics



International Relations



Political Theory



Governance & Public Policy

Wednesday

PS2234 Introduction to Comparative Politics	1000 — 1200
PS2237 Introduction to International Relations	1000 — 1200
PS5211/HM Non-State Actors in Global Governance	1800 — 2100

Thursday

PS4230/HM Public Sector Reforms in China	0900 — 1200
PS1101E Introduction to Politics	1000 — 1200
PS2240 Introduction to Public Administration	1600 — 1800
PS5312/HM Seminar in Comparative Politics	1800 — 2100

Friday

PS4219/HM Comparative Political Thought	0900 — 1200
PS2237 Human Rights in International Politics	1000 — 1200
PS4217/HM Major Political Thinkers	1200 — 1500
PS4226/HM Emerging Markets & Economic Governance	1500 — 1800
PS3237 Women and Politics	1600 — 1800



Information for this page can be found at <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/pol/timetable/>

This timetable is subject to changes, do check the website for the most accurate version of the course timetables. Course offerings may be subjected to changes at any point of time before the start of Courseereg.



CHS Open Day - PSSOC Booth
17th May 2025

WHICH COURSE IS RIGHT FOR ME?

Which Course is right for Me?

A new feature in PSSOC's Course Guidebook, this section aims to help students new to the Political Science department gain a better understanding of the various subfields and specialisations of this academic discipline. This also serves as a guide for how incoming students might choose to complete their study plans within their first year.

Four Subfields, One Major

In NUS, Political Science encompasses four core subfields. They are:



Comparative Politics (CP)

CP involves the study of political systems within countries. Courses in this subfield focus either on regions of the world, or on themes relevant across many contexts.



International Relations (IR)

IR is the study of political relationships among countries. Core issues include: Conflict, Security, Foreign Policy, International Organisations, and Institutions.



Political Theory (PT)

PT ranges across the study of philosophical texts from all intellectual traditions, ideologies, and legal and institutional expression of political ideas.



Governance & Public Policy (GPP)

GPP represents the applied domain of state politics, policy and administration. It deals with institutions and activities of state bureaucracy, public organisation, and public policy.



Core/Methods

Core courses are compulsory prerequisites for graduation. Political Science has two core modules: PS1101E (Introduction to Politics); and PS3257 (Political Inquiry).

For other courses with this designation, this means that they focus on Political Methodology - which is the study of specific methods or methodologies in the study of Political Science.

What subfield should I choose?



Comparative Politics (CP)

Choose this subfield if you are interested in learning more about how political systems operate across a diverse range of contexts, along with the structures and factors that shape them.

Some courses in this subfield include: PS2234 (Intro to CP); PS2249 (Government and Politics of Singapore); and PS3237 (Women and Politics)



Political Theory (PT)

Choose this subfield if you are interested in learning about the concepts and principles that form the basis of political thought, understand the ideologies behind some of the greatest minds in power.

Some courses in this subfield include: PS2204 (Modern Western Political Thought); PS3215 (Equality and Justice); PS3256 (Politics and Film)



International Relations (IR)

If you enjoy diving into the complexities of international affairs; or are excited to know more about how states, international organisations, and non-state actors interact with each other on a global scale, IR is for you!

Some courses in this subfield include: PS2238 (Intro to IR); PS3240 (Int'l Security); PS3252 (Human Rights in Int'l Politics); and PS3311 (Int'l Ethics)



Governance & Public Policy (GPP)

Choose this subfield if you are keen to learn more about how governments, societies, and institutions operate and respond to complex societal issues.

Some courses in this subfield include: PS2240 (Introduction to Public Administration) and PS4230/HM (Public Sector Reforms in China)

**Note: PS Courses often overlaps one or more subfields, use this purely as a guide for choosing your courses.*

Sample Study Plan Template for Year 1

For students taking CHS Core Courses

This study plan serves as a guide for how students may complete Year 1. For the 4 Integrated courses (HSA, HSH, HSS, HSI), students will be pre-allocated with any 2 out of the 4 courses per semester. For DTK1234 and GEA1000, either 1 of the courses will be pre-allocated per semester.

AY25/26 Year 1	
Semester 1	Semester 2
PS1101E	PS Level-2000 Course
Writing (FAS1101)	PS Level-2000 Course
DTK1234	GEA1000
HSA1000	HSH1000
HSS1000	HSI1000

NOTES:

- **The courses highlighted in yellow are pre-allocated to you but may differ in semesters.**
- **PS1101E is preallocated to you in either semester 1 or 2.**
- **In your first semester, you are only allowed to take up to 5 courses, excluding Career Compass (unless you are enrolled in NUS College). You may take more than 5 courses starting from Year 1 Semester 2.**

Information are extracted from the NUS FASS Website. For more updated information on the four subfields, visit fass.nus.edu.sg/pol/. Should you require more detailed study plans, you can find them in the CHS website, under Academic Matters – Sample Study Plan https://fass.nus.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Cohort-2022-CHS-Sample-Study-Plan-FASS_2024.06.26.pdf.



Singapore Youth Policy Conference,
21st - 22nd June 2025

HEAR IT FROM OUR PROFESSORS

We are delighted to feature in this segment Dr Rebecca Tan, Dr Dunya Lepori, A/P Koh Tsin Yen and A/P Steven Oliver, who have kindly taken the time to share with us valuable insights on their teaching styles and reflections on the upcoming semester!

Q1: Hello Profs, thank you for your time! Could you tell us more about yourselves and your teaching experience thus far?



A/P Steven Oliver: Hello everyone! I'm Professor Steven Oliver, and I will be part of the PS department from this semester onwards. I taught at Yale-NUS for 10 years (back when it was still around), and offered exclusively graduate level (level 5000) PS courses.

Now that I am formally teaching in the department, I am looking forward to teaching whole range of graduate and undergraduate courses - this semester, I am scheduled to be teaching 3 courses: **PS2234** (Intro to Comparative Politics), **PS3257** (Political Inquiry) and **PS5511** (Research Design in Political Science).

Dr Rebecca Tan: My history with the PS department goes quite a way back - I was taught by Prof Bilveer Singh! I've been a lecturer in the department for the past two and a half years. Before that, I was teaching in CHS (HSS1000). After graduating from NUS, I worked as a full-time Teaching Assistant (TA) for a number of years before and during my PhD, which saw me tutor for over 13 different courses.



Now, I offer an average of 5 courses every Academic Year over a range of levels - but you will generally see me teaching **PS1101E** (Introduction to Politics), **PS3273** (Singapore Politics in Comparative Perspective) and **PS4882D** (Politics of Global Migration), to name a few.



A/P Koh Tsin Yen: Hey everyone, I'm Prof Koh! I'm interested in the ideas/theories/beliefs that underlie our political institutions and actions. My courses - namely, **PS2204** (Modern Western Political Thought) and **PS3215** (Equality and Justice) focuses on the history of these ideas, as well as the ways in which they change with social changes, the interaction of theory and practice.

Q2: How would you describe your lecture and tutorial teaching styles?



Dr Dunya Lepori: While my lectures are mainly teacher-driven with 10-15 mins of class discussion on weekly topics, **my tutorials and seminars are more student-driven - the bulk of it is dedicated to small-group and whole-class discussion.** I value rigour in my teaching, and I hope to provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge about political affairs, as well as to increase their personal engagement with the subject matter by facilitating stimulating conversations in the classroom.

A/P Oliver: I'll try to keep lecturing to a minimum. What I mean by this is for many classes - particularly 2 and 3k ones - there will be some summation of lecture components and key takeaways. After discussing these defined concepts, I then flip it to the students: **"We all understand these. How would you apply them to XYY contexts?"**

Most group discussions, like in **political inquiry**, will be applying a particular skillset of knowledge that has already been laid out prior to the tutorials. **I recognise that mandatory courses are not everyone's favourite, but the broader pedagogical literature suggests that these team-based formats improves learning outcomes rather than standard styles of teaching.** Basic programming in R is not easy; but in a team-based format where students help each other, this collaborative style of learning is meant to help students learn as effectively as possible.

Dr Rebecca Tan: My teaching style is characterised by **student-driven interaction.** My lectures always feature student activities (such as polls for larger lectures, or small group discussions for smaller courses) which are used to encourage students to actively engage with course materials.

“

I hope to create an atmosphere where students are ready to ask questions. The goal is to never make anyone feel that their opinions are invalid.

”

I rely heavily on colourful mindmaps to map out points of discussion and to allow me to better set out the connections between ideas. Sometimes, these are handwritten to represent the dynamic discussion that characterise tutorials and seminars, rather than limiting discussions with a set of points on a slide deck.

Q3: What are you most excited about in the upcoming semester?

Dr Lepori: Getting to meet new students, and reunite with former ones! **What I look forward most is to have challenging, engaging, and productive exchanges in class, and create, collectively, a safe and collaborative space for mutual learning.**

“

I think that it provides a really interesting angle for appreciating Singaporean politics by thinking about how academic research affect and is affected by political environments.

”

Dr Tan: I am very excited about teaching **PS4332** (Researching Singapore Politics), as it's the second time that I'm convening the course.

The first iteration last AY went better than I expected, as I wasn't sure how a course that centres research methodology would be received. However, I enjoyed witnessing students' growth as they grappled with the challenges and 'big questions' about how and why research is conducted in Singapore's policy contexts.

Q4: If you don't mind sharing, what are some common feedback by students on your classes?

A/P Oliver: I get a mix of positive, negative feedback. I try not to let positive feedback get to your head, or being disheartened with negative ones.

“

Given that many of you are taking multiple courses at the same time, I strongly advise you to be strategic in your readings.

”

A common feedback would be that my modules contain too many readings. While I do my best to ensure that the quantity of readings are fair and within departmental guidelines, you have to read things to learn things. As much as I'd like students to reflect on and synthesise their readings, most students don't, often due to a lack of time. To get around that, I am considering “toning down” the readings. This means they are designed to guide students' understanding of a particular concept, rather than reading to uncover an answer or solution to a particular issue.



Rest assured that they will always have a fair amount of reading, regardless of your course. I trust that you're entirely capable of completing them well!



A/P Koh: Because I teach primarily courses in **Political Theory**, there is unfortunately a lot of reading involved - which is a frequent critique of my courses. In response, I do my best to draw clearer, tangible applications of these theories in real life, which is my way of challenging the long-held assumption that “political theory is reading-intensive, and therefore boring”. With every iteration of my courses, I will review the reading list and adjust them accordingly.

Dr Tan: The feedback that I often get is that I can be quite a strict marker especially for essays. I have been working on being more detailed and transparent in setting standards, such as creating writing guides for students, uploading exemplars of graded work from previous versions of the course, providing formative feedback for components such as in-class participation.

My focus when I grade essays is on what I consider to be fundamental elements of good argumentative writing – having a clear argument that is consistently developed, effective use of varied evidence that is well-integrated into writing and thoughtful and nuanced analysis to support one’s stance.

Q5. How would you describe your marking styles?

A/P Oliver: There are 4 “levels” to my marking style.

First of all, **comprehension**. It would show that someone can understand the material. Then, **clarity**. If someone is not taking the effort to communicate their understanding in a clear way, then it would be very hard to give them the point. This is followed by **application**: the extent in which you can apply conceptual knowledge.

Lastly, **evaluation**. Beyond “thinking critically”; we must ask ourselves “how does this concept help us understand what it aims to explain?”. **I’m looking for a genuine engagement with the course content, where students robustly consider how much the lesson material explains what we can and cannot see.** This is more applicable for higher-level (4-5k) courses, where I look for more signs of original thought as well as the recognition of the limits of received knowledge through theories. This is what “engagement with course content” means - it shows you are aware that what we know doesn’t always correspond to what we think.

A/P Koh: I look for a good understanding of the readings and ideas, the ability to put an argument together, and something of the student's own voice and originality.

Q6. What is one piece of advice you have for incoming freshmen, or those who have never taken any of your courses before?

A/P Koh: For incoming PS freshmen: **remember to have fun!** That would also be the same advice for those who have never taken my courses before.

A/P Oliver: Be present and engaged. Not just physically, but mentally. Again, university is meant to be challenging, but not so challenging that you cannot succeed.

“
However, you should remember that your result is what you put into the course. Even if you do pass, your efforts are robbing you of a potential learning experience.

”

Another piece of advice: **Do not be afraid to ask your professors for consultations!** (It is something I would have told my undergrad self as well...) It is a great way of getting engaged in the courses; you don't have to go alone, you can go with friends! You can not only learn more about the course, but hopefully you can find it more edifying. I believe that students learn during the office hours, and not just in the classroom as well.

Dr Lepori: **Read the course syllabus carefully** before you decide to stay enrolled in the course.

I usually provide a lot of details in the syllabus to help students have a clear picture of what to expect (course content and requirements, assignment format and deadlines etc.). I will go over the course logistics during the first week, so make sure you can attend the first class meeting. Otherwise, please do reach out to seek clarifications before you finalize your schedule.

Dr Rebecca: Choose courses that engage you but also seem a little intimidating!

Courses that push you out of your comfort zone often provide the best opportunities to grow intellectually (e.g. cover topics that you are less familiar with, involve assessments that require skills that you have had less opportunity to develop). **University is a great place to push yourself within a safe, supported environment and where the stakes are relatively lower (as compared to the workplace).**



Singapore Model United Nations,
2nd - 5th June 2025

LEVEL 1000 COURSES



ALL course content and assessments are subject to change, and will only be finalised at the start of the semester.



CORE/METHODS

PS1101E**INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS****4 UNITS****THU | 1000 - 1200 HRS | UTown Auditorium 1****Senior Lecturer****Dr. Elaine Tan**

poletsy@nus.edu.sg

The purpose of this course is to impart a preliminary overview of political science and its sub-fields so that students have a basic orientation of the discipline. It briefly explains the scope and components of each of the four sub-fields (political theory, comparative politics, international relations and public administration) and familiarises students with the major issues and arguments related to power, justice, political culture, national identity, accountability, ethics and world order. It also focuses on key political institutions. The course will be of interest to students across the university who want to gain a basic understanding of politics.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

GEK1003

AssessmentClass Participation | **20%**Quizzes | **15%**Personal Reflection | **5%**Essays | **30%****Final Exam** | **30%****Keywords**

Power

World Orders

Institutions

Course Content

This is an illustrative list of lecture topics. Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.

What is Politics?

Agency and Structure

The State

Political Ideologies

Democracy

Democracy in Crisis?

Authoritarianism

Authoritarian Collapse

Policies

Development

International Relations: War and Peace

International Relations: Identity and Norms



Welfare Week Semester 2, AY24/25,
8th - 10th April 2025

LEVEL 2000 COURSES



ALL course content and assessments are subject to change, and will only be finalised at the start of the semester.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS2204

MODERN WESTERN POLITICAL
THOUGHT

4 UNITS

TUE | 1000 - 1200 HRS | AS2-0413



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Koh Tsin Yen

tsinyen.koh@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its **previous iteration in AY24/25 Semester 1**. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

This course explores major political ideas and concepts from the modern Western tradition. Key political constructs such as power, authority, justice, liberty and democracy are examined in intellectual and historical context. Reading Thomas Hobbes's *Leviathan* and John Locke's *Second Treatise on Government*, among other influential writings, students will be exposed to the broader themes and ideas that have shaped political life in the West since 1600.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F

Tutorials | F2F

AssessmentClass Participation | **10%**Discussion Questions | **10%**Take-Home Midterm | **35%**Take-Home Final | **45%****Preclusion(s)**

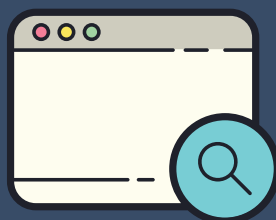
EU2204

Keywords

John Locke

Thomas Hobbes

Commerce & Class

Course Content:**404 Not Found**

Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



Comparative Politics (CP)

PS2234**INTRODUCTION TO
COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

4 UNITS

WED | 1000 - 1200 HRS | LT11

**Assistant Professor****Dr. Steven Oliver**

poldjs@nus.edu.sg

This course introduces to students some major approaches to comparative politics, including system perspective, case study, comparative approach, rational choice, and cultural approach. Specific cases are used to illustrate how people have applied these approaches in research. It also covers selected topics in comparative politics, such as democratisation and democratic consolidation, revolution, and ethnic conflicts. Much of the discussion will be based on specific cases. This introductory course is offered to students who want to gain basic knowledge of comparative politics.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F**Assessment**

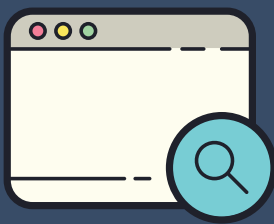
To Be Confirmed

Preclusion(s)

None

Keywords

No Information Available - Check Canvas for updates

Course Content**404 Not Found**

Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS2237

INTRODUCTION TO
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

4 UNITS

WED | 1000 - 1200 HRS | LT8



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Elaine Tan

poletsy@nus.edu.sg

This is an introductory, theory-informed course for students with little to no academic background in the discipline of International Relations. Students will learn about major theoretical perspectives and approaches in the discipline. They will apply the concepts and theories they have learnt to analyse global issues and developments, and also reflect and critically question major international relations theories and concepts. It is hoped the course will provide students with a foundation for other courses in the sub-field.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F

Tutorials | F2F

AssessmentClass Participation | **20%**Essay (2000 words) | **30%**Quizzes (2x) | **15%**Personal Reflection (250-300 words) | **15%****Final Exam** | **30%****Preclusion(s)**

SSA2222

Keywords

Theories of Intl Relations

State System

Current World Challenges

Course Content

*This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.***

1. Introduction to International Relations
2. The History of the Modern States System
3. Realism: Causes of War
4. Liberalism: Peace and Cooperation
5. Constructivism: Identity and Norms
6. Marxism and Critical Theory: Global Inequality
7. Foreign Policy Making
8. Climate Change
9. Terrorism
10. Humanitarian Intervention



Governance & Public Policy (GPP)

PS2240

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

4 UNITS

THU | 1600 - 1800 HRS | LT14



Associate Professor

A/P Gao Jie

pollgj@nus.edu.sg

What is public administration? Why shall we study it? What is the relationship between politics and public administration? How does government management differ from private sector management? Is there a "one best way" to efficiency improvement? This module introduces public administration to undergraduate students who are interested in learning public sector management reforms and those who intend to work in the public sector in the future. It aims to enable students to understand the importance of public administration and to grasp the core concepts, theories and major debates in this field.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F**Assessment**Class Participation | **15%**
Review Essay (800 words) | **15%**
Final Essay (1,500 words) | **30%**
Final Exam | **40%****Preclusion(s)**

None

Keywords

Politics & Administration

Bureaucracy

Human Motivation in Decision-Making

Course Content

*This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.***

1. Introduction: What is public administration, and why study it?
2. Bureaucracy: Powerful or vulnerable?
3. Scientific management: The one-best way to efficiency?
4. Creating a Science of Administration: The core of the field?
5. Rethinking the science of administration: Principles or proverbs?
6. Understanding human motivation: Why do people work hard?
7. Politics and administration: Are they separable?
8. Decision making: Rational choice or muddling through?
9. Public- vs. private-sector management: Are they fundamentally similar?
10. Social equity and representation: Whose government it is?
11. New public management: What is new?
12. From government to governance: Governing without government?
13. Conclusion: What have we learned about public administration?



PS2249

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF SINGAPORE

4 UNITS

MON | 1000 - 1200 HRS | LT12



Associate Professor
A/P Bilveer Singh

polbilve@nus.edu.sg

This course examines a number of areas in Singapore's domestic politics with the following objectives: identify the key determinants of Singapore's politics; understand the key structural-functional aspects of Singapore's domestic politics; examine the extent to which nation building has taken place in Singapore; and analyse the key challenges facing Singapore and its future as far as domestic politics is concerned. The course examines both the structural-functional aspects of domestic politics as well as issues related to nation building, state-society relations and the likely nature of future developments and challenges.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F

Assessment

Class Participation | **20%**
Essay | **30%**
Final Exam | **50%**

Preclusion(s)

None

Keywords

S'pore's Political History: 1945-Present

S'pore's Electoral System

Opposition in S'pore

Course Content

*This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.***

1. Module Introduction & Introduction to post-Second World War Political History
2. Singapore as part of Malaysia: meaning of Merger and Separation
3. Inherited and Amended Political Systems: Westminster Politics and its reforms
4. Party System and its Challenges: The One-Party PAP Hegemony and challenge from the Opposition
5. Importance of Para-Political Organizations (Civil Service; Labour; Grassroots Organisations; Mass Media)
6. Nation Building: What is the Singapore Nation?
7. Leadership Renewal: New political leaders in the PAP and Opposition
8. Electoral Politics – the changing power equation
9. Key Political Issues in Singapore Politics 1: Housing; Transportation; Civil Society and Democratization
10. Key Political Issues in Singapore Politics (2): Income Disparities; Race and Religion; Foreign Migrants
11. Singapore's politics after Lee Kuan Yew: What has changed?
12. What will Singapore politics look like in the coming years?
13. Conclusion and Revision



Singapore Model United Nations,
2nd - 5th June 2025

LEVEL 3000 COURSES



ALL course content and assessments are subject to change, and will only be finalised at the start of the semester.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS3215

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

4 UNITS

TUES | 1400 - 1600 HRS | AS4-0206



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Koh Tsin Yen

tsinyen.koh@nus.edu.sg

This course asks questions about the relationship between equality and justice, e.g. is it unjust for a society to be unequal? Unequal in what way? How do our political systems reproduce relations of equality or inequality? Do we have a responsibility to compensate for some inequalities, and which ones? We will read "classic" contributions from the contemporary debate on egalitarianism (e.g. from John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Walzer and others), as well as consider the application of theories of in/equality to current affairs in Singapore and elsewhere.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

YSS3355

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F

Tutorials | F2F

Assessment

TBC

Keywords

Distributive Justice

Social Justice

Applications of Political Theory

Course Content

*This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.***

Rawls
Luck Egalitarianism & Equality of resources
The Capabilities Approach
Relational Equality
Structural Injustice
Historical Injustice & Reparations
Justice & Democracy
Meritocracy
Migrant labour



PS3237

WOMEN AND POLITICS

4 UNITS

FRI | 1600 - 1800 HRS | AS1-0201



Senior Lecturer
Dr. Dunya Lepori
polldd@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its previous iteration. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

This course examines established political theories and ideologies in addressing gender equality and representation in politics. It also presents various traditions in feminist political thinking and evaluates their intellectual contributions to politics. The second part of the course examines the practical dimensions of gender politics such as women's movements and national and international conventions and institutions. It analyses the relationship among gender, class, and ethnicity, and examines the cultural and religious perceptions of these identities.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F

Assessment

Class Participation | **20%**
Discussion Questions | **10%**
Poster Group Project | **10%**
Essay 1 | **30%**
Essay 2 | **30%**

Preclusion(s)

None

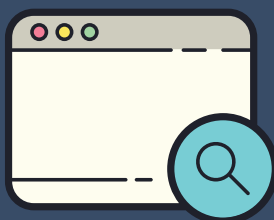
Keywords

Gender & Political Inequality

Female Political Representation

Feminist Theory

Course Content:



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Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS3240

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

4 UNITS

TUES | 1000 - 1200 HRS | LT14



Associate Professor

A/P Chong Ja Ian

polcji@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its previous iteration. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

This course examines key issues pertaining to international security including: the various approaches to studying international security, the nature of interaction among various levels (national, regional, international) of security, and the major security threats caused by the expansion of conventional arms, proliferation of nuclear arsenal and the spread of biological and chemical weapons. The rise of non-traditional security threats in world politics, especially Southeast Asia, and of Asia, particularly China, as a security concern internationally is also analysed.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F**Assessment**Class participation | 20%
Essay | 30%
Final Exam | 50%**Keywords**

Security Studies

Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Weapons

Warfare

Course Content

This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.**

- Week 1 | What is Security Studies?
- Week 2 | Why do states fight?
- Week 3 | What causes civil war?
- Week 4 | Why insurgency?
- Week 5 | How do wars end?
- Week 6 | Does conduct in war matter?
- Week 7 | What makes for effectiveness in war?
- Week 8 | What is the relationship between economics and security?
- Week 9 | What differences do nuclear weapons make?
- Week 10 | What are the ways to conceptualise terrorism?
- Week 11 | Is there a role for humanitarian intervention?
- Week 12 | What is non-traditional security?
- Week 13 | Going into the grey zone?



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS3252

HUMAN RIGHTS IN
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

4 UNITS

FRI | 1000 - 1200 HRS | AS2-0413



Lecturer

Dr. Rebecca Tan

rgtan@nus.edu.sg

This is a course that examines theories of human rights since 1945, and the practice of promoting or rejecting these ideas as universal "goods" in international relations. Students will critically examine NGO issue advocacy, western states' "ethical" foreign policies; and the "Asian values" counter-challenge. This course relates the subject of human rights to political philosophy, international law, the UN system, morality, national interest, and values/ideology in foreign policy.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

GEK3006

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F

Tutorials | F2F

AssessmentClass Participation | **30%**Two Group-Based Debate Essays | **30%**In-Class Mid-Semester MCQ Quiz | **10%****Final Exam** | **30%****Keywords**

NGO Issue Advocacy

Western vs Asian Values/Ideologies

United Nations

Course Content

Week 1 | Introduction

Week 2 | Origins of Human Rights: Where did they come from?

Week 3 | Universal or Culturally Relative?: The Claim of Western Imperialism.

Week 4 | Indivisibility or a Question of Priorities?: Development and/versus Democracy

Week 5 | The Rights of the Many or the Few?: Liberty and Security in the Post-9/11 World

Week 6 | Enforcement and the Question of Sovereignty: International Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect.

Week 7 | Enforcement and the Equality of States: International Courts

Week 8 | Duties to the Foreigner: Refugees and Migrants' Rights.

Week 9 | Duties to Future Generations: Environmental Justice and Climate Change.

Week 10 | Enforcement and Non-State Actors: Holding Corporations Accountable.

Week 11 | Evolving Technologies: Artificial Intelligence as bearer and/or threat to rights?

Week 12 | Ground-Up Rights Advocacy: Grassroots and Transnational Rights Movements

Week 13 | Conclusion



POLITICAL THEORY

PS3256

POLITICS AND FILM

4 UNITS

TUES | 1400 - 1600 HRS | LT10



Associate Professor

A/P Luke O'Sullivan

polldo@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its previous iteration. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

Film and politics have always been closely related. Film-makers have created dramas, comedies, satires, and works of propaganda in order to comment on politics and advance political causes. But film also has off-screen effects, so we can talk about the politics of film as well as politics on film. The course combines concepts from film studies and political theory to explore the different ways in which film can be politically important, covering some of the most famous political films ever made from the beginning of the twentieth century all the way up to the contemporary era.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

PS2256

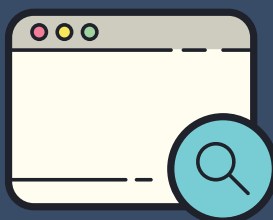
Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F

Assessment

TBC

Course Content:



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Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



CORE/METHODS

PS3257

POLITICAL INQUIRY

4 UNITS

MON | 1600 - 1800 HRS | LT14



Assistant Professor

Dr. Steven Oliver

poldjs@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its previous iteration. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

This course examines the theories of knowledge and methods of inquiry appropriate to studying politics. It introduces students to alternative understandings of the social sciences and to the empirical, critical, and analytical skills they imply. It pays particular attention to helping students understand the basics of good research and to acquire skills essential to conducting their own research.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 12 UNITS in Political Science or 16 UNITS in GL or GL-recognized courses.

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F
Tutorials | F2F

Preclusion(s)

None

Assessment

Class Participation | **10%**
Homework Assignment 1 | **30%**
Homework Assignment 2 | **30%**
Group Research Proposal | **30%**

Keywords

Coding in R

Research Design and Methods

Statistics

Course Content

This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.**

Week 1 | Thinking like a Political Scientist
Week 2 | Descriptive Inference vs Causal Inference
Week 3 | Conceptualization, Operationalization, and Measurement
Week 4 | Case Selection and Process Tracing
Week 5 | Controlled Comparison of Two Cases (Or More)
Week 6 | Surveys and Sampling
Week 7 | Interviews and Archives
Week 8 | Regression I (Basics)
Week 9 | Regression II (Reading Regression Tables)
Week 10 | No Lecture (NUS Well Being Day)
Week 11 | Regression Discontinuity and Differences-In-Differences
Week 12 | Experiments & Ethics
Week 13 | No Lecture (Good Friday)



COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PS3273

SINGAPORE POLITICS IN
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

4 UNITS

TUES | 1200 - 1500 Hrs | AS7-0119



Lecturer

Dr. Rebecca Tan

rgtan@nus.edu.sg

The study of Singaporean politics is often carried out in a singular fashion where we study Singapore as a standalone case study. In contrast, this course invites students to develop a deeper understanding of Singaporean politics through a comparative approach – studying key features of the Singaporean political system through comparing it to a wide variety of similar and dissimilar cases. By studying Singapore politics through comparing its political system to others, students will consider the factors leading to the emergence of different political practices, institutions and policies and their pros and cons. Throughout this course, we will constantly ask the following questions: “Is Singapore unique? What lessons can it learn from other societies? How can other societies learn from the Singaporean experience?”

Prerequisite(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Seminar | F2F

Preclusion(s)

None

AssessmentClass Participation | **25%**Two In-Class MCQ Quizzes | **20%**Policy Paper Proposal | **10%**Peer Feedback on Policy Paper Proposal | **5%**Policy Paper (2500 words) | **30%**Oral Defence of Policy Paper | **10%****Keywords**

Comparative Perspective

SG vs Other Countries

Party Systems

Course Content

- Week 1 | Introducing the Course and the Comparative Approach
- Week 2 | Goals of Governance: Promoting Economic Development
- Week 3 | Goals of Governance: Crafting National Unity
- Week 4 | Government Structure: Whither Parliamentary Sovereignty?
- Week 5 | Electoral Systems: Making our Vote Count
- Week 6 | Party Systems: Team A or B?
- Week 7 | Bureaucracy: Power to the Technocracy?
- Week 8 | Trade Unions: Conflict, Cooperation or Co-option?
- Week 9 | Media: Who Watches the Watchmen?
- Week 10 | **Cancelled due to NUS Well Being Day**
- Week 11 | Civil Society: Power to the People?
- Week 12 | Conclusion: Looking to the Future
- Week 13 | Policy Paper Oral Defence



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS3311**INTERNATIONAL ETHICS****4 UNITS****TUES | 1600 - 1800 Hrs | AS5-0202****Professor****Prof. William Bain**

polbww@nus.edu.sg

This course explores the ethical dimension of international relations. It takes as its point of departure the conviction that international relations, like all realms of human conduct, is intelligible in questions of obligation, right, good, and so forth. The course interrogates prominent ethical languages of international relations, including moral scepticism, sovereignty, war, international law, and human rights. It then considers how these languages arise and conflict in a range of contemporary international issues. Particular emphasis is placed on excavating the ground on which ethical choices are made, defended, and judged.

Prerequisite(s)

None

Preclusion(s)

PS3233/YSS3270

Teaching Mode(s)

Lecture | F2F

Tutorials | F2F

AssessmentGroup Policy Memo and Recommendation | **10%**Individual Policy Memo and Recommendation | **10%**Mid-Term Tests | **30%****Final Exam** | **50%****Keywords**

Languages of International Ethics

International Law

Global Justice

Course Content

Week 1 | Introduction to International Ethics

Week 2 | Realism and Moral Scepticism

Week 3 | Sovereignty and Statehood

Week 4 | War

Week 5 | International Law

Week 6 | Human Rights

Week 7 | Humanitarian Intervention

Week 8 | Cultural Encounters

Week 9 | Poverty and Global Justice

Week 10 | Terrorism

Week 11 | Torture

Week 12 | Environment

Week 13 | Future World Orders

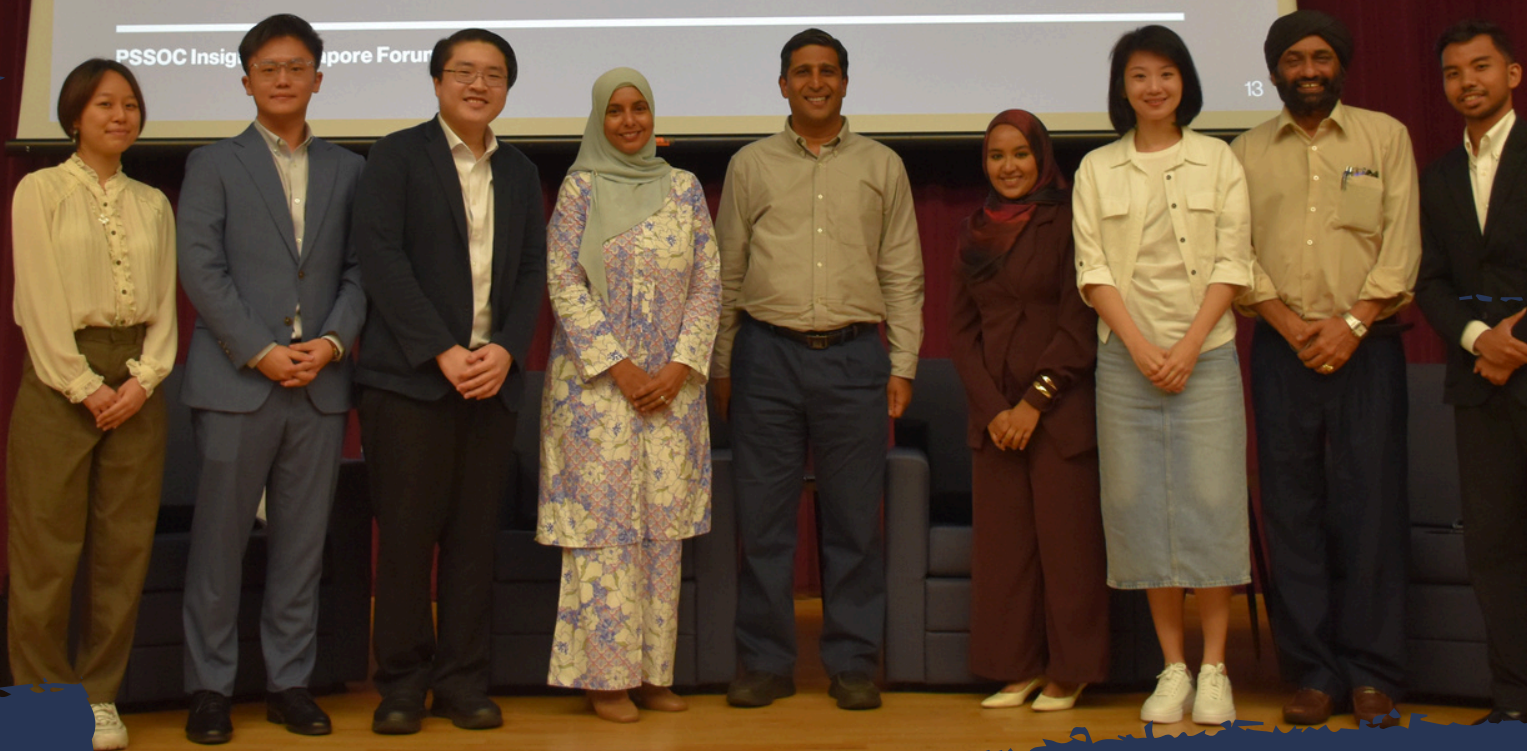


Insights Singapore Forum

REDEFINING SUCCESS: NAVIGATING ONE'S YOUTH

PSSOC Insights Singapore Forum

13



Insights Singapore Forum,
1st April 2025

LEVEL 4000 COURSES

Please note that for level 4000 courses, students up to cohort 2020 should read the 5-Unit version **with** 'HM' suffix, while students from cohort 2021 onwards should read the 4-Unit version **without** the 'HM' suffix



ALL course content and assessments are subject to change, and will only be finalised at the start of the semester.

Level 4000 Code Structure Changes

(From Semester 1, AY23/24 onwards)

FASS Level-4000 offered by all departments will be offered as both 4 UNIT and 5 UNIT versions

- 4 UNIT Level-4000 Courses will retain the original course codes. They are meant for **cohort 2021 onwards**
- 5 UNIT Level-4000 Courses will have a 'HM' suffix added (e.g. PS4201HM). They are meant for **cohort 2020 and before**.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS4217

MAJOR POLITICAL THINKERS

4/5 UNITS

FRI | 1200 - 1500 Hrs | AS4-0119



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Matthew Lepori

mlepori@nus.edu.sg

The Major Political Thinkers series examines the writings and historical contexts of the most important political thinkers throughout the history of political thought. Each course focuses on one or two thinkers, such as Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Marx, Rousseau, Kant, Rawls, and others. This edition of PS4217 will focus on the works of Karl Marx.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode

Seminar | F2F

Assessment

Class participation | 30%

Essay (4000 words) | 40%

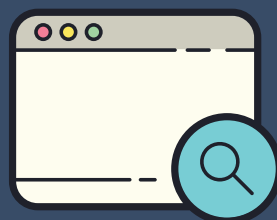
Final Exam | 30%

Keywords

Karl Marx

Communist Manifesto

Skills: Analytical Thinking

Course Content:**404 Not Found**

Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS4219

COMPARATIVE POLITICAL THOUGHT

4/5 UNITS

FRI | 0900 - 1200 HRS | AS4-0119



Senior Lecturer
Dr. Dunya Lepori
polldd@nus.edu.sg

This course will explore the emerging field of comparative political theory by considering to what extent it stands as a coherent, independent subfield, and what if any are the questions it is specifically poised to answer. Our treatment will be both topical and methodological. We will begin by reading the work of contemporary scholars who explicitly situate themselves within “comparative” as opposed to mainstream canonical political theory, and/or who use comparison as a tool for elucidating particular political problems. In the second part of the course, we will read primary sources that undertake comparative or synthetic perspectives on formulating theory in the modern world, but from selfconsciously “indigenous” perspectives.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code/SC-code, with a minimum D grade..

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode

Seminar | F2F

Assessment

Class participation | **25%**

Group Project | **10%**

Group Presentation | **15%**

Four Reactions to Readings | **20%**

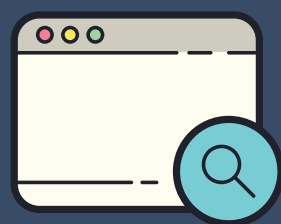
Essay | **30%**

Keywords

Islamic, Hindu and Confucian Political Thought

Eurocentrism

Decolonialising Political Thought

Course Content

404 Not Found

Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS4220

RHETORIC AND POLITICS

4/5 UNITS

MON | 1500 - 1800 Hrs | AS4-0118



Associate Professor

A/P Luke O'Sullivan

pollido@nus.edu.sg

The information on this course is based on its previous iteration. Check **Canvas** or **NUSMods** for any updates!

The art of persuasion is central to political activity. Aristotle's treatise on rhetoric, which analysed legal and political discourse, set the agenda for discussion of the subject until the modern era and remains supremely relevant to politics today. Political theorists and historians of political thought have recently rediscovered the subject of rhetoric and there is a wide array of fresh writing available for students to study. This course will provide invaluable insight into the nature of political speech for all who opt for it and greatly enhance their ability to dissect the language of politics.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code/EL-code/EN-code, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

None

AssessmentClass participation | **10%**Presentation | **10%**Term Papers | **80%****Teaching Mode**

Seminar | F2F

Keywords

Speech Analysis

Rhetoric

Aristotle

Course Content

This is an illustrative list of lecture topics, based on the previous iteration of the course in AY23/24. **Please note that this list of topics is subject to change.**

- Week 1 | Introduction
- Week 2 | Socrates and the Sophists
- Week 3 | Aristotle's Rhetoric
- Week 4 | Roman Rhetoric
- Week 5 | Ancient Chinese Rhetoric
- Week 6 | Rhetoric in Decline
- Week 7 | The Rhetoric in Totalitarianism
- Week 8 | The Cold War
- Week 9 | The Neo-Liberal Era
- Week 10 | The Post-2001 World
- Week 11 | Rhetoric and the Internet
- Week 12 | Rhetoric and Reportage
- Week 13 | Rhetoric and Social Media



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS4226**EMERGING MARKETS AND
ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE****4/5 UNITS****FRI | 1500 - 1800 Hrs | AS4-0109****Assistant Professor****Dr. Stephen Monroe**

steve.monroe@nus.edu.sg

This course offers a close study of emerging markets as rising powers that shape the governance of international economic exchange. The course is organized around two core questions: where are the emerging economies, and why are they important? The course emphasizes a dynamic definition of emerging markets that reflects the ongoing “power shift” in the global economy, including but not limited to countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on political science and economics scholarship to examine emerging markets in international trade and investment, global financial governance, and foreign aid.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code, with a minimum D grade.
AND must have completed all of PS2237/PS3238/PS3257, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

None

AssessmentClass participation | **20%**Presentation | **30%**Individual Research Project (5000 words) | **50%****Teaching Mode**

Seminar | F2F

Keywords**Emerging Economies****Power Shift****International Trade & Investment****Course Content**

Week 1 | Meet the BRICS
 Week 2 | Brazil: The State – An Ally or Impediment to Emerging Markets' Development?
 Week 3 | Brazil (Part II): Democracy and Development
 Week 4 | Russia: The Private Sector – An Ally or Impediment to Emerging Markets' Development?
 Week 5 | Russia (Part II): The Private Sector – An Ally or Impediment to Emerging Markets' Development?
 Week 6 | India: Poverty Amid Plenty
 Week 7 | India (Part II): Different Pathways to Development
 Week 8 | China: Governance and Development
 Week 9 | China (Part II): Governance and Development
 Week 10 | South Africa: State and Business
 Week 11 | BRICS+ and WRAP UP
 Week 12 | Student Presentations
 Week 13 | Student Presentations



GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC POLICY

PS4230

PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS IN CHINA

4/5 UNITS

THURS | 0900 - 1200 HRS | AS4-0109



Associate Professor

A/P Gao Jie

pollgj@nus.edu.sg

Chinese leaders in the reform era face a distinct governance challenge: economic transition requires major revamps in the ways China is managed while an overhaul of the political system is not a viable option. Against the backdrops, Chinese leaders have carried out substantial reforms in public sector organizations. This course examines the content, rationale, and outcomes of public sector reforms in China. Major topics include reforms on cadre personnel management, public finance, healthcare, education and enterprise systems. It helps students understand the significant role of public sector reforms in China's transition, and the new challenges caused by these reforms.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code/HY-code/SC-code, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode

Seminar | F2F

AssessmentAttendance | **10%**Participation | **20%**Group Presentation & Activity | **30%**Research Proposal | **10%**Final Essay (2500-3000 words) | **30%****Keywords**

Politics & Administration

Economic Transitions

The China Model

Course Content

Week 1 | Overview

Week 2 | Party and State Relations: Separation and Integration

Week 3 | Central-Local Relations: Decentralization

Week 4 | Inside the Bureaucracy: Downsizing and Restructuring

Week 5 | **No Seminar**

Week 6 | Cadre Personnel Management: Balancing Meritocracy and Patronage

Week 7 | Combating Corruption: China's Gilded Age

Week 8 | Making Bureaucracy Work: Governing by Targets and Numbers

Week 9 | Making Bureaucracy Work: Governing by Targets and Numbers

Week 10 | State-Society Relations: Healthcare Reforms

Week 11 | The Battle for Talents: Higher Education Reforms

Week 12 | Concluding Session: The China Model



POLITICAL THEORY

PS4303

POLITICAL THEORY OF
MERITOCRACY

4/5 UNITS

TUES | 1200 - 1500 HRS | AS4-0119



Senior Lecturer

Dr. Matthew Lepori

mlepori@nus.edu.sg

This is an advanced political theory course investigating the idea, discourse, and practice of meritocracy. First, we will investigate the political theory of meritocracy, specifically the set of discourses that give content to the idea of meritocracy and justify it as an ensemble of social and political practices. Particular attention will be given to legitimations rooted in equality and freedom. Secondly, the course will present political-theoretic critiques of meritocracy, including those of democrats, communitarians, and socialists. Through these criticisms, students will be positioned to critically reflect on meritocracy and weigh it against potential alternatives. Should societies be meritocratic?

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS-code, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

PE4103S

Teaching Mode

Seminar | F2F

AssessmentClass participation | **25%**Weekly Discussion Questions | **10%**Essay (4000 words) | **40%**Group Presentations | **25%****Keywords**

Social & Political Practices

Political-Theoretic Critiques

Political-Theoretic Critiques

Course Content

Week 1 | Meritocracy Introduction

Week 2 | Genealogy Of Meritocracy and Its Interpretations

Week 3 | Meritocracy and Epistocracy

Week 4 | Meritocracy and Freedom

Week 5 | Meritocracy and Equality

Week 6 | Meritocracy and Opportunity

Week 7 | Democratizing Meritocracy

Week 8 | Power and Meritocracy

Week 9 | Can Meritocracy Speak Populism?

Week 10 | Should We Instead Aim For Equality Of Outcome?

Week 11 | Socialist Equality Versus Meritocratic Equality

Week 12 | Freedom From Meritocracy

Week 13 | Do The Winners Win?



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS4311**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN
POLITICAL THOUGHT****4/5 UNITS****TUES | 0900 - 1200 Hrs | AS4-0118****Professor****Prof. William Bain**

polbww@nus.edu.sg

This course explores topics of international relations as they are treated in classical political thought. Topics include: nature and purpose of political order; causes of war; sovereignty and self-determination; balance of power, diplomacy, international law, family of nations, and the transformation of international political community. These topics are examined in the context of key international relations distinctions: inside/outside; universal/particular; and system/society. Particular attention will be given to identifying patterns of continuity and change that explain how these topics have been understood historically.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS, including 28 UNITS in PS-code/EU-code/LA-code, with a minimum D grade.

Preclusion(s)

PS4213

AssessmentClass participation | **20%**Essay | **30%****Final Exam** | **50%****Teaching Mode**

Seminar | F2F

Keywords

Patterns of Continuity & Change

Historical Development of International Institutions

Concepts in International Thought

Course Content

Week 1 | Traditions, Canons, and International Political Thought

Week 2 | Political Community I

Week 3 | Political Community II

Week 4 | Political Authority in the Middle Ages

Week 5 | Just and Unjust Wars

Week 6 | Writing Week

Week 7 | Sovereignty, Nationality, and Autonomy

Week 8 | Law and International Society

Week 9 | Law and International System

Week 10 | Diplomacy and Statecraft

Week 11 | Balance of Power

Week 12 | A Family of Nations

Week 13 | Transformation of International Political Community



COMPARATIVE POLITICS

PS4332**RESEARCHING SINGAPORE
POLITICS****4/5 UNITS****MON | 0900 - 1200 HRS | AS4-0118****Lecturer****Dr. Rebecca Tan**

rgtan@nus.edu.sg

This course considers the conceptual, ethical and methodological issues surrounding research on Singapore politics. It asks, "How does the political context of Singapore affect academic study?" Students will work on a proposed research topic throughout the course, considering how the issues examined impact their own projects. Topics to be covered include conceptual debates such as ethnocentrism, non-statist conceptions of politics and insider vs outsider researchers, and methodological questions of access to data, the duty of the researcher to respondents and managing political sensitivities.

Prerequisite(s)

Completed 80 UNITS modules, including 28 UNITS in PS, with a minimum D grade.
AND must have completed PS1101E/PS3257.

Preclusion(s)

PS4232

Teaching Mode

Seminar | F2F

AssessmentClass Participation | **25%**Group Project | **20%**Research Proposal Essay (3000 words) | **35%**Journal Entries | **20%****Keywords**

Debates Around Research Methods

Ethnocentrism

Ethnography

Course Content

- Week 1 | Introduction
- Week 2 | The Purpose of Research
- Week 3 | The Position of the Researcher
- Week 4 | Blindspots - Ethnocentrism in Studying Politics
- Week 5 | Blindspots - Examining & Challenging in State-centrism
- Week 6 | Methods - Statistics & Quantitative Methods
- Week 7 | Guest Lecture by Dr. Clara Lee on Survey Methods
- Week 8 | Methods - Archival Research
- Week 9 | Methods - Interviews
- Week 10 | ***Class Cancelled Due To Deepavali Holiday***
- Week 11 | Methods - Ethnography
- Week 12 | Methods - Discourse Analysis
- Week 13 | Conclusion



Singapore Model United Nations,
2nd - 5th June 2025

LEVEL 5000 COURSES

Please note that for level 5000 courses, undergraduates should select the courses with the 'R' suffix added (e.g. PS5111R), which counts for 5 UNITS. Those without the 'R' suffix (e.g. PS5111) are for graduate level students, and count for only 4 UNITS.



ALL course content and assessment are subject to change, and will only be finalised at the start of the semester.



METHODS

PS5111

RESEARCH DESIGN IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

4 UNITS

TUES | 1800 - 2100 HRS | AS7-0106



Assistant Professor

Dr. Steven Oliver

poldjs@nus.edu.sg

This course is an introduction to some of the research methods used in the empirical study of politics and public policy. The objective is to familiarise students with (1) concepts in research design, and (2) practices in analytical methods. Topics covered include the logic of empirical research, sampling methods, descriptive statistics, probability distributions, statistical estimation and inference, and hypothesis testing in group comparisons and regression analysis. Besides regular homework assignments, there will also be a mid-term test, a project, and a final examination.

Prerequisite(s)

Enrolment of undergraduates in Level 5000 course(s) is strictly subject to the department's approval.

Preclusion(s)

PS5101 OR PS6101

Teaching Mode(s)

Seminar | F2F

Assessment

Participation and Presentation | **25%**

Research Design Project | **50%**

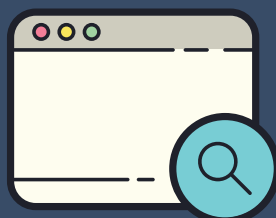
Take-Home Final Exam | **25%**

Keywords

Research Design

Analytical Methods

R Coding Language

Course Content**404 Not Found**

Tentative course content and assessment modes are **not yet available** at the point of compilation. Course information can be accessed through "All courses" in Canvas to check for latest updates, or the syllabi of previous iterations of the course.



POLITICAL THEORY

PS5201

SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY

4 UNITS

TUES | 1800 - 2100 HRS | AS7-0106



Assistant Professor

Dr. Benjamin Schupman

ben.schupmann@yale-nus.edu.sg

This is a core course in political theory designed for students in any subfield of political science. It selectively examines both the history of the subject and current ideas, theorists, and methodologies. Particular attention is given to alternative understandings of the activity of theorising (e.g. scientific explanation, historical explanation, cultural interpretation, moral prescription, and philosophical analysis of concepts and presuppositions) and to debates about the character and aims of political theorising.

Prerequisite(s)

Enrolment of undergraduates in Level 5000 course(s) is strictly subject to the department's approval.

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Seminar | F2F

AssessmentClass Participation | **28%**Essays (3x, 1500 words each) | **36%**Oral Examination | **36%****Keywords**

Diverse Traditions of Political Theory

Methodological and Normative Assumptions

Role of Political Theory

Course Content

Week 1 | Political Theory & The State

Week 2 | Ancient Western Thought

Week 3 | **No Class**

Week 4 | The Social Contract Tradition & Modern Western Political Thought

Week 5 | Liberty

Week 6 | Power

Week 7 | Markets and Distribution

Week 8 | Representation

Week 9 | Democracy

Week 10 | Constitutionalism

Week 11 | Liberalism and Basic Rights

Week 12 | Crises of Democracy

Week 13 | Thinking, Judgment, and Social Disintegration

Note: A draft syllabus, with readings, is available on request.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PS5211**NON-STATE ACTORS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE****4 UNITS****WED | 1800 - 2100 HRS | AS1-0303****Assistant Professor****Dr. Mao Suzuki**

mao.s@nus.edu.sg

This course explores the dynamic roles of non-state actors and how they interact with more established actors in international relations (states and intergovernmental organizations). We will focus on the business sector and civil society organizations as two major categories of non-state actors. Core questions we ask in this course include: When and how do non-state actors matter? What are the sources of their influence? What kind of strategies do they use to achieve their goals? What are normative implications of the growing influence of these new actors? How should the study of IR respond to this relatively new phenomenon?

Prerequisite(s)

Enrolment of undergraduates in Level 5000 course(s) is strictly subject to the department's approval.

Preclusion(s)

None

Teaching Mode(s)

Seminar | F2F

Assessment

Class Participation | **10%**
 Discussion Leadership | **30%**
 Policy Briefs | **40%**
 Debate | **20%**

Keywords

Increasing Participation of Non-State Actors in Global Affairs

Public-Private Interactions

Policy Implications of Non-State participation

Course Content

Week 1 | What Is Non-State Actor?
 Week 2 | Non-State Actors in IR Theories
 Week 3 | Sources of Power and Authority
 Week 4 | Private Regulation
 Week 5 | Business and Human Rights
 Week 6 | Do No Harm/Beyond Do No Harm
 Week 7 | NGOs In International Relations
 Week 8 | Ideas and Strategic Framing
 Week 9 | Issue Creation and Agenda Setting
 Week 10 | Political Opportunity Structures
 Week 11 | Multi-Stakeholder Interactions and Partnerships
 Week 12 | Special Case Studies: Gender, Security, Climate
 Week 13 | Future Of Global Governance: Towards A Post-Sovereign International System?

COMPARATIVE POLITICS
PS5312**SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS****4 UNITS****THURS | 1800 - 2100 HRS | AS4-0116**

Associate Professor
A/P Jamie S. Davidson
 poldjs@nus.edu.sg

This seminar will survey the methodology, dominant approaches and theories in comparative politics. The seminar will place emphasis on methodological and theoretical issues that are common to the study of comparative politics. Classic works by leading comparativists will be used to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the existing methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of comparative politics.

Prerequisite(s)

Enrolment of undergraduates in Level 5000 course(s) is strictly subject to the department's approval.

Preclusion(s)

PS5213/PS6301B

Teaching Mode(s)

Seminar | F2F

Assessment

Class Participation | **20%**
 8x Review Articles (13-16 pages) | **80%**

Keywords

Rational Choice and Institutionalism

Methodology, Dominant Approaches & Theories

States and Ethnic Riots

Course Content

Week 1 | Introduction
 Week 2 | Historical Materialism v the Power of Ideas/Beliefs
 Week 3 | Modernization Theory & Dependency
 Week 4 | States, Structures and Revolutions
 Week 5 | Rational Choice
 Week 6 | Institutions
 Week 7 | Studies of the State
 Week 8 | Beyond Dependency: Divergent Paths, Policies & State Agency
 Week 9 | States & Nationalism
 Week 10 | State & Society
 Week 11 | Social Capital & Democracy
 Week 12 | Riots
 Week 13 | **No Class**



Political Science Camp,
26th - 28th June 2025

NON-PS CODED COURSES

Comparative Politics

JS4233 | Japan's Immigration Politics in Global Perspective

SN2213 | Southeast Asian Democracies – Violence, Conflict and Hope

SC4218 | Religions, Secularity, Post-Secularity

International Relations

GL4882A | Development and the Globalisation of Food

GL4882B | Contested Globalisation: Resistance and Resilience

GL4883B | Climate Justice

GL4883C | Social Experiences of Disaster

GL4884B | Living with Infrastructure

Governance & Public Policy

CDE3505 | Planning and Governing Cities

SC4203 | Sociology of Organizations

GL4883B | Climate Justice

GL4883C | Social Experiences of Disaster

GL4884B | Living with Infrastructure

Political Theory

PH4203 | Issues in Moral Philosophy



Information for this page can be found at <https://fass.nus.edu.sg/pol/listing-by-subfields/>. This table contains a non-exhaustive list of non-PS coded courses that can be counted towards a PS major/minor accurate as of published date. Do check with the relevant departments and its course timetables for more information.



Course Requirements & Resources

Adapted from the NUS Political Science Department Website

PS Major/Minor Requirements

(Cohort 2021 onwards)

Single Major (Honours)

Pass at least **60** UNITS of PS courses or PS-recognised courses which include the following:

- a | **PS1101E** — Introduction to Politics
- b | **PS3257** — Political Inquiry
- c | A minimum of ONE* PS course on Singapore Politics:
 - PS2244 Public Administration in Singapore (GPP)
 - PS2249 Government and Politics of Singapore (CP)
 - PS3249 Singapore's Foreign Policy (IR)
- d | A minimum of ONE course from each of the following subfields:
 - Governance and Public Policy (GPP)
 - Comparative Politics (CP)
 - International Relations (IR)
 - Political Theory (PT)
- e | A minimum of **16** UNITS at level 3000
- f | A minimum of **20** UNITS at level-4000 or higher and
- g | A maximum of 1 level-5000 PS course (*subject to department's approval*)
- h | A minimum of **52** UNITS in PS-coded courses (including **PS3257**)

**Courses read to fulfil (c) can also be used to fulfil (d).*

Second Major

Pass at least **40** UNITS of PS courses or PS-recognised courses which include the following:

- a | **PS1101E** — Introduction to Politics
- b | **PS3257** — Political Inquiry
- c | A minimum of ONE* PS course on Singapore Politics:
 - PS2244 Public Administration in Singapore (GPP)
 - PS2249 Government and Politics of Singapore (CP)
 - PS3249 Singapore's Foreign Policy (IR)
- d | A minimum of ONE course from each of the following subfields:
 - Governance and Public Policy (GPP)
 - Comparative Politics (CP)
 - International Relations (IR)
 - Political Theory (PT)
- e | A minimum of **16** UNITS at level 3000 or higher**
- f | A minimum of **20** UNITS in PS-coded courses (including **PS3257**)

**Courses read to fulfil (c) can also be used to fulfil (d).*

*** Students are allowed to read level-4000 courses subject to departmental approval.*

PS Major/Minor Requirements

(Cohort **2021** onwards)

Minor

Pass at least **20** UNITS of PS courses or PS-recognised courses which include the following:

a | **PS1101E** — Introduction to Politics

b | A minimum of ONE* PS course on Singapore Politics:

- PS2244 Public Administration in Singapore (GPP)
- PS2249 Government and Politics of Singapore (CP)
- PS3249 Singapore's Foreign Policy (IR)

**Courses read to fulfil (b) can also be used to fulfil (c).*

c | A minimum of ONE course from each of the following subfields:

- Governance and Public Policy (GPP)
- Comparative Politics (CP)
- International Relations (IR)
- Political Theory (PT)

d | A minimum of **8** UNITS at level 3000 (including courses listed above)

Other Resources

Modular System (Graduation Requirements)

The Modular System document contains a detailed summary of the graduation requirements of an FASS student. It is recommended that all students hold a copy of the Modular System to keep track of their academic career.

Please refer to the Modular System paper that is relevant for your cohort. (The cohort year is the academic year in which you have matriculated in NUS. For example, if you have matriculated in **AY2021/2022**, you will belong to Cohort **2021**.)

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/academic-matters/modular-system/>

Overview of Pre-Allocated Courses (FASS)

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/academic-matters/overview-of-pre-allocated-courses/>

General Education (GE) Requirements for FASS Students

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/academic-matters/general-education-ge-requirements-for-fass-students/>

CHS Common Curriculum

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/current-students/information-for-freshmen/chs-common-curriculum/>

CHS — Pre-Allocation of Gateway Courses for Preferred Major

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/current-students/information-for-freshmen/pre-allocation-of-exposure-courses/>

Guide to Canvas

Please refer to the links below for guidance on navigating Canvas

Student guide to Canvas: <https://canvas.nus.edu.sg/courses/21494/>

5-minute video tutorial: <https://canvas.nus.edu.sg/courses/21494/pages/getting-started-with-canvas-student-video-tutorial>

Getting started with Canvas in 10 steps: <https://nus.edu.sg/canvas/learn-canvas/guides/GettingStaredWithCanvasIn10StepsStudents.pdf>

Detailed Canvas guide for students: <https://wiki.nus.edu.sg/display/canvasstudent/>

Canvas website: <https://nus.edu.sg/canvas/>

***The list of links here are non-exhaustive.
For more details, please refer to NUS Faculty/Departmental website (s).***

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