## Programme Specification ARO 034a

### Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Politics (International)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award e.g. BSc (Hons), MA etc.</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>History and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>L200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td>UHX12-IPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒ Part Time ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Location/Method of Study | On Campus – UK ☒ International ☐ Where:
|                      | Online ☐ Blended ☐ |
| Admission Points    | September ☒ January ☐ Other |
|                     | (if more than one entry point please provide a Degree Programme Table for each in the Outline Programme Structure) |
| Length of Programme | 4/3 years              |
| SCQF Level          | 10                     |
| Total Credit Value  | 480                    |
| ECTS Credit Value   | 240                    |
| Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark | Politics and International Relations
| Programme Director  | Peter Lynch            |
| Advisor of Studies  | Andrea Baumeister      |
| Programme Approved  | XX / XX / 20XX         |
| Last Updated        | XX / XX / 2018         |

### Section 2 Overview

#### PROGRAMME SUMMARY
The Politics (International) degree programme enables students to develop a knowledge and critical understanding of government and society. The interaction of people, ideas and institutions provides the focus to analyse how values are allocated and resources distributed and contested on different levels, from the local through to the sectoral, national, regional and global. The programme aims to enable students to analyse who gets what, when, how, why and where, and how collective decisions are made and contested. Students will explore questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, governance and decision-making as well as the theoretical and philosophical models that provide the foundation for these topics. The programme provides a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate and a learning environment that is receptive to the needs and views of students and encourages them to achieve their full potential. Following a broad foundation in key methods and issues in Politics more generally the Politics (International) degree enables students to specialise in the international dimensions of key questions of politics and in that sense is broader than an International Relations degree.

**Key Features of the Programme**

- Politics (International) offers a range of specialist modules in European, Middle Eastern and International politics, political theory and ideas and public policy; and includes a diversity of thematic focuses.
- World-class staff, passionate about their subject
- Final year dissertation project connected to cutting-edge International political research
- Active focus on employability and utilising a range of assessment practices to develop employability skills
- Opportunities for Study Abroad

**PROGRAMME AIMS**

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Place questions of political and international order and disorder, decision-making and political contestation at the centre of analysis
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of theory and analysis
3. Understand and use the concepts, approaches and methods of the subject and develop an understanding of their contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry
4. Think critically and independently about events, ideas and institutions
5. Relate the academic study of politics to questions of public concern and to relate academic theory to policies and other political practices
6. Use a range of cognitive, communication and social skills relevant to your intellectual, vocational and personal development

**Detailed Learning Outcomes**
The intention of the Politics (International) programme is to give you an understanding of political ideas, institutions and processes with a special focus on international politics in a variety of areas and the critical thinking skills essential to political inquiry.

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the nature and significance of politics as a human activity

2. Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices, relative to the historical and contemporary context

3. Demonstrate knowledge and a critical understanding of different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate; and the relationships between them

4. Comprehend how politics is mediated to understand and evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events with a special focus on world politics.

5. Understand, evaluate and apply key concepts and debates central to the study of international politics, including:

   - The political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices.
   - the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system
   - concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to analyse political ideas, practices and issues in the international system

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes

On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources.

2. Critically analyse and disseminate information.

3. Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems.

4. Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement.

5. Reflect on your own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback.

6. Manage your own learning self-critically and identify opportunities for continuous learning and development, leading to future continuous professional development, which is particularly valued by employers.
7. Recognise the importance of explicit referencing and the ethical requirements of study which requires critical and reflective use of information and communications technology in the learning process.

8. Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing. Employers require Politics graduates to be able to communicate ideas effectively to a varied audience: this ability to translate complex ideas to a wide audience is a particularly valued skill.

9. Use communication and information technology, including audiovisual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information and where appropriate, statistical or numerical information.

10. Demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management attributes.

11. Apply employability skills.

12. Utilise inter-cultural skills/global awareness, particularly in relation to employability.

13. Collaborate with others to achieve common goals through, for example, group work, group projects, and group presentations. Employers regard collaboration and the identification of common goals highly. This is especially so as public sector organisations and other agencies increasingly work together, and multi-agency teams are developed.

**Values and Attitudes:**
Politics at Stirling explores a variety of countries, regions and political and cultural contexts, preparing the student to embrace cultural diversity and develop an open attitude towards the world. We also expect our students to act professionally and ethically towards their studies.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**
*Outline of the teaching methods and approach to be used on the programme.*
Methods vary in accordance with student progression through the programme. In early modules, teaching is conducted through a combination of formal lectures and student-centred group work in tutorials or seminars. Lectures are intended to communicate information about the subject matter, to foster the idea of an academic community, to exemplify clear thinking and communication about political ideas and explanation and to stimulate interest in the topics covered. Group-centred work in the form of seminars or tutorials consolidates the lectures and encourages students to articulate and critically examine their ideas.

In later modules seminar work is relatively more important (some modules are taught principally through this medium with only a small number of lectures) and students are required to make formal seminar presentations. Final-year Honours students write a supervised dissertation, (for which they undergo prior methodological preparation in semester 6), under the guidance of an appropriate member of staff.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**
*Assessment and Assessment Criteria*
Assessment in Politics is balanced between coursework and examinations. The types of coursework range from essays to online class tests, policy papers, blog posts, presentations and campaign plans.

Coursework: This forms 100% of the assessment for the introductory modules and 50% in the case of other modules (with the exception of dissertations). Coursework in all modules includes at least one essay-based assignment. In later modules this element of assessment includes a grade for seminar presentations and participation. Essay-based assessment tests students’ subject-specific knowledge and skills, and the generic skill of accessing relevant source material, whereas seminar-based assessment also tests other generic skills.
such as verbal communication and the ability to defend one's arguments.

Examinations: This forms 50% of the assessment for many modules other than the introductory and dissertation units. In all other modules students are expected to write either two essay-type answers in two hours. Examinations primarily test students’ subject-specific knowledge and skills, but in a context which also provides a rigorous test of the generic skill of editing one's material so that it is relevant to a given question.

Dissertations: Dissertations are 10,000 words in length, test subject specific knowledge and skills and provide an assessment of students' ability to work autonomously. Dissertations are synoptic in that they require students to display the range of skills and knowledge that the programme aims to foster. They are graded on the final product as well as one of the earlier chapters.

Feedback on Assessment
You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here; [http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

Assessment Regulations
If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at: [Undergraduate](http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/)

### WHAT WILL I STUDY?

#### Outline Programme Structure

The list below shows compulsory and option modules for this programme. Option modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken. More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

For Part time study, students are required to meet the full time Programme Structure in full but will take longer to do so. POLU9RM must however be taken in the semester preceding the start of the Dissertation.

**Year 1**

Total year 1 credit value = 120  
Compulsory credits = 40  
Option credits = 80

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compulsory Modules</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People and Power: Politics of the British Isles</td>
<td>POLU911</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Concepts and Ideas</td>
<td>POLU912</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Option Modules – you choose four of the available modules from other disciplines (60 credits in total)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any module</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 2**

Total year 1 credit value = 120  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Optional credits = 60

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to International Politics</td>
<td>POLU9X3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Political Thinkers</td>
<td>POLU9PG</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>POLU9CP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>spring</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option Modules** – you choose three of the available modules on other subjects (60 credits in total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
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<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any module</td>
<td>Any</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>8 &amp; 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Year 3**

*Note: At least 5 of the level 10 Honours options taken in semesters 5-8 must be modules designated by the division as International Politics modules. These are marked with an *$

Total year 1 credit value = 120  
Compulsory credits = 20  
Optional credits = 100

**Compulsory Modules**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>SCQF Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research methods in Politics</td>
<td>POLU9RM</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option Modules** – you may choose one of the following modules to take

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Credit</th>
<th>Semester</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary issues in the Middle East</td>
<td>POLU9CM*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship, Democracy and Representation</td>
<td>POLU9CR</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights in International Politics</td>
<td>POLU9HR*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Policymaking in the UK</td>
<td>POLU9UK</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Politics from the Great War to the Contemporary Crisis</td>
<td>POLU9WP*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From World War to Cold War</td>
<td>ARTU9K6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Democracy and Referendums</td>
<td>POLU9DD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union in International Politics</td>
<td>POLU9EX*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Politics dissertation</td>
<td>POLU9IT</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Autumn &amp; Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<td>POLU9DD</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union in International Politics</td>
<td>POLU9EX*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Economy and the Global Environment</td>
<td>POLU9GE*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics of the Middle East</td>
<td>POLU9ME*</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Public Policy</td>
<td>POLU9PP</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Islam</td>
<td>RELU9FB</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safer Spaces: Environment in 20th Century Britain</td>
<td>ARTU9H6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REASONING LIST**

Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme

Politics (International) will require you to read extensively and critically. No single book covers an individual module in sufficient breadth, depth and variety.
If you are preparing for first year, you could begin reading any of these books:

Jones and Norton, *Politics UK.*
Goodwin, *Using Political Ideas.*
Hoffman and Graham, *Introduction to Political Theory.*

**Section 3 Student Support**

**SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING**

**Induction**
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

You will attend a session on ‘Transitioning to University’ and a ‘Welcome talk’ in week one by the division of History and Politics and a welcome email from your personal tutor.

**Study Skills Support**
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

**What SLS are able to do:**

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)

**STEER**
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/)

**Stirling Graduate School**
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide
support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/

Academic and Pastoral Support

Adviser of Studies: Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/

Personal Tutor: The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/

Support and Wellbeing: At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/

Student Union: you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/

Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/

Learning Resources
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/

Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement

METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

Module Evaluation
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/

Programme Review
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/
### Section 5 My Future

#### WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

From social and political research to journalism, marketing and HR, our Politics course opens up a broad range of career opportunities. Potential employers include international organisations such as the UN, the third-sector, the civil service, local and national government, lobbying organisations and commercial businesses. Jobs directly related to a Politics degree include:

- Government Social Research Officer
- Public Affairs Consultant
- Civil Service Fast Streamer
- Public Relations Account Executive
- Politician’s Assistant

Other roles where a Politics degree is useful include: Market Researcher, Marketing Executive, Journalist, Charity Officer, Forensic Accountant, Public Relations Officer and many more.

As a Politics graduate, you’ll have a clear understanding of domestic and international politics – as well as how organisations like the World Trade Organisation, the United Nations and the European Union operate. This provides you with a solid understanding of the issues involved in international relations and the significance of politics as a global – and local – activity. When you graduate with a BA Politics from the University of Stirling, you’ll be in good company. Our alumni include Former Secretary of State for Defence Dr John Reid, former Member of Parliament for Stirling Steven Paterson and current MPs Neil Gray and Angela Crawley.

How does this programme facilitate your development of the Graduate Attributes?

By studying Politics (International) at Stirling you will connect with experiences and cultures from different times and places, with professionals making the most of their degree in Politics (International Politics) and with a community of Stirling alumni. You will be ready to make an innovative and transformative contribution to the world through the confidence infused by creating an original piece of political research and getting immersed in the cutting edge research projects of our staff.

#### WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

As a University of Stirling student, you’ll have the opportunity to broaden your horizons and study abroad through our well-established connections with several international universities. Our Politics department also has a special Erasmus exchange programme with the politics departments at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and Collegium Civitas in Poland. Students who have met the grade requirements and passed the interview could spend Semester 6 at one of these partner institutions.

#### WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities offers job placements during semester 3. By taking the module ARTU9W4 - Putting Arts & Humanities to Work, you may have the opportunity to experience 30 hours of work placement in a career area linked to your degree subject.

In addition, the careers and employability services provide opportunities for volunteering and paid internships in a range of job sectors.
WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?
What programmes of study could the student go on to after successfully completing this one?
MSc International Conflict and Cooperation.

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?
N/A

Section 6 Admissions

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

**Year 1 entry – Four-year honours**
- **SQA Highers**
  - AABB – one sitting
  - AABBB – two sittings
- **GCE A-levels**
  - BBB
- **IB Diploma**
  - 32
- **BTEC (Level 3)**
  - DDM

**Year 2 entry – Three-year honours**
- **SQA Advanced Highers**
  - ABB
- **GCE A-levels**
  - ABB
- **IB Diploma**
  - 35

**Essential subjects**
Should include from Politics, Government and Politics, or Modern Studies.