

# **BSc (Hons) Political Science (Specialisation: International Relations/Media & Communication/Public Administration - SH345**

## **1. Objectives**

The degree programme in Political Science is designed to provide knowledge and competence in the field of Politics at local, regional and international level, to sharpen critical outlook and to promote analytical skills in the study of the discipline. It is expected that graduates in Political Science would pursue their career in regional and international organisations, central and local government, parastatal bodies, public relations and journalism.

## **2. General Entry Requirements**

In accordance with the University General Entry Requirements for admission to undergraduate degree Programmes.

## **3. Programme Requirements**

- A credit in English Language at Cambridge School Certificate/'O' Level or equivalent;
- 2 GCE 'A' Level passes in 2 relevant subjects. Relevant subjects include the following: History, Sociology, Languages (English, French), Indian Languages (Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu), Geography, Hinduism, Islamic Studies, Economics and Law.

## **4. Programme Duration**

	<b>Normal</b>	<b>Maximum</b>
Degree:	3 years	5 years

## **5. Minimum Credits Required for Degree Award – 105**

Breakdown as follows:

	<b>Core Modules</b>	<b>Electives</b>	<b>Dissertation</b>	<b>GEMs</b>
Degree	78	12	9	6

## **6. Credits per Year**

Minimum 18 credits, Maximum (including retake modules) 48 credits subject to Regulation 5.

## **7. Assessment**

Each module will be assessed over 100 marks with details as follows (unless otherwise specified):

The continuous assessment will count for 20-30% of the overall percentage mark of the module(s), except for a Programme where the structure makes for other specific provision(s).

Continuous assessment may be based on laboratory work, seminars and/or assignments and should include at least two (2) assignments/tests per module. There will be a compulsory class test for all modules taught in semester 1 at the end of semester 1 of the given academic year unless stated otherwise in the Programme Structure.

An overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be required to pass the module, without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination. The same criterion will apply for modules being assessed jointly. Note that all overall mark for the two modules will be considered and not the individual marks for each of the two modules.

## **8. Submission Deadline for Dissertation**

Final copy: Last working day of March of the Academic Year.

## 9. Programme Plan

### YEAR 1 (27 Credits For Core Modules+6 Credits Electives+6 Credits for GEM = 39 Credits)

Code CORE	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
POLI 1001Y(1)	Introduction to Political Theory	3+0	6
IREL 1001Y(1)	Theories and Concepts of International Relations	3+0	6
HIST 1005Y(1)	20 <sup>th</sup> Century World Affairs	3+0	6
ECON 1006Y(1)	Introduction to International Economy & Trade	3+0	6
CSE 1010e(1)	Introduction to Information Technology	OE	3
	GEM		6
<b>Electives - Choose two modules or any other elective offered by the Department amounting to 6 credits</b>			
COMS 1007(1)	Principles of Journalism**	3+0	3
COMS 1005(1)	Introduction to Media & Communication	3+0	3
SOCI 1005(1)	Introduction to Sociological Analysis	1½+0	3
	Foreign Language	1½+0	3
WBL 1000(1)	Work Based Learning		2

### YEAR 2 (30 Credits For Core Modules+ 6 Credits for Electives =36 Credits)

Code CORE	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
IREL 2001Y(3)	Public International Law	3+0	6
POLI 2002Y(3)	Political Thought	3+0	6
POLI 2005Y(3)	Public Policy Making	3+0	6
POLI 2007Y(3)	Comparative Government & Politics	3+0	6
POLI 2008Y(3)	Mauritian Government Society and Economy	3+0	6
<b>Electives</b>	<b>Choose any upto 6 credits</b>		
COMS 2111Y(3)	Media Advocacy**	1½+0	3
COMS 2201(3)	Development Communication	3+0	3
IREL 2003Y(3)	Contemporary Indian Ocean	1½+0	3
POLI 2204(3)	Democracy and Democratisation	3+0	3
WBL 2000(3)	Work Based Learning		2

### YEAR 3 (30 Credits for Core Modules+ Dissertation)

Code CORE	Module Name	Hrs/Wk L+P	Credits
<b>Specialisation: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>			
IREL 3001Y(5)	Civil Society and Human Rights in International Relations	3+0	6
IREL 3002Y(5)	International Institutions	3+0	6
IREL 3003(5)	Contemporary Issues in World Politics	3+0	3
POLI 3003Y(5)	Comparative Public Policy Making	3+0	6
<b>TO CHOOSE EITHER DISSERTATION OR MINI-PROJECT + ONE ELECTIVE</b>			
POLI 3000(5)	Dissertation *	-	9
MP 3000	Mini-Project (6 Credits) and One Elective (3 Credits)	-	
<b>Specialisation: MEDIA / COMMUNICATION</b>			
IREL 3003(5)	Contemporary Issues in World Politics	3+0	3
COMS 3004(5)	Research Methods in Communication	3+0	3
COMS 3007Y(5)	Comparative International Media**	1½+0	3
COMS 3102(5)	Intercultural Communication	3+0	3
COMS 3202(5)R	Communication and Media: A Historical Perspective	3+0	3
COMS 4101(5)	New Forms of Media	3+0	3
COMS 4201(5)	Political Communication	3+0	3
<b>TO CHOOSE EITHER DISSERTATION OR MINI-PROJECT + ONE ELECTIVE</b>			
POLI 3000(5)	Dissertation *	-	9
MP 3000	Mini-Project (6 Credits) and One Elective (3 Credits)	-	

<b>Specialisation: PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION</b>			
IREL 3003(5)	Contemporary Issues in World Politics	3+0	3
POLI 3001Y(5)	Political Sociology	3+0	6
POLI 3003Y(5)	Comparative Public Policy Making	3+0	6
POLI 3004Y(5)	Public Administration	3+0	6
<b>TO CHOOSE EITHER DISSERTATION OR MINI-PROJECT + ONE ELECTIVE</b>			
POLI 3000(5)	Dissertation *	-	9
MP 3000	Mini-Project (6 Credits) and One Elective (3 Credits)	-	
<b>Electives</b>			
WBL 3000(5)	Work Based Learning		2

**Notes:**

\* Students are required to earn a CPA of 60 before they are eligible to register on Dissertation, except with special dispensation from the Department.

\*\* - Modules assessed 50% by continuous assessment and 50% on examination.

## 10. OUTLINE SYLLABUS

### YEAR 1

#### CORE MODULES

##### **POLI 1001Y(1) - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY**

The meaning of Politics. Fundamental rights and freedoms. The values of a liberal society. The State and the individual. Socialism and Marxism. Totalitarian regimes; fascism and communism. Topics will also include discussions concerning the nature of man, the origin of government and law, man's relation to society and the state, the nature of just and unjust government with reference to thinkers such as: Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Aquinas, Machiavelli.

##### **IREL 1001Y(1) - THEORIES AND CONCEPTS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The course will focus on the major theoretical approaches to international relations in order to understand and critically analyse their strengths and weaknesses. Key concepts, such as power, agency, the state, international society and other will be identified and discussed in relation to differing interpretations and applications. Case studies assist in the use of both theories and concepts.

##### **HIST 1005Y(1) - 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY WORLD AFFAIRS**

This module will examine the general themes in the development of world civilization (outside Europe) in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. It will examine topics such as imperialism, the rise of an international economy, the impact of Europe on African and Asian societies, nationalism, decolonisation and international relations.

##### **ECON 1006Y(1) - INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY & TRADE**

The principle of comparative advantage. Gains from trade. International Trade Policy: Instruments of Trade Policy, Welfare Effects of Tariffs and Non-tariff Barriers, Economic Arguments For and Against Free Trade. The Political Economy of Trade Policy. The WTO: Legal instruments, Decision-making and the Negotiating Process. The Doha Development Agenda. Unfinished Business in the Multilateral Trade Negotiation Agenda: Singapore Issues, Aid for Trade, Trade and the Environment. Preferential Trade Agreements: GSP, Cotonou Agreement, AGOA, EBA. Regional Integration and Diplomacy. EPAs. Mauritius in the World Trade Agenda.

##### **CSE 1010e(1) - INTRODUCTION TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

IT and Computers; Stepping in the Computer; Input and Output Devices; Secondary Storage; Programming; Systems Software; Applications Software; Systems Development; Computer Networks; The Internet; Computer Security; Software Utilities; Issues and Trends in IT.

#### ELECTIVES

##### **COMS 1007(1) - PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM**

Students will be introduced to news values, news selection processes and sourcing of news. They will learn to write leads to reflect those values and structure well written stories in inverted pyramid form. The different formats used in the local and international press will be studied as well as newsroom concepts and terminology. Objectivity, professionalism and ethical journalistic practices will be emphasised.

##### **COMS 1005(1) - INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION**

This module will introduce students to fundamental concepts in communication and media. It will provide an overview of the origins of communication including the creation and development of various media such as press, radio, cinema, television and computer mediated technology. Fundamental theoretical models (information theory, semiotics, media functions) will be examined as well as the practical framework within which the mass media operate (business operation, economic structures & trends).

##### **SOCI 1005(1) - INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

The module aims to introduce student who are unfamiliar with sociology to the sociological discipline. It will provide an introduction to main schools of sociological theory and the application of these theories to the analysis of social institutions and social policies.

**FOREIGN LANGUAGES** on offer subject to availability of resources

German	Mandarin
Spanish	Dutch
Portuguese	Malagasy
Swahili	Arabic
Italian	

### **GEMs**

- (i) Entrepreneurship / Leadership Innovation
- (ii) Sustainable Development
- (iii) Ethical Professionalism & Human Values
- (iv) Educational Technologies

### **WBL 1000(1) - WORK BASED LEARNING (Teaching or Research)**

To enable the student to engage in 6 weeks of Work-based experience in order to acquire, develop, apply and discuss the knowledge, skills, attitudes and professional attributes which enhance effectiveness in the work place and contribute to employability. The seven core competencies to be developed and applied during this episode of Work-based engagement are: Communication, Team Working, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving, Using and Applying Numbers, Using Information Technologies, and Professional Development.

## **YEAR 2**

### **CORE MODULES**

#### **IREL 2001Y(3) - PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW**

This module will look at the application of international law in modern international society. Close attention is paid to legal aspects of current developments such as the international constitution: sources of law, treaties, institutions, States and international organisations, the individual in international law, the relationship between international law and national law. Selected issues in international law: jurisdiction and immunities, State responsibility, the treatment of foreign nationals, expropriation of foreign property, the use of force will also be studied.

#### **POLI 2002Y(3) - POLITICAL THOUGHT**

This module will look into the political thoughts of Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, J S Mill and Marx; the theme Liberation versus Marxism will be emphasized. Constitutionalism and the doctrine of the separation of powers, utilitarianism, nationalism, liberal, conservative and socialist traditions of thought. Rawls Theory of Justice, I Berlin Concept of Freedom.

#### **POLI 2005Y(3) - PUBLIC POLICY MAKING**

What is Public Policy? The various models for Policy analysis. The input-output model. Institutionalism, Process, Rationalism, Incrementalism, Group Theory, Elite Theory and Public Choice Theory. The Policy-Making process. The role of public opinion. Elite opinion and the Mass Media. Agenda setting. The official and unofficial policy makers. Policy implementation. The Environment. Political Culture and Socio-economic contexts. Policy Evaluation.

#### **POLI 2007Y(3) - COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS**

Comparative Political analysis and its approaches, classification of political systems, i.e. democratic and authoritarian systems, federal and unitary systems, capitalist and socialist systems. Systems of Representation. USA Federal Government. The Centralization of Indian Federal Government. Devolution and The British Parliamentary System. Decentralization of power in the US. The French hybrid system –

Half Presidential/Half Parliamentary. Cohabitation in France and in the US. The powers of the President in France, US, and India. US Congressional Committees. The role of the Legislature. Supreme Court in US and France. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Political Executive, the Powers of the President, the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Constitutional High Court (USA, Britain, India, France, South Africa).

### **POLI 2008Y(3) - MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT, SOCIETY & ECONOMY**

Historical context of Government, Politics & Society, Constitutional Development and Political Evolution, Structure of Government, Foundations and Structure and Development of Society, Fundamentals of Economy.

### **Electives**

#### **COMS 2111Y(3) – MEDIA ADVOCACY**

Students will be introduced to media advocacy processes and techniques. Different types of media advocacy tools will be examined including press relations, lobbying and public relations as well as different types of communication campaigns on the local and international scene. They will also learn how to develop a strategic communication plan from audience targeting and definition of objectives to impact evaluation.

#### **COMS 2201(3) - DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATION**

The module explores the role of communication, from traditional means to new technologies, in processes of social, political and economic change, at different levels of society, from local/national to international/global. The different development communication paradigms are studied with emphasis on the participatory approach.

#### **IREL 2003Y(3) - CONTEMPORARY INDIAN OCEAN**

This module will look at contemporary events and issues related to the Indian Ocean, using an international relations perspective that focuses on political conflicts and negotiations, as well as on the geopolitics that have occurred particularly during and after the Cold War. The Chagossian issue, including the construction of an American base on Diego Garcia, will also be dealt with in this module, which will furthermore look at diplomacy in the region in general terms.

#### **POLI 2204(3) - DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATISATION**

Democracy: the concept and interpretation. Historical development of Western political institutions. Comparative historical studies of democracy. Modernisation theory, new waves of democratisation; in East Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Democracy and development in Third World countries. The concept of democratic legitimation.

#### **WBL 2000(3) - WORK BASED LEARNING (Teaching or Research)**

To enable the student to engage in 6 weeks of Work-based experience in order to acquire, develop, apply and discuss the knowledge, skills, attitudes and professional attributes which enhance effectiveness in the work place and contribute to employability. The seven core competencies to be developed and applied during this episode of Work-based engagement are: Communication, Team Working, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving, Using and Applying Numbers, Using Information Technologies, and Professional Development.

### **YEAR 3**

#### **CORE MODULES**

##### ***A). Specialisation in International Relations***

#### **IREL 3001Y(5) - CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

The aim of this module is to develop critical understanding of human rights and different conceptualisations of this issue. Particular attention will be given to human rights under different political regimes and problems related the evaluation and operationalisation of complex concepts.

### **IREL 3002Y(5) - INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

This module examines the legal regimes governing and produced by inter-governmental organisations (IGOs). This includes a consideration of the legal and conceptual nature of such organisations. Issues to be considered include the constitutional base, legal personality, legal powers, membership issues, representation, voting, decision making, legal orders, accountability, responsibility, democracy and the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) within inter-governmental organisations. This course will consider a whole range of IGOs, but will pay particular attention to the UN and the specialised agencies.

### **IREL 3003(5) - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS**

This module investigates major issues in international relations in the postcold war era. Major themes include: the 'end of history' debate, culture and civilisations, ethnic conflicts, international crime and terrorism, democratisation and good governance, gender issues, global epidemiology and ecology.

### **POLI 3003Y(5) - COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING**

Structure of Government Federalism and Unitary. Devolution in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Cabinet and Prime Ministerial Government. White House Aides. Role of top Civil Servants in UK. Role of Congressman. The Policy Making Process. Institutional arrangement and Public Policy. The Management of the Economy, Education and Inequality in Britain. Criminal Justice, Health and Welfare in the US: Rationality and irrationality in Public Policy. Incrementalism and Government budgeting. How group interest affect Policy Making in Education. Elite and Mass Conflict in Civil Rights Legislation.

### ***B). Specialisation in Media / Communication***

### **IREL 3003(5) - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS**

This module investigates major issues in international relations in the postcold war era. Major themes include: the 'end of history' debate, culture and civilisations, ethnic conflicts, international crime and terrorism, democratisation and good governance, gender issues, global epidemiology and ecology.

### **COMS 3004(5) - RESEARCH METHODS FOR COMMUNICATION**

The module will provide a historical overview of communication and media research over the last three decades. Students will be exposed to the importance of quantitative and qualitative research methods with emphasis on qualitative techniques such as Focus Group interviews, ethnography, participant observation, content, discourse analysis among others.

### **COMS 3007Y(5) - COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA**

This module examines the geopolitical and economic aspects of international media outlets. It will expose students to a variety of international media formats including print, broadcast and online media from a comparative perspective. The treatment of current international affairs in a varied sample of global and local media will be analysed with a focus on specific contemporary thematics. The rise of online social media will also be examined with respect to their significance in the reception of mainstream media.

### **COMS 3102(5) - INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION**

This module gives a historical and theoretical overview of Intercultural Communication. Essential concepts like culture, identity, ideology will be revisited. Emphasis will be laid on notions of prejudice, stereotyping, race and ethnicity. Media representations and public discourse will also be analysed.

### **COMS 3202(5)R - COMMUNICATION & MEDIA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

This module examines the development of the press/media in Mauritius from a historical and comparative perspective. It focuses on the political, economic and social dynamics in the evolution of the press. The role of the press in colonial and post-colonial Mauritius, as well as cultural, linguistic and technological issues will be addressed.

### **COMS 4101(5) - NEW FORMS OF MEDIA**

This module will examine the nature of modern forms and content. The old media/new media paradigms will be studied by looking at successive trends in the history of information and communication technologies. Particular emphasis will be laid on the Internet and the World Wide Web. Innovative media forms that pass the test of popularity will also be discussed (e.g. mobile technologies, weblogs, pod

casting) as well as forecasted successes (e.g. e-books, VOD, wearable media). The social and cultural implications and reception of these new media forms will be explored.

#### **COMS 4201(5) - POLITICAL COMMUNICATION**

This module examines the communication of politics in modern democracies. It looks at key developments in the communicative activity of political advocates: in particular it seeks to explore the increasingly visible role of the spin doctor and the marketing of politics.

#### ***C). Specialisation in Public Administration***

#### **IREL 3003(5) - CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN WORLD POLITICS**

This module investigates major issues in international relations in the postcold war era. Major themes include: the 'end of history' debate, culture and civilisations, ethnic conflicts, international crime and terrorism, democratisation and good governance, gender issues, global epidemiology and ecology.

#### **POLI 3001Y(5) - POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

Marxism: Private Property, Alienation theory, the class struggle, the Marxist Revolution, Dictatorship of the Proletariat, stateless and classless society. The traditional Theory of Democracy. The Greek Model. J S Mill and J J Rousseau's Models. Elite theorists namely Mosca, Pareto, Michels, Burham and C Wright Mills will be studied as a reply to Marxism. The Pluralist theory, Robert Dahl, who governs. An empirical testing of the various elite and pluralist theories.

#### **POLI 3003Y(5) - COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY MAKING**

Structure of Government Federalism and Unitary. Devolution in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Cabinet and Prime Ministerial Government. White House Aides. Role of top Civil Servants in UK. Role of Congressman. The Policy Making Process. Institutional arrangement and Public Policy. The Management of the Economy, Education and Inequality in Britain. Criminal Justice, Health and Welfare in the US: Rationality and irrationality in Public Policy. Incrementalism and Government budgeting. How group interest affect Policy Making in Education. Elite and Mass Conflict in Civil Rights Legislation.

#### **POLI 3004Y(5) - PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Public Administration – Its meaning, scope and significance, private and public administrations, approaches to its study. Role of Public Administration in developed and developing societies. Theories of Organisation – classical theory, Scientific Management Theory, Bureaucratic Theory, Human Relations Theory, Organisation and Decision Making, Principles and Structure of Organisation, Line, Staff and Auxiliary Agencies. Personnel Administration – Recruitment Training, Civil Service Neutrality, Generalists and Specialists. Financial Administrations and Budgeting, Citizens and Administrations, Public Accountability. Public Administration in Mauritius.

#### **POLI 3000(5) – DISSERTATION – For all**

At the end of the third year of the programme, the students will be required to submit a project dissertation. The title of the dissertation has to be approved by the Department of History and Political Science and a project supervisor identified by the Programme Co-ordinator. The final copy should be submitted by the last working day of March of the Academic Year and the dissertation length should be in the range of 8,000–12000 words (including footnotes).

#### **MP3000 MINI PROJECT AND PRESENTATION (6 credits)**

##### **Miniproject**

**A Mini-project may also take the form of a Research/teaching internship**

Research /Teaching Practicum 120 hours

Students will be required to submit a portfolio at the end of the practicum. Students can choose internships in any organisation, educational or cultural institution. They will be required to do so in consultation with their tutor. An agreed plan of work, objectives must be reached jointly with tutor, director of the organisation in question and the supervisor. The practicum will provide students with the opportunity to participate in a real workplace environment. As part of this module, students will put their theoretical learning into practice, develop a sense of the workplace, widen their professional networks, enhance their employment opportunities through additional training and develop a range of transferable personal and professional skills. Students will keep a weekly log book of their experiences and

undertaking a number of assessment tasks related to the projects on which the internship is based. The total duration will be determined by the partner providing the internship opportunity, in consultation with the programme coordinator, lecturer and the student.

## **Electives**

### **WBL 3000(5) - WORK BASED LEARNING (Teaching or Research)**

To enable the student to engage in 6 weeks of work related experience in order to make effective use of the knowledge, skills, attitudes and professional attributes which contribute to employability. The seven core competencies to be developed are: Communication, Team Working, Improving Own Learning and Performance, Problem Solving, Using and Applying Numbers, Using Information Technologies and Professionalism.

January 2010