



Dear ,

Congratulations again on your offer to study with us. We're delighted you're considering joining the LSE Department of Government in just a few months' time!

Over the next few months, we'll share information on course selection and Welcome. For now, we'll be introducing your academic journey and the support available to you in the Department.



Your first year Politics courses

In your first year you'll take two compulsory Politics courses, GV101 and GV100, that will ground your thinking in politics, develop your critical skills and be the foundation for the rest of the courses you take throughout your degree.

GV100: Introduction to Political Theory introduces you to some of the most influential ideas ever developed about politics, power and society. Through the texts and arguments of major political thinkers, you'll explore many of the questions that continue to shape political debate today.

- A study of the ideas of some of the major political theorists from the Ancient Greeks to the 20th Century.
- Topics will include theories of human nature, the origin of government and law, man's relation to society and the state, the basis of political obligation, the idea of

social contract, the idea of social progress, the critique of capitalism, and questions about race and gender.

- The thinkers discussed this year will include Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, J S Mill, Marx, Nietzsche, Arendt, and Fanon.

[Professor Paul Kelly](#) has taught GV100 for more than two decades, helping hundreds of LSE students develop the skills that underpin the study of politics. He'll deliver a weekly lecture which will be complemented by small class study. The course will be assessed through an essay and exam each worth 50%.

Check out Paul Kelly's new book [Against Post-Liberalism: Why 'Family, Faith and Flag' is a Dead End for the Left](#). He recently featured on our [Instagram](#) to give an insight into the book!

GV101 Introduction into Political Science introduces you to the ways that political scientists study political concepts, methods and research problems including democracy, game theory, regimes, inequality and identity politics.

- At the start of Autumn Term, you'll be introduced to core political concepts that underpin political science. You'll examine key questions, like who are thought to be the main political actors, and how do they differ in democracies and autocracies? You'll also study the methods political scientists use.
- In Winter Term the focus shifts to contemporary research questions. Drawing on current debates and student interests, you'll investigate pressing political challenges and explore how political scientists approach them. You'll begin to look at research problems centred around yearly themes and students' interests such as the effects of social media on democracy.

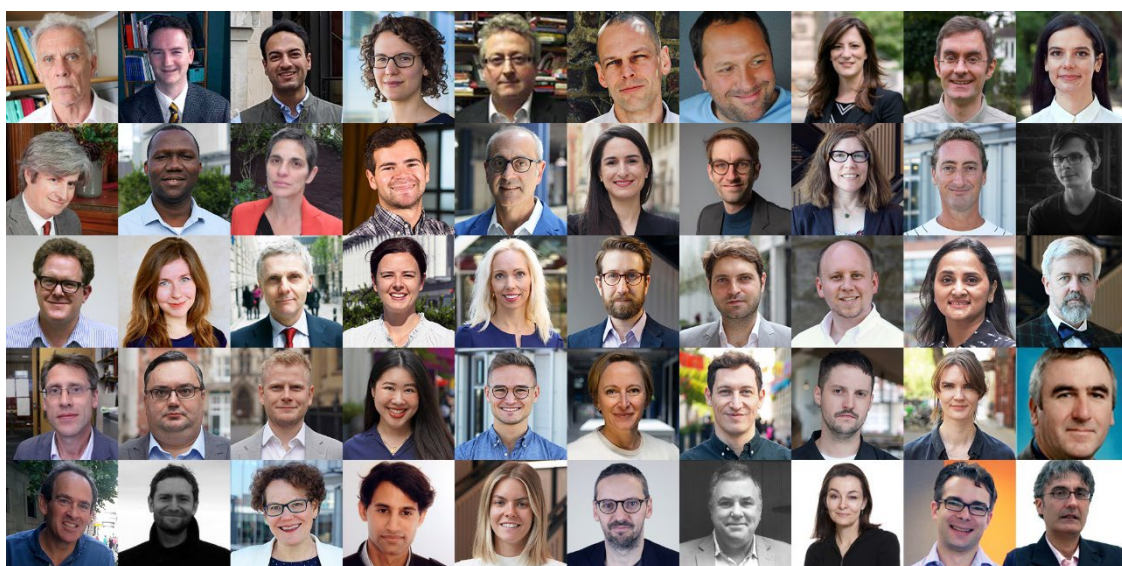
[Professor Stéphane Wolton](#), who has been part of the Department of Government for over a decade, will deliver 30 hours of engaging, interactive lectures. The course will be assessed through a multiple-choice quiz worth 20%, an essay worth 40% and an exam worth 40%.

Stéphane is known for teaching challenging, contemporary courses. You can read a former student's [LinkedIn post](#) about his third-year course, which was featured in *The Times*.

Across your degree, you'll encounter a diverse range of assessment formats, each designed to help you develop a different part of your academic skills and ways of thinking.

Essays will challenge you to strengthen your ability to build clear, persuasive, and evidence-based arguments. Presentations and class participation will help you build confidence, communicate complex ideas effectively and work collaboratively with others. Exams strengthen your ability to think critically under pressure and manage your time effectively, and research-based assessments will encourage independent thinking, analysis and intellectual curiosity.

By engaging with a variety of assessment formats, you'll develop the critical, practical, and transferable skills that will support your success at LSE and beyond.



Where to go for support in the Department

Your Academic Mentor is your main academic point of contact within the Department. They're here to support your development and help you make the most of your time at LSE, from your first week through to graduation.

Your mentor can help you navigate university life, reflect on your academic progress, and explore your goals and aspirations. Whether you want to discuss your studies, think through option choices, explore career plans, or simply talk about how things are going, your mentor is there to support you.

You'll be assigned a mentor during Welcome and encouraged to meet with them early in the term. You'll have regular opportunities to meet one-to-one, ask questions, and discuss ideas.

While your mentor may not always have all the answers, they'll know where to point you. If you need specialist advice or support, they can connect you with the right people and services across the school, so don't be afraid to reach out, ask questions, and make use of their support.

Student Advice and Support Managers



Kelly Harrings



Monika Walker

gov.support@lse.ac.uk

You'll also have access to support from Monika Walker and Kelly Harrings, the Department of Government Student Advice and Support Managers, part of the [Programmes Team](#).

Think of them as your friendly, non-judgemental sounding board for anything university-related that isn't strictly academic. Feeling overwhelmed? Not sure how deadlines or regulations work? Need a reference, some study skills tips, or just want to talk through what's next? That's exactly what they're here for. Drop them a line at gov.support@lse.ac.uk or book a 1:1 (in-person or online) via Student Hub. No problem is too small, and everything you share stays confidential.

We look forward to welcoming our new cohort soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please reach out to the Programmes Team on gov.ug@lse.ac.uk.

Warm wishes,

Department of Government

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[Frequently asked
questions](#)

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Government](#)

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