

Programme Title: MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History



Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary, University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 (FT) or 2 (PT)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	V1Q3, V1Q4
QAA Benchmark Group	
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	
Date Programme Specification Approved	4 Jul 2013
Responsible School / Institute	School of History

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

School of Politics

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

University College London, Kings College London, Royal Holloway University of London, Birkbeck.

Programme Outline

Students on the programme will take a core course together with a selection of individual course modules, and complete a Masters dissertation. The core course, which runs across two Semesters, is taken by all students and taught by a selection of staff within the University. In addition to the core, students choose their preferred modules from a menu of specialist options. After the completion of coursework in semesters one and two, the dissertation is undertaken over the spring and summer months, under the supervision of an expert in the relevant subject area. The programme also offers obligatory language training in a modern European language, or in ancient or Medieval Latin.

Aims of the Programme

The MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History aims (a) to provide students with a rigorous training in the various approaches to intellectual history and the history of political thought which have made a major impact on this subject-

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areas within the humanities over the course of the past half-century, including ideology critique, genealogical critique, hermeneutics, and the contextualist method and (b) to expose students to the detailed study, under expert scholarly guidance, of historical case studies in terms of (i) specific periods (e.g. Classical, Renaissance, Enlightenment) (ii) specific themes (e.g. natural law, republicanism, liberalism) and/or (iii) specific figures in the history of thought (e.g. Aristotle, Hobbes, Wollstonecraft, Tocqueville). Students will also be obliged to take either an ancient language (Latin or Greek) or a modern European language (German, French etc) for the purposes of further academic study. Language proficiency will not be examined as such, but some improvement in linguistic competence (e.g. reading academic French or beginning Latin) will be expected from students, all of whom will have to take one language course for at least one term. A language component will be compulsory, but not assessed.

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

At the end of the course successful students will be thoroughly conversant with the most important and up to date historiographical and conceptual frameworks for the study of the history of political thought and intellectual history and will have become thoroughly versed in the practical problems of intellectual history through detailed study of individual periods/thinkers/texts. Students will also be in a position to select, in a properly informed way, an area of research for doctoral work should that be their preferred path after the completion of the MA.

Altogether, students will have acquired specialist knowledge of the contextual study of political thought and the history of ideas, proper interpretative skills for reading past texts, and a full appreciation of the range of historical sources relevant to the history or political thought (most obviously printed sources, such as texts, pamphlets, sermons and tracts, but also unpublished sources such as parliamentary diaries and government papers).

Finally, students will also fully appreciate what language skills they will need to develop further for the purpose of completing doctoral research in their chosen specialisation.

Academic Content:	
A 1	Knowledge of methodology in intellectual history
A 2	Knowledge of academic debates in political thought
A 3	Knowledge of core canon of political thinkers

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Historical knowledge of period
B 2	Mastery of modes of argument
B 3	Research in historical studies skills

Attributes:	
C 1	High level ability in analysis of argument

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C2	Capacity for evaluating relevance in argument
C3	High level communication skills

How Will You Learn?

Core Course: Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History (see attached) will be taught in seminar sessions by a range of staff from across the University of London in the presence of the course convenor (the programme director) who will be responsible for the coherence of the course delivery in terms of fulfilling the academic aims and objectives. The convenor will also deliver individual sessions of the core. The core course will provide students with the essential elements necessary for graduate work in the history of political thought and intellectual history, involve active student participation, open discussion and expert academic guidance. The course will supply introductions to and discussion of a wide range of approaches and debates within the field of study. Classes in semester 1 will concentrate on methodology in intellectual history while semester 2 will focus on key figures in the history of political thought, paying due attention to wide historical context and the relevant methodological approaches discussed in the first part of the course.

Modules from a Menu of Courses: These modules will be taught in individual 2-hour seminar sessions lasting for either one semester (15 credits) or two (30 credits). Students will take 60 credits worth of modules on top of their core course and dissertation. Seminars will be encourage student participation while discussion will be guided by course leaders.

Language Course:

Attendance will be compulsory. Courses will be offered in the following: Latin, Greek, German and Italian for graduates (offered at the Warburg Institute) and French (offered by the Department of Modern Languages at QM).

How Will You Be Assessed?

Core Course:

Assessment: 1 x 5000 word essay (Semester 1, Due: January) and 1 x 5000 word essay (Semester 2: Summer Term)

Modules:

Assessment: 1 x 4000 word essay (15 credits) or 2 x 4000 word essay (30 credits) (Due at the beginning of the second semester or the start of the summer term)

How is the Programme Structured?

The MA will comprise the following elements: a 60 credit course, 60 credits taken from a menu of elective course modules, a language course and a 60 credit dissertation. These elements have the following features:

1. Core Course

Method and Practice in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History (30 credits)

2. Choice Individual Modules from a Menu of Courses:

Democracy: Ancient and Modern (15 or 30 credits)

Early Modern Theories of State (15 credits)

Nationalism, Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism (15 credits)

In the Shadow of the French Revolution (15 credits)

Theories of Empire: from Enlightenment to Liberalism (15 credits)

Political Thought in Renaissance Europe (15 or 30 credits)

Crisis and Future in Nineteenth-Century European Thought (30 credits)

The Public Sphere in Britain, 1476-1800 (15 or 30 credits)

From Hume to Darwin: God, Man and Nature in European Thought (15 credits)

Selfhood & Sensibility in European Enlightenment (15 credits)

3. Language Course

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Students will take a two semester compulsory but non-assessed language course in one of the following – Beginners Latin, Beginners Greek, Academic French, Academic German.

4. Dissertation:

Students will undertake a specialist research dissertation over the summer months under the supervision of an expert member of staff in the relevant area, totalling 12,000 words (60 credits).

Academic Year of Study

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Method and Practice	HST7001	60	7	Core	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Early Modern Theories of State	HST7203	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Nationalism, Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism	HST7316	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
In the Shadow of the French Revolution	HST7319	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Theories of Empire: from Enlightenment to Liberalism	HST7321	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Political Thought in Renaissance Europe	INU7018	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Crisis and Future in Nineteenth-Century European Thought	INU7007	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
The Public Sphere in Britain, 1476-1800	INU7029	30	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
From Hume to Darwin: God, Man and Nature in European Thought	INK7045	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Selfhood & Sensibility in the European Enlightenment	INK7030	15	7	Elective	1	Semester 2

What Are the Entry Requirements?

Students with relevant degree qualifications within the broad field of the Humanities are welcome to apply. We actively encourage applications from students who have developed an interest in any aspect of the history of political thought, intellectual history, or the history of philosophy. Normally, the requirement is a first degree with first or upper second class honours, or the equivalent in History, Politics, Law, Philosophy, Modern Languages and Literatures, or a cognate discipline. If English is not your first language, then this degree requires a score of 7.5 or higher on the IELTS or an equivalent qualification. Mature students are encouraged to apply.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates a Learning and Teaching Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Taught Programmes Action Plan (TPAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

Academic Support

All students beginning to study on the programme participate in a series of Welcome Week activities at Queen Mary, which involve introductions to the programme and specific inductions in the use of the online learning environment. These events also include opportunities for social interaction, and scheduled small group and individual meetings with personal advisers.

Each student's academic progress and personal welfare is monitored by an adviser in each collaborating Institution with whom regular meetings are scheduled. Advisers are the designated members of staff with whom students can raise issues and problems and from whom they can seek advice and guidance.

The Core Course will normally be taught at Senate House while specialist options will be taught in the departments of the relevant course leaders.

Students choose their preferred modules from a menu of specialist options. After the completion of coursework in semesters one and two, the dissertation is undertaken over the spring and summer months, under the supervision of an expert in the relevant subject area.

The programme also offers obligatory language training in a modern European language, or in ancient or Medieval Latin.

All teaching staff hold regular office hours in which students are actively encouraged to discuss their work and their progress.

There is a dedicated Student Experience Manager in the School who works with academic staff to assist students in need of support.

Both the Student Experience Manager and all advisers are able to refer students, where appropriate to the relevant professional service departments in the College, including Disability and Dyslexia, Welfare, and Counselling.

A dedicated post of E-Learning Manager supports students in their use of online learning environments used on all modules.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Assessment

UCL is responsible for the co-ordination of a Joint Examination Board for the programme. The Joint Examination Board will include at least one representative from each of UCL and QMUL, and all module convenors (core and optional).

Appeals, Complaints and Academic Misconduct

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The operation of appeals and academic misconduct, academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism) and any other such assessment regulations shall take place in accordance with those of the institution with lead responsibility for the administration (QMUL in the first instance). The Programme Director and Programme Co-Director will ensure information on this is provided to students.

In the case of appeals relating to a particular module the regulations of the owning institution will take precedence.

Award

The award made on successful completion of the programme is a joint award of MA of UCL and University of London, PG Diploma and PG Certificate of UCL and QMUL.

The regulations governing student conduct and other matters shall be those of the lead institution. If a specific breach of local regulations takes place at the other college or at a contributing institution, the regulations of that college may be invoked with the agreement of the lead institution.

QM Academic Regulations

7.3 The MA in the History of Political Thought and Intellectual History shall follow the standard QM regulations except in the following particulars.

Condoned failure (2012/13 cohort onwards)

7.4 The examination board may condone failure in the taught component of modules up to a maximum value of 30 credits (MA/ PGDip) or 15 credits (PGCert), where:

- i. A student achieves a module mark of 40.0 or higher; and,
- ii. The student achieves an average mark of 50.0 or higher across all modules.

Classification (2012/13 cohort onwards)

7.5 The MA in History of Political Thought and Intellectual History shall be classified as follows:

College Mark	Dissertation mark	Other criteria	Classification
70.0 – 100.0	70.0 or higher	No condoned failure / No resits	Distinction
60.0 or higher	65.0 or higher	No condoned failure / No resits	Merit
50.0 or higher	N/A	N/A	Pass

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difficulty like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Special arrangements in examinations
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one "study skills" tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The skills developed by the study of these two related fields give postgraduates an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers, including those in academia, government, think-tanks, media and broadcast journalism, law and the civil service. The advanced transferable analytical and communications skills students will gain will also make them very attractive to employers in less directly related fields in both the public and private sector.

Queen Mary benefits from links with legal chambers, and leading publishing houses where students can receive additional training through short term placement programmes and internships.

Postgraduates of the programme can expect to have developed:

a strong grounding in intellectual history, the history of political thought and the history of philosophy;

an advanced understanding of historiographical method and interpretative practice;

a high level of articulacy through the acquisition of advanced communication skills;

advanced and confident presentation skills;

highly developed interpretative and analytical skills with the ability to contextualise and critique a broad range of texts,

excellent research skills and writing ability.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification

Professor Richard Bourke

Person responsible for management of programme

Professor Richard Bourke

**Date Programme Specification produced/amended
by School Learning and Teaching Committee**

14 Feb 2013

**Date Programme Specification approved by
Taught Programmes Board**

4 Jul 2013