

MSc Political Economy of Europe in the World: Induction Meeting

Professor Jonathan Hopkin
(Programme Director)
and PEEW colleagues

Introduction

- **Professional services staff:**

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Introduction

- Do you have a background in...
 - Economics, finance, business?
 - Political science?
 - Law?
 - History?
 - Sociology?
 - Other?

Introduction

- The European Institute is a broad church!
- Different approaches: from historical narratives and sociological accounts to political science and econometrics
- Political Economy of Europe in the World draws on this range of approaches
- Key question: How do politics and economics interact?
 - How do politics shape economics?
 - How do economics influence politics?

Introduction

- ‘Broad church’: this means that there is a wide range of different theories of how the world works and **should** work
- **Academic freedom** is an important foundation of our work
- What academic freedom means is that we also have a right to express what we think.
- It also means that we have the right to disagree (respectfully) and to challenge each other’s ideas.
- The programme involves critically examining competing theories and explanations and testing them against the evidence. Disagreement moves understanding forward!

Teaching and Learning

- **What this means in practice:**
 - Do not simply repeat what your teacher or an author (or a bot) says: Try to understand the reasoning and then figure out what you find convincing or not, and why
 - We will challenge you and expect to be challenged: Every claim has a potential counterargument, and you are encouraged to make them and respond to them
 - All work you hand in must be in your own words. Plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

Plagiarism and AI

- The European Institute policy on the use of generative AI can be found here:
<https://moodle.lse.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=1188436&chapterid=33052>
- Key points:
 - ‘The wording and product produced by any Generative AI system cannot be used in the planning or writing of any summative or formative assessment.... To be clear: Summative and formative assessment must be planned, researched and written solely by the student.’
 - ‘Generative AI may be used to support learning and research, in the same way that internet and database searches may be used. For example, Generative AI may be used to identify research articles, to direct further research, or to explain terms... Students should be careful and apply scholarly judgment when relying on the results.’

Teaching and Learning

- **Building blocks of learning at LSE**

- Seminars
- Lectures
- Office hours
- Readings
- Presentations
- Essays
- Exam preparations

Teaching and Learning

How to read:

- **Read with a question in mind:** Why do you think we added a piece to the reading list? What questions does it address?
- **Read to understand:** Did you really get the key message? Can you summarize a piece in a couple of sentences? How does it relate to the other readings?
- **A rule of thumb:** In addition to seminars and lectures, the LSE expects approximately 4 hours (+/-) per week per course of focused effort !



European
Institute

Teaching and Learning

- **Office hours:**
- We are available weekly in office hours to discuss course content, dissertation ideas, and any other study-related issues you might be concerned about. Book on LSE Student Hub.
- Mentors oversee your academic progress and can offer support if you need
- Your fellow students will be another important resource: work together: use your different disciplinary and national backgrounds to learn and gain new insights!

Programme structure

- Basic structure (4 units, 1 unit = two term-long courses)
 - **Core courses:** choose at least two of three courses from list in [course regulations](#) (Paper 1)
 - **Optional courses PEEW:** choose two or more optional courses from list in [course regulations](#) (Paper 2)
 - **Option courses EI:** choose optional courses from [course regulations](#) (Paper 3)
 - **MSc Dissertation/LSE-Fudan Policy Incubator** (Paper 4)
- **Note:** If a course choice is not within the regulations you must talk to course convener, and seek permission from the Programme Director (Jonathan Hopkin). Timeline: Make first selection on **Thursday**! Course choices ideally settled by Monday.

Programme structure

- **EU470 How do we know? An introduction to research design and methods in political economy**
 - Mandatory non-assessed
 - Introduces students to research design and core methods in political economy
 - Skills for research and preparation of dissertation
 - Hints for reading and writing
 - Delivered through interactive lectures with theoretical and applied parts and group exercises

Assessment

- **Formative assessment:** It does not count toward your grades. Your chance to test yourself and get feedback !
- **Summative assessment:** Counts toward your grades!
 - Essays
 - E-exams (Digi-Exam)
 - Online assessments
- You have a **right to feedback**, and make sure you receive and understand it. Without feedback you cannot learn.

Assessment

- Deadlines are hard: penalties for late submission
- Back up your work (Dropbox, LSE cloud, Google Drive, USB etc)
- Extensions of deadlines only under special circumstances:
- Special circumstances: Professional Services staff, your mentor and the Programme Director can help

Paper 4

- EU499 Dissertation - A piece of independent but supervised research work. One unit (25% of programme)
- 10.000 words, handed in August 2026 – but start thinking about topics now !
- By end of AT (December), try out some ideas and discuss them with mentor and other faculty.
- From January onwards: a structured process to make you progress on dissertation project – details on EU499 Moodle page!
- Double Degree (Fudan) Students will take EU4C9 – Policy Incubator

Problems

- We all sometimes face problems. We can help you!
 - Mentor
 - Other academics
 - Professional services staff
 - Programme director (me)
 - MSc student adviser (Jennifer Jackson-Preece; Charlotte Ennis)
 - Student services
 - Well-being services