

Welcome to the School of
Government and
International Affairs (SGIA)

**Studying for a BA in
Politics and/or
International Relations**



Welcome to SGIA!



Agenda

1. Why study at Durham and SGIA

2. The SGIA Difference

- More options and flexibility
- Broad range of substance and approaches
- Inclusive, student-centered teaching & learning, geared towards employment and future studies

3. Student's View

4. Questions and Answers



Why Durham University?

World class academic institution

- 89th/1500 in QS World University Rankings 2025
- 6th/122 in the Guardian 2025 and 5th/130 in the UK Complete University Guide 2026

The collegiate experience

- A home away from home

Extracurricular activities - Societies and sport

- 2023 Sports University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide

The City of Durham and surrounding area



SGIA – Leading in Politics & IR in the UK and Globally

SGIA in subject league tables for Politics and International Relations:

- **Top 100** in the QS world rankings 2025 for Politics and International Relations
- **5th/62** in the Guardian University Guide 2025 and **5th/74** in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2026

Teaching Quality:

- **2nd** among Russell Group Universities (NSS 2024)

Continuation and Employability:

- **98.1% (7th/74)** of incoming students complete their studies (Complete University Guide 2025)
- **4th/74** in the UK for Politics Graduates Prospects (Complete University Guide 2026)

**Top 10
UK
Department**

5th in the Guardian and
5th in The Complete
University Guide



The SGIA Difference

1. Our courses give you more options and offer students greater flexibility than competitors
2. Our courses offer students the full range in substance and approaches



Our single-honours programmes

**BA (Hons) Politics
L200**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer –
AAA

**BA (Hons)
International
Relations L250**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer –
AAA

**BA (Hons) Politics
and International
Relations L253**

3/4 years full time

Typical A level offer
AAA

with one of the A-levels being a social science or humanities subject.

All single-honours programmes allow for up to one module per year taken with another department e.g., to study a foreign language

All programmes have a Study Abroad or Placement Year option

Joint- / Combined Honours Politics / IR

- BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics LV25
Typical offers AAA/37
- BA (Hons) Economics and Politics LL12
Typical offers A*AA/38
- BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics & Economics VL52
Typical offers A*AA /38
- BA (Hons) Combined Social Sciences
Typical offers A*AA/38



International Qualification Equivalencies

- IB 37 including 666 Higher level subjects
- European Baccalaureate - overall result of 85%
- French Baccalaureate pass with 15 or above (Bien)
- German Abitur – Total mark between 1.3-1.5
- Scottish Advanced Highers - AAA

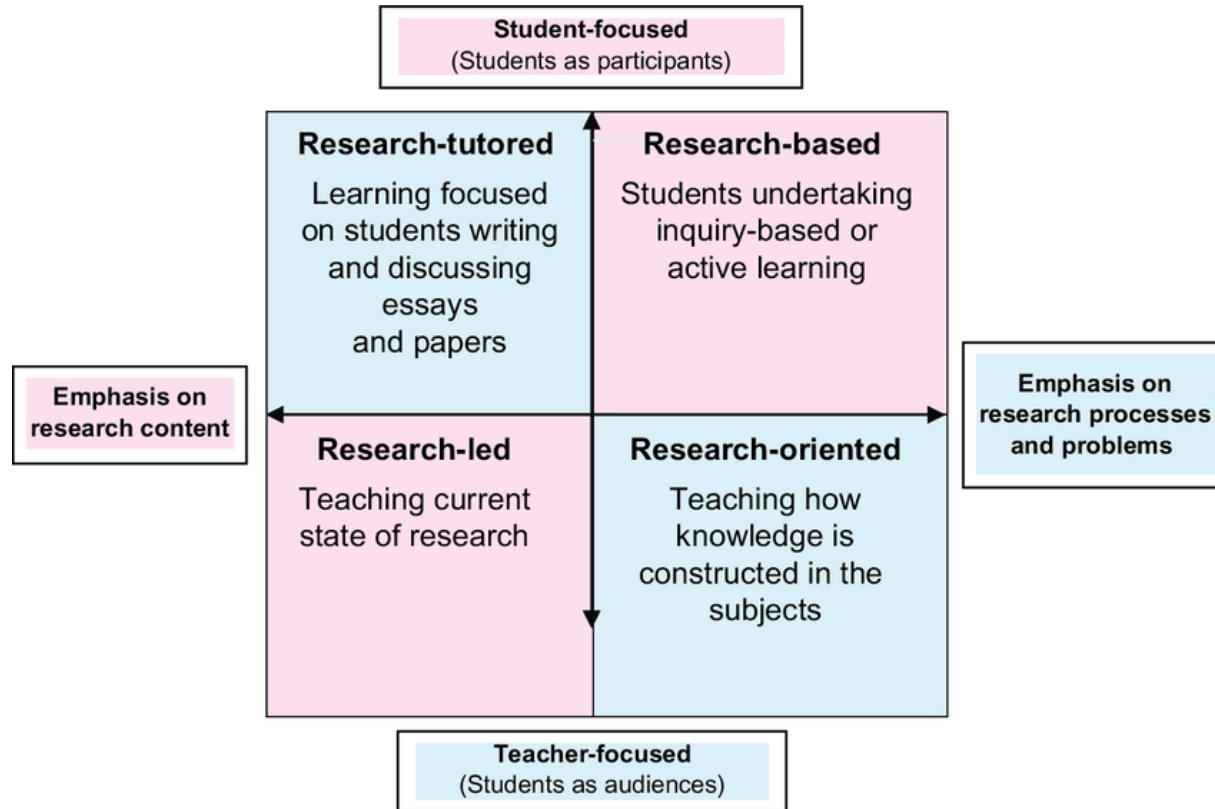
Admissions: What Selectors Consider

- Prior and predicted grades
- Personal Statement
- Teachers/Academic Reference
- Contextual evidence of merit & potential
- Motivation for the degree programme
- Study & other skills

**Find out more by attending 'Applying to Durham' session
TLC042 Teaching & Learning Centre or visit the Admissions
Desk on the top floor of the Teaching and Learning Centre.**



Research Infused Teaching Philosophy



Programme Structures in a Nutshell

First Year (Foundations):

- *Foundations in subject area(s) and research methods*
- Choice of modules from other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

Second Year (Consolidation):

- *Research Project and (option for) specialisation in subject area(s)*
- Choice of specialist modules in core or other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

Third/Final Year (Specialization):

- *Option for Year Abroad / Placement Year followed by a final year OR*
- *UG Dissertation*
- Choice of specialist modules in core or other subject areas and/or one from another department (incl. foreign language)

BA Politics

	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	<div>SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations</div> <div>SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics</div> <div>SGIA1191: Democratic Political System</div>	<div>SGIA1221: Intro to IR</div> <div>SGIA1NEW: International Security</div>	SGIA1241: Perspectives on Political Economy
Level 2	<div>SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought</div> <div>SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory</div>	<div>SGIA2341: Research Project</div> <div>SGIA2361: Analytical Politics</div> <div>SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics</div> <div>SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics</div> <div>SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics</div> <div>SGIA2411: Gender & Politics</div>	<div>SGIA2131: Int. Theory</div> <div>SGIA2261: Int. Organisation</div> <div>SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire</div> <div>SGIA2391: Middle East in the International System</div> <div>SGIA2161: The Politics of East Asia</div>	SGIA2401: Capitalism: History and Theory
Level 3	<div>SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty</div> <div>SGIA3561: Social and Political Philosophy</div> <div>SGIA3631: Social Justice and Marginalised Groups</div> <div>SGIA3761: Marx and Marxism</div> <div>...</div>	<div>SGIA3571: Democracy & Discontent in the EU</div> <div>SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity?</div> <div>SGIA3841: Can Voters Make Democracy Work?</div> <div>SGIA3851: Environmental Politics</div> <div>...</div>	<div>SGIA3511: Political Psychology in International Relations</div> <div>SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society</div> <div>SGIA3801: The International Politics of the Everyday</div> <div>...</div>	<div>SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy</div> <div>SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality</div> <div>SGIA3711: Climate, Nature, and the Global Economy</div> <div>...</div>

BA IR

	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations		
		SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics SGIA1191: Democratic Political System	SGIA1221: Intro to IR SGIA1NEW: International Security	SGIA1241: Perspectives on Political Economy
Level 2	SGIA2341: Research Project			
	SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2361: Analytical Politics SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics SGIA2411: Gender & Politics	SGIA2131: Int. Theory SGIA2261: Int. Organisation SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire SGIA2391: Middle East in the International System SGIA2161: The Politics of East Asia	SGIA2401: Capitalism: History and Theory
Level 3	SGIA3NEW: Dissertation			
	SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty SGIA3561: Social and Political Philosophy SGIA3631: Social Justice and Marginalised Groups SGIA3761: Marx and Marxism ...	SGIA3571: Democracy & Discontent in the EU SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity? SGIA3841: Can Voters Make Democracy Work? SGIA3851: Environmental Politics ...	SGIA3511: Political Psychology in International Relations SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society SGIA3801: The International Politics of the Everyday ...	SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality SGIA3711: Climate, Nature, and the Global Economy ...

BA Politics & IR

	Political Theory	Comparative Politics	IR Theory & History	Int. Political Economy
Level 1	SGIA1231: Intro to Political Theory	SGIA1201: Researching Politics & International Relations		
		SGIA1211: Intro to Comparative Politics SGIA1191: Democratic Political System	SGIA1221: Intro to IR SGIA1NEW: International Security	SGIA1241: Perspectives on Political Economy
Level 2	SGIA2341: Research Project			
	SGIA2171: Foundations of Western Political Thought SGIA2321: Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2361: Analytical Politics SGIA2351: Class, Nation and British Politics SGIA271: Challenges and Conflict in European Politics SGIA2381: Democracy, Conflict and American Politics SGIA2411: Gender & Politics	SGIA2131: Int. Theory SGIA2261: Int. Organisation SGIA2281: Sovereignty, State and Empire SGIA2391: Middle East in the International System SGIA2161: The Politics of East Asia	SGIA2401: Capitalism: History and Theory
Level 3	SGIA3142: Dissertation			
	SGIA3291: Theories of Liberty SGIA3561: Social and Political Philosophy SGIA3631: Social Justice and Marginalised Groups SGIA3761: Marx and Marxism ...	SGIA3571: Democracy & Discontent in the EU SGIA3681: Poverty or Prosperity? SGIA3841: Can Voters Make Democracy Work? SGIA3851: Environmental Politics ...	SGIA3511: Political Psychology in International Relations SGIA3741: Decolonizing Int. Society SGIA3801: The International Politics of the Everyday ...	SGIA3381: China in Global Political Economy SGIA3671: The Politics of Inequality SGIA3711: Climate, Nature, and the Global Economy ...

BA Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

	Philosophy	Politics	Economics
Level 1	<div>PHIL1011: Ethics and Values</div> <div>PHIL1021: Knowledge and Reality</div>	<div>Choose <u>two</u> of the following:</div> <div>SGIA1201: Researching Politics and International Relations</div> <div>SGIA1211: Introduction to Comparative Politics</div> <div>SGIA1221: Introduction of International Relations</div> <div>SGIA1231: Introduction to Political Theory</div> <div>SGIA1241: Perspectives of Political Economy</div>	<div>ECON1011: Principles of Economics</div> <div>ECON1021: Economic Methods</div>
Level 2	<div>Choose <u>at least one</u> of the following:</div> <div>PHIL2171: The Philosophy of Economics and Politics: Theory, Methods and Values</div> <div>PHIL2081: Political and Social Philosophy</div> <div>Additional L2 options</div>	<div>SGIA2341: Research Project</div> <div>SGIA2361: Analytical Politics</div> <div>Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>	<div>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</div> <div>ECON2011: Macroeconomics AND ECON2021: Microeconomics</div> <div>ECON2291: Economic Theory</div> <div>ECON2061: Econometrics</div> <div>Additional L2 options</div>
Level 3	<div>PHIL3112: Philosophy Long Dissertation (must be taken alongside at least one other L3 Philosophy module)</div> <div>Additional L3 options</div>	<div>SGIA3NEW: Dissertation</div> <div>Additional L3 options in : Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>	<div>ECON3012: Dissertation</div> <div>Additional L3 options in: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, <u>Econo</u>-metrics, Economic Policy Areas, Int. and Monetary Economics</div>

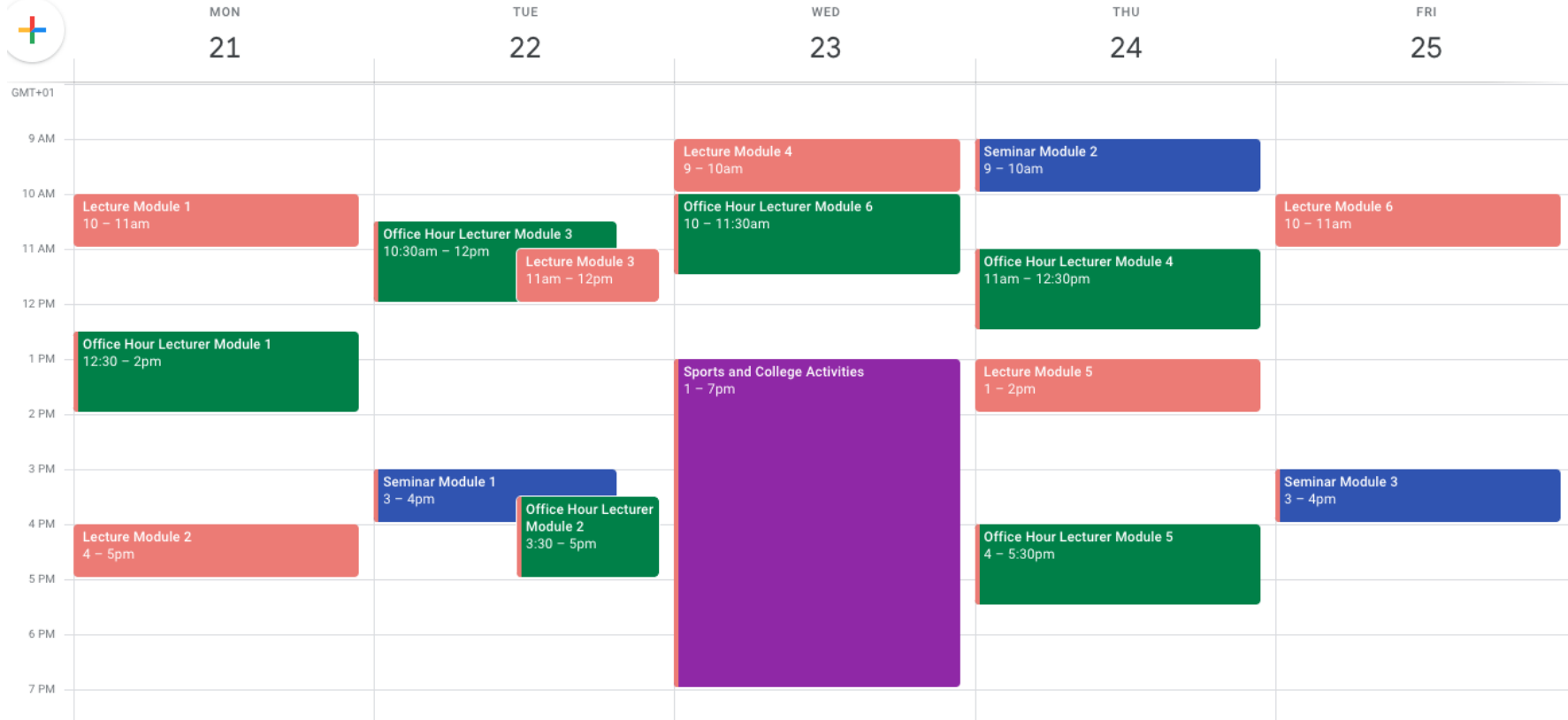
BA Economics and Politics

	Politics	Economics
Level 1	<p>Choose <u>three</u> of the following:</p> <p>SGIA1201: Researching Politics and International Relations</p> <p>SGIA1211: Introduction to Comparative Politics</p> <p>SGIA1221: Introduction of International Relations</p> <p>SGIA1231: Introduction to Political Theory</p> <p>SGIA1241: Perspectives of Political Economy</p>	<p>ECON1011: Principles of Economics</p> <p>ECON1021: Economic Methods</p> <p>ECON11071: Introduction to the International Economy</p>
Level 2	<p>SGIA2341: Research Project</p> <p>SGIA2361: Analytical Politics</p> <p>Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>	<p>Choose <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <p>ECON2011: Macroeconomics AND ECON2021: Microeconomics</p> <p>ECON2291: Economic Theory</p> <p>ECON2061: Econometrics</p> <p>Additional L2 options</p>
Level 3	<p>SGIA 3NEW Dissertation</p> <p>Additional L3 options in : Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</p>	<p>ECON3012: Dissertation</p> <p>Additional L3 options in: Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics, Economic Policy Areas, International and Monetary Economics</p>

BA Philosophy and Politics

	Philosophy	Politics
Level 1	<div>PHIL1011: Ethics and Values</div> <div>PHIL1021: Knowledge and Reality</div> <div>PHIL1041: Reading Philosophy</div>	<div>SGIA1231: Introduction to Political Theory</div> <div>AND choose <u>two</u> of the following:</div> <div>SGIA1201: Researching Politics and International Relations</div> <div>SGIA1211: Introduction to Comparative Politics</div> <div>SGIA1221: Introduction of International Relations</div> <div>SGIA1241: Perspectives of Political Economy</div>
Level 2	<div>PHIL2041: Moral Theory</div> <div>PHIL2081: Political and Social Philosophy</div> <div>Additional L2 options</div>	<div>SGIA2341: Research Project</div> <div>SGIA2361: Analytical Politics</div> <div>Additional L2 options in: Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>
Level 3	<div>PHIL3112: Philosophy Long Dissertation (must be taken alongside at least one other L3 Philosophy module)</div> <div>Additional L3 options</div>	<div>SGIA3NEW: Dissertation</div> <div>Additional L3 options in : Political Theory, Comparative Politics, International Relations, and International Political Economy</div>

A Typical First Year UG Schedule



The SGIA Difference

1. Our courses give you more options and offer students greater flexibility than competitors
2. Our courses offer students the full range in substance and approaches
3. Our approach to learning & teaching is inclusive, student-centred, and geared towards employment and further study



Inclusive and Supportive Culture

Inclusive Learning & Teaching

- Key to our pedagogical practice
- SGIA-specific Student Support: Student Peer-Mentoring Programme and First Gen Scholars Group

Athena Swan Silver Department

- First Politics & IR department to receive the bronze and since 2022 the silver award

Decolonising the Curriculum

- Contextualize the scholarly material we use, how it is produced, and reproduced



Student Centered Learning & Teaching



Involvement

- Student Voice Committee (SVC), Annual Topic-Specific Student Focus Groups
- Module Evaluation Questionnaires, In-Class Feedback

Inspiration

- Engagement in ongoing research through our research centre events
- “Politics in Practice Seminar Series” and “Politics in the Rearview Mirror Podcast”

Becoming Independent Learners

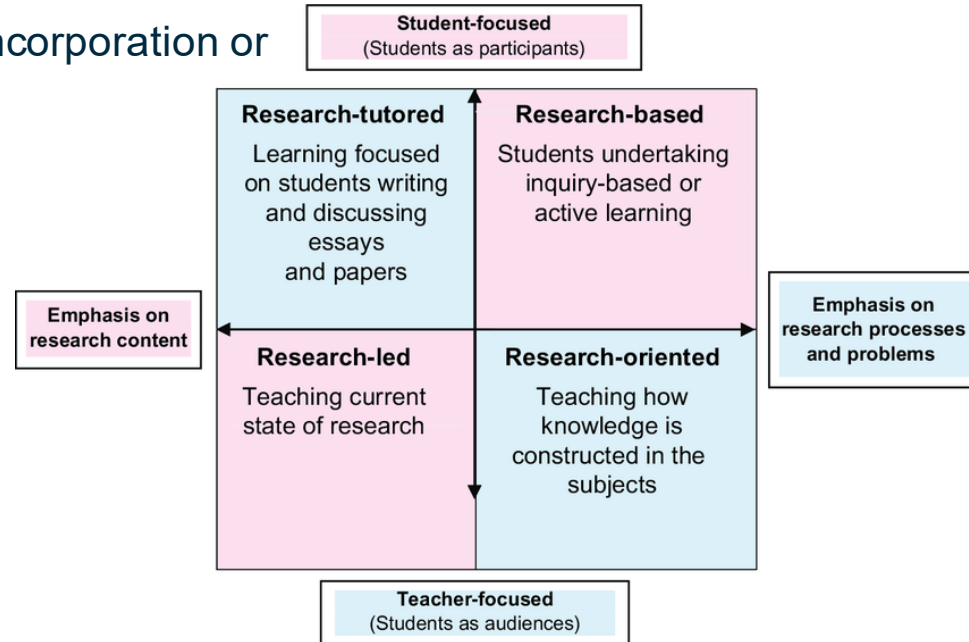
- First year = transition year
- Each student has an Academic Advisor



Employability and Future Study

Independent Critical Thinking and Research Skills

- Research-led, -based, -oriented and –tutored active learning
- Authentic assessment, including the incorporation or technological advances (e.g., GAI)



Example Module – Introduction to Comparative Politics

Term 1

- Lecture 1- Module Introduction
- Lecture 2 - The State
- Lecture 3 - What is Democracy?
- Lecture 4 - Economic Determinants of Democracy
- Lecture 5 - Social Determinants of Democracy
- Lecture 6 - Democratic Transitions
- Lecture 7 - Democracy or Dictatorship: Does it Matter?
- Lecture 8 - Authoritarian Regimes: Do They Differ? Does it Matter?

Term 2

- Lecture 9 - Electoral Systems
- Lecture 10 - Who Governs?
- Lecture 11 - What is Representation
- Lecture 12 - What are Political Parties? Do They Matter?
- Lecture 13 - How Do We Participate in Politics?
- Lecture 14 - What Do We Vote For in Elections?
- Lecture 15 - How Do We Decide Who to Vote For/Against?
- Lecture 16 - Module Reflections and Revision

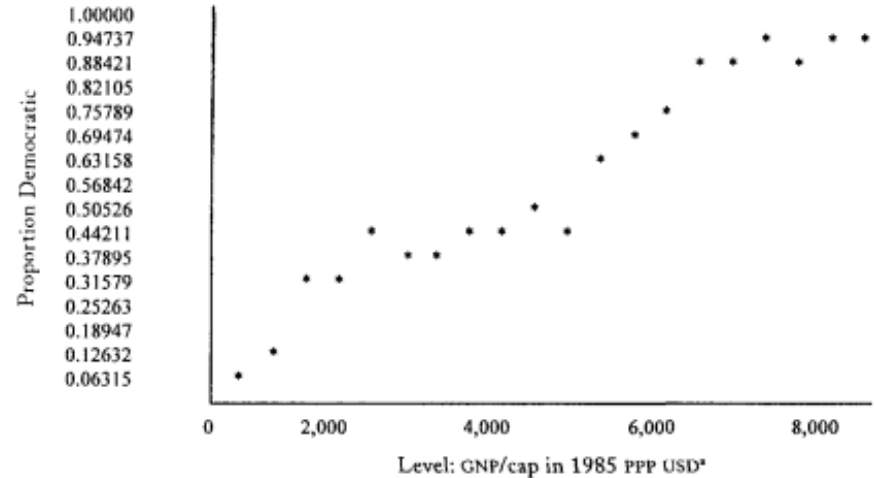
Example Seminar Topic: Modernisation Theory

Seminar Readings

Lipset, Seymour M 1959. Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy. *American Political Science Review* 53(1), 69-105.

Przeworski, Adam & Fernando Limongi 1997. Modernization: Theories and Facts. *World Politics* 49(2), 155-183

Acemoglu, Daron & James Robinson 2018. Beyond Modernization Theory. *Annals of Comparative Democratization* 16(3), 26-31.



Employability and Future Study

Independent Critical Thinking and Research Skills

- Research-led, -based, -oriented and –tutored active learning
- Authentic assessment, including the incorporation or technological advances (e.g., GAI)

SGIA Career Events and Alumni Network

- Regular career events with recent alumni from our network

Student Exchange and Placement Year

- Additional year of study after second year at reduced tuition
- European or International Exchanges
 - Turning Scheme (12 partners and growing)
 - DU Global Exchanges (partners across 5 continents)
- Minimum 40 weeks of work placements
 - Source your own or pick from the 5 existing (growing) options



What can I do with a SGIA degree?

- Durham University ranked 65th globally in Employer Reputation according to the QS World University rankings (2025)
- 4th in the UK for Politics Graduates Prospects (Complete University Guide 2026)
- 95% in paid employment or further study after 15 months (HESA Graduate Outcome Survey 2022)
- Civil service
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Local authorities
- Army, navy, air force
- Financial services
- International organisations and non-governmental organisations
- Journalism and broadcasting
- Political research, advising and advocacy
- Further graduate study
- **Anything and everything!!**

A group of four students (three women and one man) are standing on a stone path in front of Durham University buildings. The man is wearing a green jacket and black pants. One woman is wearing a pink coat and a colorful scarf. Another woman is wearing a red jacket and blue jeans. The fourth woman is wearing a white puffer jacket and white pants. In the background, there are brick buildings, trees with autumn foliage, and a tall church tower under a clear blue sky.

The Durham/SGIA Student Experience



Hello!

- BA Politics and International Relations
- The student experience
- Societies and sports
- Part-time work



My favourite things about Durham University:

- Collegiate system
- Sports and societies
- Study spots



John Snow College





Peer-mentoring scheme

What I love
about...

SGIA

(School of Government
and International Affairs)



Podcasts available on Spotify
and Apple Podcasts

What are Your Questions for Us?



Listen and Follow "Politics in the Rearview Mirror"

Our weekly podcast during term time, that looks at the politics behind the news.



School of Government and International Affairs



Spotify



Apple Podcast

Learn more about the breath and depth of our academic's expertise!

For More Information...

...visit our website



...or follow us on social media



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School of
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International
Affairs – Durham
University

For any questions not answered today please email
politics.department@durham.ac.uk