



UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON  
INSTITUTE  
IN PARIS

# Course Outline

## BA in French Studies (single honours or with minors)

### 2025–2026

[london.ac.uk/institute-paris](https://london.ac.uk/institute-paris)

The BA in French Studies programme is available in four versions:

- **French Studies (UCAS R110)**
- **French Studies with History (UCAS Code RV10)**
- **French Studies with International Relations (UCAS Code R1L2)**
- **French Studies with Business (UCAS Code R11N)**

The French Studies modules are listed below. The module information for the minor subjects are listed on page 12 onwards.

## **BA in French Studies**

Students take compulsory Language Courses (prefix ULL-) covering grammar, written and oral expression and translation, as well as a range of Content Courses (prefix ULC-). The C-Courses taken in Year 1 are compulsory, with an increasing choice of subject area in Years 2 and 3.

### **Year 1 – All courses are compulsory**

#### **ULL100 – Written and oral expression – taught and assessed in French**

Students have a total of 4 hours per week on language (3h written work and 1 hour oral work). Oral work focuses on developing students' readiness for employment, with the preparation of French CVs, mock interviews and business pitching exercises. Taught and assessed in French. Class sizes are approximately 15.

#### **ULC170 – Reading Paris: French Culture in Context**

This year-long module introduces students to key cultural, literary, and artistic works that have shaped the image and identity of Paris from the 19th century to the present and asks crucial questions about the changing place of the city as the 'centre' of the francophone world. Beginning with the aftermath of the French Revolution and the transformation of Paris in the 19th century, the course will explore how the city has been represented and re-imagined in response to significant cultural shifts and challenges, both from within the city and without. Students will engage with a range of literary texts, visual sources, and historical contexts, and conduct site visits to Parisian museums and cultural landmarks which provide tangible insights into the artistic and cultural expressions studied in class. Taught and assessed in French.

#### **ULC110 – *Histoire et Histoires*: Social, Political and Cultural Issues: From the Revolution to the Present Day**

Students explore the foundational moments of post-Revolutionary France and the principal tenets of Republicanism, from the social movements on which the Republic was built, to the political structures that consolidated it, to the social forces that made it vulnerable in the face of the rise of extremist political groups in interwar years.

They then explore the need to rebuild France, economically and politically, in the wake of the Second World War, and the effects of the postwar economic boom associated with the difficulties of decolonisation. Taught and assessed in French.



## **ULC160 – Issues in Contemporary French Politics**

This course will introduce students to the ways in which institutions and political practices have developed since the inception of France's Fifth Republic in 1958 and how they, in turn, have been shaped and have responded to the changes affecting post-war French society.

The first part of the course covers some of the major characteristics of contemporary French politics (institutions, the state, party politics). The second part of the course offers a thematic approach by focusing on a selection of social and political questions (immigration, race and ethnicity, gender, religion, environment), and analysing the ways in which they have contributed to shape common understandings about what being French means in the late 20th and early 21st century. Taught and assessed in English.

ULC- modules are taught in a mixed lecture / seminar format: students have a one-hour lecture plus a one-hour small group seminar for each course every week, (15 students) with a class tutor. The courses are assessed through a combination of continual assessment exercises and exams.

## **Year 2**

### **Compulsory Courses**

#### **ULL200 – Advanced Grammar of Written and Spoken French – taught and assessed in French**

Advanced study of grammatical, lexico-linguistic and stylistic aspects of French to improve students' written French and oral competence. Assessment takes place through a series of coursework assignments, oral presentations and a written exam.

#### **ULL210 – Introduction to Translation**

Contrastive study of French and English lexis and syntax through exercises in translation from French to English (taught in English) and from English to French (taught in French). Assessed through a combination of coursework and an end-of-year exam.

#### **ULC2xx - (Re)-Thinking Paris: Urban and Global Francophone Identities (new module subject to validation)**

Building on the first-year module *Reading Paris: French Culture in Context*, this module encourages students to consider more diverse conceptions of Paris, contextualising the city's broader cultural, historical, and global dimensions. It integrates a variety of theoretical perspectives, literary sources, and visual works to study how Paris has been reimagined, critiqued, and contested by diverse voices—both within France and across the francophone world. Questions of memory, identity, and belonging are considered in order to explore how the city functions as both a cultural symbol and a contested space.

## **Electives – Students choose a total of four from the following options.**

### **ULC201 – Introduction to French Linguistics**

This course explores linguistics as an intellectual discipline, taking particular account of the French context and aspects of the French language. The origins of human language, as well as the line of descent of Modern French from Indo-European through Latin, are considered, with particular attention to standardisation processes and linguistic policies affecting the other *langues de France* (Breton, Basque, Occitan, Créole, etc.). The various sociolects and *français régionaux* within France and the wider Francosphere as well as the issues at stake for the French language in a time of linguistic globalisation are examined (taught and assessed in French).

### **ULC204 – History of Sensibilities and Emotions**

This module encourages students to engage with scholarship in English and in French in order to understand emotional experience, expression and practice in the modern era. Focusing on emotion in Western European societies and colonial empires, students will be invited to reflect on how modern understandings of race, gender and the body gave rise to 'emotional regimes', and how communities of sentiment were imagined, maintained and contested by historical actors through diverse cultural practices which constituted different bodies in different ways. The module will provide students with the terminology and methodologies particular to the historical study of emotions, and encourage them to think about the experience and expression of emotions such as love, fear, loneliness and nostalgia in specific historical contexts (taught and assessed in French).

### **ULC212 – Gender and Sexuality**

This course looks at the representation of gender and sexuality in French cultural production of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Students will consider a selection of works representing the place of men and women and the expression of sexuality in society, and discuss themes regarding the changing role of women in particular, in a range of classic and contemporary texts.

It offers students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a range of important modern French-language authors, while developing close reading skills and their capacity to analyse the key themes of gender and sexuality in the texts (taught and assessed in French).

### **ULC213 – Art au XXième siècle**

This course takes a close look at visual art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in France— a period of incredible change and innovation in the artistic world. Students will first examine the origins of modern art at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before closely studying the key Avant-Garde movements of the pre-1945 era: cubism, dada and surrealism.

They will then look at artistic currents emerging on the post-1945 scene: lettrism, *nouveau réalisme* and pop art. The semester ends with a study of photography and, notably, of phototextuality — a form of artistic expression mixing text and photographic image made popular by such artists as Sophie Calle (taught and assessed in French).



## **ULC223 – Text and Image in Mass Culture**

This course will focus on visual and textual interactions in specific artistic forms of the 20th century. It will begin by briefly glancing back in history to early manifestations of text-image interaction via the study of the emblem and caricature. It will then concentrate closely on sequential art (bandes dessinées, graphic novels and manga), examining the evolution and formal specificity of these forms.

This will be followed by a study of visual advertising and propaganda, examining how textual and pictorial elements interact in these media to convey their desired meanings and whether these essentially 20th-century forms may be considered as "art" or "document" (taught and assessed in French).

## **ULC230 – Climate Politics**

The module will provide students with a historical account of the international climate regime, and its evolutions since the 1990s. In particular, it will explore France's particular status and role in the international climate debate, as well as how the climate issue plays out in the French context.

Students will also adopt a 'non-state actor' lens when analysing international climate politics. This will involve identifying a range of non-state actors (NGOs, foundations, think-tanks), and analysing their involvement in the international climate policy space. (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC231 – Politics and Fiction**

This module will provide a broad, introductory overview of classic and contemporary works of literature written in English or in English translation, in which political themes are foregrounded.

Undertaking close, historically contextualised readings of textual extracts, students will analyse and evaluate the relationship between politics and literary text in class discussions, group presentations and written assignments. The module requires no previous background in literary studies. (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC232 – Queer Politics in Contemporary France**

This module offers an introduction to queer theory and politics in modern Francophone literature, culture and film. It reads seminal theoretical writing that emerged from 1990s America (Butler, Sedgwick), alongside French narratives of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s (Guibert), fluid performances of identity (Genet), non-binary experimentation (Garréta), and trans-culture (Ben Jelloun). Because queerness resists dominant forms of belonging, it also intersects with questions of race, class, and power.

Through Foucault's analysis of heteronormative oppression, we consider the politics of queer Maghrebi French writing and film (Taïa), while probing new critical ways to think about intersectionality, trans theory, queer affect, and homonationalism. (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC234 – France, Britain and Empire: Comparative and Connected Histories**

This module examines the French and British colonial Empires in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Taking a comparative and connected approach, the module encourages students to think beyond the nation as a frame of historical analysis, in order to develop a deeper understanding of the transnational and global dimensions of colonial power.

The module examines the contribution of interimperial networks of journalists, scientists and diplomats to articulated discourses of race, gender and civilisation, and compares the dynamics of settler colonialism across empires. The geographical areas examined include Africa, Asia and the South Pacific (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC235 – An Introduction to Global Cinema**

This module examines international films to explore how the formal elements of the cinema language work to create meaning within the context of a variety of cultures. By watching and analysing films from modern and contemporary cinema, we will discuss style and mise en scène in relation to their historical, economic and political context.

Emphasizing postcolonialism, transnationalism and the effects of globalisation on film cultures, the class provides the skills to study film aesthetics, enhance critical thinking and discover the realities of the film market. It shows the crucial cultural and ideological role cinema plays around the world. We will pay particular attention to economic aspects such as film production systems and distribution to deepen our understanding of the globalised film industry (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC236 – Social Movements and Politics of Protests**

From Occupy and the Arab uprisings to Indigenous movements and Black Lives Matter, social movements are central actors of politics at the local and international levels. This seminar focuses on the history, trajectory, actors and impact of contemporary social movements to explore the relationship between power and resistance.

The first part of the seminar provides an introduction to different concepts and theories of social movement studies and will critically relate these approaches to cases of social movements.

The second part of the seminar delves into case studies of contemporary social movements from different regions and political regimes to explore the conditions of protest and the potential for social change (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC237 – French Political Thought**

The module offers an overview of key intellectual figures and texts in French and Francophone political thought from the 18th to the 19th centuries, focussing on the period around the French revolution and its fall-out. Taking a historical approach, the module encourages students to situate ideas within their broader social and discursive context and grasp how these debates shaped the development of a number of contemporary political institutions and concepts. Students will gain an understanding of how and why ideological currents such as liberalism and socialism emerged across this period of crisis as intellectual actors sought to articulate new forms of social organisation. The module will explore the origins of notions like popular sovereignty and representative government, as well as

feminist, racial, and social critiques of (and alternatives to) the liberal state and empire (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULB001 – Fundamentals of Management**

This module introduces students to the purpose, operations and implications of management by exploring the contexts within which management takes place. It is not a “how to do business” module, but a module about the framework for theorising business as well as the environment and contexts in which it operates. Students will reflect on management in relation to the social, economic and legal conditions within which it takes place, as well as reflect on the political, cultural and environmental consequences of modern management. We will discuss how management practices are informed and, in some cases, defined by issues such as: the privatisation of public services, the environmental impact of technological change, the unequal distribution of the world’s resources and the unequal influence of stakeholders on business practices. Setting management in the context of the interrelations of energy, finance, the environment, technological innovation, and changing social, cultural and political structures, students will develop a basic understanding of how effective management must understand the contexts in which it operates (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULB011 – Marketing**

The aims of this module are to provide an introduction to marketing and marketing management, including the main frameworks for understanding how marketing relates to business, consumer research, and managerial practice.

This module explores the foundational concepts and theories of marketing, gives students an overview of marketing activities (strategy, market research, customer behaviour, marketing tools), and introduces students to business marketing, services marketing, and relationship marketing.

Students are encouraged to apply these frameworks to a range of cases and issues during the lectures and seminars. Thus they should be able to appreciate and describe the range of contexts within which marketing currently operates and assess forecasts of the likely changes in direction of marketing practice.

## **Year 3**

### **Compulsory Courses**

#### **ULL300 – Advanced techniques in formal discourse – taught and examined in French**

The course aims to develop the students' linguistic and methodological skills necessary for the production of French formal writing and oral presentations.

Written classes will involve the study and practice of syntactic constructions at work in French formal discourse, as well as linguistic analysis of writing samples, and composition of business letters, reports, summaries, etc.

Oral classes will focus on the development of students' capacity to produce formal oral discourses suitable for academic or professional contexts, based on a range of current affairs topics (examined by continual assessment and examination).

### **ULL311/312 – Advanced translation**

Advanced English-French (taught in French) and French-English (taught in English) translation including a contrastive study of syntax and stylistics (examined by continual assessment and examination). Translation into English focuses on four different areas of translation: business and commercial, journalism, advertising and literature.

### **ULC3xx – Knowing Paris: the ‘Paris Project’ – Portfolio/Research Dissertation (new module subject to validation)**

This research-led module allows students to independently investigate a chosen theme related to Paris, drawing on the knowledge and theoretical tools developed over the previous two years. Students will either write a dissertation or create a research portfolio that incorporates a series of elements—textual, visual, and/or multimedia—centred around a defined theme. Regular workshops will guide students through research methodologies, and peer review sessions will foster collaborative learning.

All students must follow the 15-credit ‘Knowing Paris’ compulsory course, but those wishing to complete a longer, more intensive piece of work may extend this module to a 30-credit option.

### **Electives – Students choose a total of four or five from the following options.**

#### **ULC304 – *Fin de siècle I: Politics and Ideology***

A study of the political and ideological aspects of late nineteenth-century literary culture in France contextualized in terms of the major literary, intellectual, artistic and socio-political developments of the era, including the right-wing reaction against Republican culture and politics, attitudes towards fertility and gender issues, and anarchism (taught and assessed in French).

#### **ULC307 – *La Prose de la ville***

This course will focus on different written experimentations that have sought to relay the particular pace and complexity of modern life in the city.

Beginning with Baudelaire's prose poems and ending with examples of contemporary French writing, it invites students to examine how writers have crafted prose to convey rhythms and encounters specific to the city of Paris.

Questions explored include the disruptive or interruptive nature of urban experience, the stratification of history in the city and the relation between writing and visual material (painting and photography in particular). Students will also be required to produce their own ‘prose de la ville’, in French or in English (taught and assessed in French).



### **ULC310 – Le Républicanisme en France: 1789-1914**

This course aims to capture the legacy of the French Revolution and successive struggles in the period up to 1914, to impose a given interpretation of Republicanism within the broader context of French social and political history.

Students will undertake critical analysis of the events that shaped the French Republican model, and examine the on-going political and historical struggles to impose a given interpretation of what the "Republican" tradition should stand for (ideological principles, particular relationship between past and present, institutional dimension).

### **ULC313 – French Colonialism in North Africa**

Much of the rich diversity of contemporary French society, and many of the political and cultural debates about how to manage this diversity, have emerged from French colonial presence in the Maghreb.

This course will reflect upon the nature of French colonial power in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, in order to understand the operation of empire and its legacy in France and the Maghreb today. Covering topics such as imperial science, settlement and urbanisation, gender and sexuality, journalism and colonial resistance, the course offers a thematic approach to the study of the colonial period, and interrogates its links with 'pre' and 'post' colonial eras.

Students will consider the ways in which historical relationships influenced the nature of decolonisation and post-independence political and cultural exchange (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULC315 -Y2K BD: The fin de millénaire bande dessinée**

We are all familiar with the BD heavy-hitters: Astérix le Gaulois, Tintin, Lucky Luke. But these best-selling, hero-based series bear little resemblance to the artistic production of the modern, adult-directed bande dessinée. The twenty-year period from 1990-2010 revolutionised the sequential art medium in France and Belgium. This course aims to give students a thorough grounding in the historical and cultural contexts of this 'new wave', before progressing to study in depth two of the major trends of fin de millénaire bande dessinée – 'Life Writing in the Bande Dessinée' and 'Memory, trauma and the 9th art'. It will conclude by considering the vogue for adaptation (both from the novel to the drawn strip, and from the strip to the screen) since the end of the 1990s (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULC317 – Variation, Contacts and Ideologies in Contemporary French**

Drawing on material covered in year 2, the course will elaborate on linguistic variation in modern French by exploring the *argot*, the *céfran*, loanwords, and speech practices associated with gender. Finally students will have the opportunity to reflect on the cognitive processes they go through as learners of French, through the study of Second Language Acquisition (taught and assessed in French).

### **ULC318 French Society Through Musical Films**

Taught and assessed in French, this module examines French musical films, exploring their capacity to represent the socio-political issues of France from the 1930's until today.



It starts with *A nous la liberté* (1931) by René Clair, which influenced Chaplin's *Modern Times* (1936) and displays the working-class world. Jacques Demy's *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* (1964) tackles decolonisation and the modernisation of French society in the

1960s. Agnès Varda and Chantal Akerman's films document the challenges of European feminism in the 1970's and 1980's. In the contemporary period, we reflect on queer filmmakers (Christophe Honoré, Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau) who provide unique representations of AIDS and reveal the new visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in the francophone world. The module ends with Hollywood film *La La Land* (2016) and how Damien Chazelle uses characteristics of French musical film within the American ideological framework (taught and assessed in French).

### **ULC326 – Trauma and Transmission: Holocaust Afterlives**

This course is divided into two halves. The first half focuses on the artistic and literary production that followed immediately in the wake of the Second World War bearing witness to the realities of the concentration camps, either as they were directly lived or mediated through contact with victims. This material is profoundly marked by the traumatic nature of these years and in many respects it fell on “deaf ears” when it was first produced, too disturbing, too distressing to reach wide audiences. The second part of the course will deal with the time lag thus generated in the reception of Holocaust testimony and the questions about transmission that this raises. Focusing on film as a “popular” medium for transmission of history and culture, the class will consider both the chronology of these works and their different narrative and filmic strategies for conveying what is now “part of human history,” with particular attention to the modes of distancing or of re-contextualising deployed by the film-makers.

### **ULC333 - Postcolonial Fictions in the City of Paris**

How has fictional writing served as a vehicle for the representation and processing of France's complex colonial legacy? To what extent has fiction enabled the surfacing of unacknowledged or contested events within the city of Paris, and how has the city served as an active component in the telling of this history, emerging in these texts and films as more than a mere backdrop to 'politics' and/or 'immigrants'? This course addresses these questions through fictional readings and site-based study. Three main forms of fiction have been chosen, which will be associated primarily with three sites, though the resonance of these books will work across all of the sites explored: crime fiction and *The Palais dorée*; postcolonial novels of neighbourhood life and *the Goutte d'Or*; women's cinema of the 'banlieue' and the town of Bobigny (Seine-Saint Denis). (taught and assessed in English)

### **ULC334 - Contemporary Theory 1: Critique**

Critical theory can be thought of as a philosophical mode of reflecting on the forms of power that structure our daily lives. From our embodied subjectivity and the institutional ways in which we are policed, to understanding what makes us human and the ethics of engaging with the other, this course offers an introduction to seminal thinkers across twentieth century thought who have helped shape the politics of identity, agency, power, and belonging.

The course will explore five key concepts in contemporary theory – identity and gender politics (Butler, Spivak), power and policing (Foucault, Rancière), biopolitics (Foucault, Mbembe), self/other (Derrida, Khatibi, Badiou), the human and posthuman (Braidotti,

Harraway) – in order to navigate the tension between how we live now and how we might live differently.

Central to these wide-ranging ideas are questions around how the individual operates in the collective space they inhabit. How does the lived experience of Paris as a host city contribute to theoretical questions of belonging or alienation? What forms of (dis)empowerment are made possible by the multicultural city? How can we conceptualise the ethics and emotions of each encounter, and what lasting legacy might they leave on the body? (taught and assessed in English)

### **ULC335 - Contemporary Theory 2: Crisis**

Critical theorists have long argued that capitalism tends towards 'crisis' but since the 2008 Financial Crash this vocabulary has become more widespread in relation to a range of issues such as climate change, migration and the rise of neofascist politics.

Taking a step back and considering the term's analytical qualities, this module asks how crisis helps illuminate the unprecedented challenges of 21st century politics and examines different critical-theoretical approaches to manifestations of contemporary crisis.

Crises occur when social formations can no longer be reproduced on the basis of pre-existing governing strategies and systems of social relations. Any given crisis means there is a systemic instability that can only be addressed through radical measures from various actors. This means that as well as studying authoritarian turns within liberal states, including emerging and ongoing forms of policing and racialisation, we will also look at the less familiar, sometimes improvisatory, forms of resistance pursued by subaltern peoples and social movements in turbulent times (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULC336 – Contemporary Theory 3: Thinking the Anthropocene**

The ecological crisis is an epoch-making phenomenon, whose history is rooted in Western modernity and whose negative consequences affect all regions of the world and all strata of society, albeit in different ways. The aims of this module are to enable students to deepen their understanding of key issues and debates in contemporary political ecology, to enable them to identify and account for new forms of environmental movements, and to produce written and/or oral analyses that can offer convincing explanations and insights into contemporary ecological crisis (taught and assessed in English).

### **ULC337 – Performing Environmental Justice**

What are the potentially generative roles of performativity, theatricality and rehearsal in decolonial demands for environmental justice? Situated against the backdrop of national and international environmental laws and summits, this module exposes students to a variety of experimental, grassroots initiatives that explore possibilities of environmental justice "from below". The module is centred around a series of case studies that include people's tribunals and rights of nature tribunals, theatre and performance works including staged hearings, films, exhibitions and protests. We engage in a close reading of a range of forums and assemblies, each blurring lines between "fiction" and "reality", that contest existing political and legal frameworks and offer speculative propositions for alternative manners of understanding and enacting environmental justice (taught and assessed in English).

## **ULC338 - The Worldmaking of Objects : A Political Economy of International Trade**

This course is about thinking the global from the point of view of objects and tracing the worldmaking they do through the human and non-human assemblages their trajectories create. This tight focus on objects will be our point of entry into thinking international trade, its histories and differential effects across various places, the inequalities, foreclosures and unexpected openings and entanglements it has produced. We will start by exploring what makes an object a commodity before tackling its various modes of circulation and ways of thinking about and representing the territories it traverses, the transfers, translations and transformations it operates. We will simultaneously practice different ways of narrating these worldmaking operations of objects, through ethnographic and mapping techniques (taught and assessed in English).



# Minors in History, International Relations and Business

For these programmes, students are required to take French Language Courses (prefix ULL) covering grammar, written and oral expression and translation, as well as a range of French Studies Content Courses (prefix ULC-) described in the previous section. Students must also take 30 credits of their chosen Minor subject in each year of study.

## BA French Studies with History

### Year 1

Students take all the First-year BA French Studies modules, including ULC110 *Histoire et Histoires: Social, Political and Cultural Issues: From the Revolution to the Present Day*.

### Year 2

Students take all French language courses, the compulsory ULC2xx course, two ULC- courses from the list of second-year French Studies electives and two of the following history modules:

- **ULC204 History of Sensibilities and Emotions**
- **ULC234 France, Britain and Empire: Comparative and Connected Histories**
- **ULC237 French Political Thought**

### Year 3

Students take all French language courses, the compulsory ULC3xx course and four or five ULC- courses from the list of third-year French Studies electives, including at least two of the following designated 'History' modules.

- **ULC304 *Fin de siècle I: Politics and Ideology***
- **ULC310 *Le Republicanisme en France: 1789-1914***
- **ULC313 French Colonialism in North Africa**

# BA French Studies with International Relations

## Year 1

Students take the ULL100 language courses, ULC170 (Reading Paris: French Culture in Context)), a choice of either ULC110 (Histoire et Histoires) or ULC160 (Contemporary French Politics), and the following international relations module taught in English:

### **POLP101 – Doing International Politics (1): Theories & Actors**

This module challenges the notion that politics in general, and theory in particular, are passive pursuits. This module explores the practical underpinnings of both theory and politics.

You will study some of the principal explanatory theories of politics and international relations and you will learn how many of the core sources of division in modern politics - such as race, nation, class, gender and more - can be better understood with reference to important theoretical innovations in the social sciences.

POLP101 lays the conceptual groundwork for the degree in 'international politics' by encouraging students to be engaged and think critically about both the 'global' and the 'political' from the get-go

This module aims to make all students aware of their own position as active participants in international politics both in Paris and beyond.

## Year 2

Students take all French language courses, the compulsory ULC2xx course, two ULC-courses from the list of second-year French Studies electives and the following international relations module taught in English:

### **POLP201 – Doing International Politics (2): Methods**

This module is an introduction to understanding the uses and functions of methods in doing international politics research. Many social and political scientists critiqued idealism, laying the foundations for modern distrust of actors' own explanations for their behaviour. More recent theorists remained suspicious of 'biographical illusions'. This module will introduce these debates by asking what we can and cannot learn from people giving an account of themselves. It will begin with the study of how various actors give accounts of themselves (activists, diplomats, lawyers, migrants), with further case studies in semester B, culminating in a series of sessions on racial capitalism and the reinvention of (auto/)biographical methods by actors and theorists within the Black Radical Tradition (Cedric Robinson).

In the course students will be invited to make connections between international political actors and themselves as actors. We will also consider how artistic forms of 'representation' can help us understand different approaches to representing political actors and events. The course returns to a central question for political studies – the (in)significance of actors' own explanations for their actions – with a focus on how this issue affects methods of doing international politics research.

## Year 3

Students take all French language courses, the compulsory ULC3xx course, two or three ULC- courses from the list of third-year French Studies electives and the following international relations module taught in English:

### **POLP301 – Doing International Politics (3) – Practices**

Many narratives of nationalist movements claim each nation-state as a unique formation, and yet the methods they use to encourage the loyalty of their populations are everywhere so similar.

This module works through this paradox from an international political perspective.

It will enable you to understand and explain the emergence of the nation-state form and its dramatic extension to the world. Topics include comparative nationalist music; mimetic diasporic nationalisms; similarities and differences between African, Asian and Latin American decolonisations; and differing global responses to the French Revolution.

## BA French Studies with Business

### Year 1

Students take the ULL100 language courses, ULC170 (Reading Paris: French Culture in Context)), a choice of either ULC110 (Histoire et Histoires) or ULC160 (Contemporary French Politics), and the following two business modules taught in English:

### **ULB001 – Fundamentals of Management**

This module introduces students to the purpose, operations and implications of management by exploring the contexts within which management takes place. The module will explore the framework for theorising business as well as the environment and contexts in which it operates.

We will reflect on management in relation to social, economic and legal conditions, as well as reflect on the political, cultural and environmental consequences of modern management.

We will discuss how management practices are informed and defined by issues such as the privatisation of public services, the environmental impact of technological change, the unequal distribution of the world's resources and the unequal influence of stakeholders on business practices.

Setting management in the context of the interrelations of energy, finance, the environment, technological innovation, and changing social, cultural and political structures, we will begin to see that to be effective management must understand the contexts in which it operates.

### **ULB011 – Marketing**

The aims of this module are to provide an introduction to marketing and marketing management, including the main frameworks for understanding how marketing relates to business, consumer research, and managerial practice.

This module explores the foundational concepts and theories of marketing, gives students an overview of marketing activities (strategy, market research, customer behaviour, marketing tools), and introduces students to business marketing, services marketing, and relationship marketing.

Students are encouraged to apply these frameworks to a range of cases and issues during the lectures and seminars. Thus they should be able to appreciate and describe the range of contexts within which marketing currently operates and assess forecasts of the likely changes in direction of marketing practice.

## **Year 2**

Students take all French language courses the compulsory ULC2xx course, two ULC-courses from the list of second-year French Studies electives and the following business modules taught in English:

### **ULB017 – Economics for business**

This module explains how firms, consumers and government interact in markets and how business decision-making is shaped by internal factors such as costs and by external market conditions. The unit examines the main concepts of economic theory and explores the importance of these within a business context, with emphasis on the applicability of economic theory to an understanding of the internal dynamics of business organisations.

### **ULB244 – European Business Contexts**

This module will explore aspects of the European political, economic, social and cultural context that are relevant for managers doing business in Europe. It will begin with an introduction to Europe's institutional framework, and the history of European integration. It will then introduce students to key features of Europe's business environment such as the Single European Market, competition policy, labour policy and monetary union. Case studies will explore these trends in particular industries such as transport, energy and high tech. Students will also be engaged in discussions over Europe's place in the world and future structural changes.

## **Year 3**

Students take all French language courses, the compulsory ULC3xx course, two or three ULC-courses from the list of third-year French Studies electives and the following two business modules taught in English:

### **ULB138 – Financial Accounting**

This course introduces you to and explores the purpose, nature and operation of the Financial Accounting function within businesses, particularly limited liability companies in the UK.

It reveals, illustrates and explores how the financial accounting systems operate when tasked with measuring and recording the financial value of the transactions, events and activities of a business. In so doing, it examines the nature and scope of financial accounting and the underlying conceptual framework of accounting conventions and standards.

### **ULB300 – Introduction to Entrepreneurship**

Entrepreneurs and their innovative ideas hold the power to change the way we live and work. They create new wealth and jobs. However, most entrepreneurs fail due to a lack of knowledge and the right skills. This module examines the main theories and processes, and provides practical knowledge to the students to become entrepreneurs in the future.

The course integrates the theory and its practical implementation to equip students with the knowledge to start and run an entrepreneurial venture. The module will cover the topics of the Entrepreneurial Process, Opportunity Recognition, Building the Founding Team, the Business Planning Process and Raising Money.

*Course information is correct at time of printing (April 2025)  
Options may vary from year to year and are subject to availability.*