



PARTNERS ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

Syllabus for Politics

Subject Area

This syllabus is for PARTNERS applicants seeking to progress to the degrees of:

- L200 BA Hons Politics
 - L250 BA Hons International Relations
 - L290 BA Hons Politics and International Relations
 - LL21 BA Hons Politics and Economics
 - LV10 BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and Economics
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Aims

To allow students to demonstrate their potential to succeed in specified degree programmes by showing a grasp of entry-level subject-specific knowledge, understanding, cognitive and subject-specific skills.

Learning Outcomes

A good knowledge and understanding of ...

- Gain foundational knowledge concerning the study of Politics
- Gain practical skills concerning research and study skills used in Politics
- Gain an ability to engage with higher level cognitive skills concerning critical assessment of political issues and occurrences.

The ability to apply this knowledge and critical understanding to...

- Students will be given opportunities to think critically and demonstrate their understanding of topics in politics. Of particular importance will be fostering the students ability to form logical and coherent arguments using credible and academically rigorous evidence.

Competence in...

- Constructing a reasoned argument, synthesising relevant information, using critical judgement and communicating effectively both orally and in writing.

Summer School Syllabus

Monday 29 June 2026

- 9-10: Politics Welcome: Meet the Politics strand leader and fellow students. Live zoom session.
- 10-11: All about Newcastle Politics via Canvas
- 11-12: Preparatory reading time for online lectures. Reading options will be found on Canvas.
- 1-2: Online lecture 'L200: Politics', on demand Canvas
- 2-3: Preparatory reading time for online lectures. Reading options will be found on Canvas.
- 3-4: Online lecture 'L250: International Relations', on demand Canvas
- 4-5: Prof O'Flynn's live office hour via Zoom

Tuesday 30 June 2026

- 9-10: Politics Formative Assessment Overview. Live zoom session.
- 10-11: Online lecture 'L290: Politics and International Relations', on demand Canvas
- 11-12: Online lecture 'LL21: Politics and Economics, on demand Canvas

Thursday 2 July 2026

- 9-10: Politics Welcome: Meet the Politics strand leader and fellow students.
- 10-12: Lecture 1: What is Politics? This session will introduce students to the study of politics, focusing on traditional conceptions of politics, what constitutes 'political', followed by an exploration of the main fields of political study offered at Newcastle.
- 1-2: Library Skills for Politics.
- 2-3: Apply your skills - Politics group working time.
- 3-4: Everything you need to know: Politics Q and A.

Friday 3 July 2026

- 10-12: Lecture 2: 'Thinking About Democracy'. In this session, students will unpack the meaning of democracy and how democracy might be justified. The session will cover how questions about democracy might be framed and developed, as well as different approaches to answering those questions and the research methods that might be involved.
- 1-2: Apply your skills - Politics Group Working time
- 2-4: Interactive Simulation Game

Activities for Personal Study

Students will be provided with reading and post-Class activities to complete during the Summer School. Reading will be provided via the Library Reading List feature within Canvas; exercise will be posted on Canvas before the Summer School commences.

On-Campus Teaching:

Wednesday 1st (PM), Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd July

Online Teaching:

Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th June

Formative Assessment Details

A piece of written work and an annotated bibliography
More details will be given during the event by your Academic Strand Lead.

Hand-in Method

Digital

Assessment deadline

Wednesday 8th July