

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme:	Political Science
<i>FHEQ</i> Level:	6
Course Title:	Senior Seminar in Political Science2
Course Code:	PLT 6297
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	0
Guided Learning Hours:	25
Independent Learning Hours:	95
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Senior Seminar in Political Science 2 is the second half of the two-semester sequence of courses taken by Political Science majors in their Senior year, culminating in the submission of a dissertation 8,000 to 10,000 words in length. Students are guided through the various stages of drafting and revising their final dissertation, and orally present their research according to conference standards as part of the formative process.

Prerequisites:

PLT 6296 Senior Seminar in Political Science1

Aims and Objectives:

- To help students develop self-directed and more advanced research and writing strategies that reflect a systematic engagement with a key issue related to their specific interests in Political Science
- To enable students to achieve the submission of a final dissertation, and an oral presentation of their research
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business, and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of Political Science
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

PLT: 6A(iv); 6B(iii); 6B(iv); 6C(i); 6C(ii); 6C(iii); 6C(iv); 6D(i); 6D(ii); 6D(iii); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Students should demonstrate the ability to carry through their research design that was begun in Senior Seminar in Political Science 1 by using evidence, data, and information from a range of primary and secondary sources. Students should present their research findings in an analytical way, revealing their scholarly activities using wide ranging and multiple sources.
- Students should demonstrate their analytical and interpretive skills through this dissertation which is expected to show the development of rational and logical progression of ideas, arguments, and evidence. Students should critically assess the information gathered, extend their ability for critical appraisal, and consolidate their knowledge of their subject based on work from previous courses.
- Students should demonstrate an understanding of theories that are relevant to their topic as well as utilise explicit and identifiable methodological approaches.
- Student should demonstrate an ability to actively engage in the feedback/editing process in a timely and systematic manner and take responsibility for their own learning and development.
- Students demonstrate the ability to make a coherent and engaging 10-minute oral presentation to their peers in a formal conference-style setting.

Indicative Content:

- Extending research sources
- Developing a clear thesis, theoretical framework and methodology
- Multiple draft writing
- Editing and proofreading
- Oral presentation of research

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

Course meetings consist of a few interactive group discussions and oral presentations, but weekly meetings primarily revolve around individual tutorial supervision. The course is student-centered, and students are responsible for time and research self-management as well as for their own engagement with their project. Student work is assessed through a variety of ways using both formative and summative approaches. Feedback is intended to help improve student approach to learning and achieve better results.

IndicativeText:

Greetham, B. (2019) *How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation*. 3rd ed. London: Palgrave.

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	