WHY TAKE HONOURS?

The fourth year Honours program provides an opportunity to study Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) in both greater depth and greater scope than is possible in earlier undergraduate years. It is a demanding but varied and, we hope, rewarding course of study. The program is designed to develop an enhanced knowledge base in the discipline of PSIR, together with analytical and research skills appropriate to advanced study. An Honours degree (or its equivalent) is essential for postgraduate research.

Political Science and International Relations Honours is academically rather than vocationally oriented, yet many students have found this degree to be useful in their subsequent careers. Employers are increasingly aware that an Honours degree signifies a higher level of attainment than an ordinary three-year degree. For those of our recent graduates who have gone to work for commonwealth and state public services, parliament or members of parliament, non-governmental organizations, public relations agencies and media organizations, the degree has proven of direct vocational use.

ELIGIBILITY

Students may apply to enrol in a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at the completion of Level 2/3 or within seven years of completing their BA pass degree. Note that it is Faculty policy that students must have completed all the requirements for the BA pass degree before they can be admitted to honours.

To be eligible for Honours students are required to (i) complete a major sequence in Political Science and International Relations, (ii) achieve 65 percent or above in units comprising half the pass degree (usually 72 points), and (iii) achieve 70 percent or above, on average, in Political Science and International Relations units comprising 36 points at Level 2/3. Students who fall slightly short of these requirements may discuss their results with the Honours Coordinator to see if a special case can be made.

HOW TO APPLY

Prior to applying, you should consult the Faculty of Arts Honours policy: http://www.arts.uwa.edu.au/students/policies/honours and for further information see http://www.ss.arts.uwa.edu.au/courses/undergrad/honours/pol-sci

Applications for End-On Honours are completed through:
• Existing UWA students: Student Connect http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome/student_connect
• Non-UWA students: OASys https://applicant.sims.uwa.edu.au/connect/webconnect

Applications for Semester 1, 2014 commencement open online on 14 October and close on 23 January 2015

If you would like further information, or to make an appointment with the Honours Coordinator (Asst/Prof. David Mickler) please email david.mickler@uwa.edu.au. Alternatively contact the School of Social Sciences office on 6488 7249 or ss@uwa.edu.au.

WHAT DOES THE HONOURS PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

PSIR Honours is a self-contained fourth-year of full-time study (or its part-time equivalent) consisting of:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Credit points per unit</th>
<th>Total credit points (48)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar units</td>
<td>6 points each (x 4)</td>
<td>24 (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>12 points per semester (x 2)</td>
<td>24 (50%)</td>
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Students can commence Honours at the start of either Semester 1 or 2 (most commence in Sem 1). An appropriate program of study can also be devised, in discussion with the Honours Coordinator, for combining PSIR Honours with Honours in other disciplines: this includes joint Honours (comprising approx. 24 points each in PSIR and in another discipline) or cognate studies (e.g. 36 points in PSIR and 12 points in another discipline). Students enrolled in Honours in another discipline can also enrol in cognate studies in PSIR.

THE SEMINARS

The four Honours seminars are designed to survey major fields of study and key debates and issues within PSIR. The objective is to develop a more complete grasp of the discipline than is normally acquired in a pass degree. The seminar groups will meet for a two-hour seminar per week each semester. Detailed guides to seminar content and assessment will be available at the information session held in the first week of the relevant semester.

FIRST SEMESTER

There will be two seminars, each of 6 weeks’ duration (back-to-back), on:

**Political Theory and Public Policy (POLS4104): Weeks 2-7**

This unit is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of key issues in contemporary political theory and public policy. The range of topics may vary from year to year, but half the unit will deal with issues in political theory (such as free speech) and the other half will cover aspects of public policy (such as public sector decision making). The aim of the unit is to provide all honours students in Political Science and International Relations with knowledge of core issues in contemporary political theory and public policy.

**Political Institutions and Behaviour (POLS4103): Weeks 8-13**

This unit is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of key issues in the study of contemporary political institutions and behaviour. The range of topics may vary from year to year, but half the unit will deal with issues in political institutions (such as constitutional design and legislatures) and the other half will cover aspects of political behaviour (such as electoral volatility and voting behaviour). The aim of the unit is to provide all honours students in Political Science and International Relations with knowledge of core issues in the study of contemporary political institutions and behaviour.

SECOND SEMESTER

**Theory and Ideas in International Relations (POLS4102): Weeks 2-7**

This unit is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of key issues in international relations theory. The range of topics may vary from year to year, but the unit will introduce students to a range of theories of international relations, both historical and contemporary. The aim of the unit is to provide all honours students in Political Science and International Relations with knowledge of core issues in international relations theory.

**Contemporary International Politics (POLS4101): Weeks 8-13**

This unit is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of topical issues in contemporary international relations politics. The range of topics may vary from year to year, but the unit will focus on a diversity of current issues in international politics. The aim of the unit is to provide all honours students in Political Science and International Relations with knowledge of a series of issues that define the nature of the contemporary international system.

**The Dissertation (POLS4140 Dissertation 1; POLS4141 Dissertation 2)**

The 12,000 word dissertation may be on any topic which the student chooses, subject to the approval of the Discipline Honours Coordinator. Selection of a topic normally occurs in the first few weeks of the program, with the assistance of staff. Students have a supervisor to advise on the design of the research and provide ongoing support. During first semester, students work under the guidance of their supervisor on a research proposal, literature review, and a workshop presentation at the end of semester.

**Dissertation Research Seminars**: A series of additional seminars is provided in first semester to support the dissertation component of the program.