

# Political Psychology and International Relations

**Module Code: POP88334**

**Module Name: Politics Psychology and International Relations 2024-25**

- **ECTS Weighting:** 5
  - **Semester/Term Taught:** Semester 1
  - **Contact Hours:** 2 hours seminar per week
  - **Module Personnel:** Lecturer - Dr Ross Gildea
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## Learning Outcomes

In this module students will delve into the theoretical and analytical debates surrounding psychological approaches to the study of international political behavior. They will acquire a thorough understanding of core concepts, theories, and methods in political psychology, gaining the ability to critically analyze these elements within the context of global politics. Through engaging with both foundational and contemporary research, students will develop the skills necessary to assess the effectiveness and limitations of psychological frameworks in explaining and interpreting international relations.

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## Module Learning Aims

This module will familiarise students with contemporary research and debates surrounding psychological approaches to IR. In the module, students will:

- Gain an understanding of political psychology as applied to International Relations (IR), exploring its foundational principles and methodologies.
  - Analyse the distinctive characteristics, advantages, and constraints of employing psychological frameworks in studying international political behaviour.
  - Evaluate classic and modern theoretical perspectives and empirical studies in political psychology.
  - Apply theoretical knowledge to examine real-world decision-making processes in global politics.
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## Module Content

In recent decades findings from psychology have fundamentally altered our understanding of the way human beings form judgements and make decisions. This course will provide insight into political psychology as an approach to IR, and students will gain knowledge of the core foundations, distinctive features, benefits, and limitations of utilizing psychological tools for the study of international political behaviour. The class will engage with both classic and contemporary theoretical and empirical research in political psychology, exploring how topics such as IR theory, conflict, and terrorism can be illuminated through the incorporation of psychological insights.

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## **Recommended Reading List**

TBA

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## **Assessment Details**

Short Assignment: 30%

Final Assignment: 70%