

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL POLICY BA (HONS)

As part of the Network of Hope, Spurgeon's College is offering a range of combined BA honours degrees with Liverpool Hope University. The courses are designed and validated by Liverpool Hope University and taught by Liverpool Hope tutors. Face-to-face teaching will take place at Spurgeon's College, London, and the College will provide additional support for students enrolled there on a Network of Hope course. After three years of study, successful students will receive a degree from Liverpool Hope University, one of the UK's leading Universities.



Start date: October 2021 || Duration: Three years || Fees: £9,073 per year

Entry requirements: 96 Tariff points + GCSE English grade 4/C or above

Mode of application: UCAS institution code S57, course code 1L57

Attendance: Two evenings per week 6-9pm (one 3hr face-to-face teaching session and one 3 hr online teaching session) and four intensive Saturday sessions (10am – 2.30pm), plus independent study (approx. 18 hours per week).

Additional costs: You will need to consider the cost of your core textbooks which we estimate to be around £200. You will also require internet access and a laptop or PC to be able to access the online teaching and resources.

COURSE OVERVIEW

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Every day, international issues are in the news headlines – this is your chance to become an expert on relations between states, economies, ideas and societies. In a world where nuclear weapons remain primed for use, the world economy teeters on the brink of collapse and delicate ecosystems are under threat, it is little wonder that our International Relations degree is proving a popular choice among students who wish to better understand the world's most challenging problems.

SOCIAL POLICY

Social Policy explores the ways in which welfare provision is delivered in society, exploring who is eligible for support and who provides it. Our Social Policy degree is multidisciplinary in its approach and draws on ideas from sociology, economics, politics and geography. It explores issues such as inequality, ill health and wellbeing, child welfare, employment and unemployment, educational opportunities, disability, homelessness, family policies, mental health, globalisation, crime and immigration.

Curriculum

International Relations

Year 1

Introduction to International Relations

You will take a lecture series entitled 'Introduction to International Relations' which introduces you to the discipline and its most influential, structural theories. To reinforce your learning in the lectures you will take two seminars: 'Key concepts in the study of International Relations' will better prepare you to deal with the theories that characterise the discipline, whereas the 'International Relations Weekly Briefing' will give you the opportunity to explore and debate 'real world' developments. In addition, you will participate in a weekly small group tutorial

Year 2

Explorations in International Relations

Your second year is based around two components. Understanding International Relations, which builds and expands on the theoretical ideas you will have studied in first year and which goes on to examine a range of key issues and problems. These are discussed from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The practical side of the programme is focused particularly on the challenges and structures of foreign policy, and there is a supporting seminar series focused on foreign policy. This looks at theoretical approaches to foreign policy analysis, and then develops a series of in-depth case study evaluations. These may include analyses of the foreign policies of particular countries, such as the UK or the United States, and of the foreign policy behaviour of international organisations, such as the European Union.

Year 3

Advanced Studies in International Relations

As you would expect in your final year, the pace steps up a gear and so too the complexity of the ideas and arguments you encounter. The lecture series, 'Critiquing theories, unsettling assumptions: re-visiting knowledge and understanding in International Relations', scrutinises and deconstructs that which was encountered in the first two years to leave you with a very nuanced, critical understanding of International Relations theory and 'real world' dynamics. You also specialise through seminars in 'Security, Peace and Conflict' and 'Economic crisis and political conflict'. Your tutorials will focus on supporting you through independent research with the focus of this work agreed between you and your supervising academic tutor

Social Policy

Year 1

Introduction to Social Policy

This theme examines the history and development of the welfare state since the Industrial Revolution. It explores how different groups and behaviours in society have been constructed as problematic and explores how social problems and their proposed solutions have been framed across time. Key to the theme is to get you to begin to think differently about what are often taken-for-granted social issues. In relation to welfare policy, you examine policy shifts through four main phases of development: the liberal era (1800-1880); the interventionist period (1880-1940); the era of the classic welfare state (1940-1976) and the current neoliberal regime (1976-present). Consideration is given to what are social problems and how they are defined and conceptualised; how 'problem communities' are identified and regulated and the historical development of state 'anti-poverty' strategies.

Year 2

Explorations in Social Policy

Your second year explores the core social divisions in late capitalist society. We look at four main divisions in the context of UK society: gender, race, disability and age. We focus on how social, economic and political processes play a role in the creation of these divisions. For each of the divisions we explore how it is related to wealth and poverty, looking at how disablement or gender are associated with lower wages, unemployment or insufficient benefit payments. We then examine some of the theories which can help to understand why certain groups are marginalised. Finally, we link welfare state policies to the marginalisation and exclusion of certain groups. When looking at age, for example, we show how insufficient pensions, exclusion from the formal labour market and lacking care services actually create the marginalisation of elderly populations.

You are also introduced to theory and research methods in the social sciences.

Year 3

Advanced Studies in Social Policy

At the advanced level we start to look at a range of global social problems global poverty and health, climate change, work in a global economy, or migration. We also undertake comparative study and look at how other countries meet their health care, child care or social service needs. You will also be able to choose an advanced research seminar each term, allowing you to develop your knowledge of issues that you've grown interested in throughout the course. You also have an opportunity to undertake an individual project dissertation reflecting your particular social policy interest.