


PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION	
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1	Awarding Institution	Newcastle University
2	Teaching Institution	Newcastle University
3	Final Award	MA
4	Programme Title	International Politics (Critical Geopolitics)
5	UCAS/Programme Code	4088 F/P
6	Programme Accreditation	N/A
7	QAA Subject Benchmark(s)	N/A
8	FHEQ Level	Level 7
9	Date written/revised	July 2021

10	Programme Aims
1	To offer a research environment in which students can learn about Critical Geopolitics from knowledgeable staff, their own study, and interaction with other students
2	To equip students with the conceptual and analytical skills needed to achieve an advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary critical geopolitics
3	To develop students' skills in undertaking and completing self-designed research papers and dissertations
4	To provide a conversion course for students whose undergraduate degree is not in critical geopolitics or which did not include a significant component of critical geopolitics
5	To produce graduates who, if suitably qualified, will be capable of embarking upon research degrees in critical geopolitics studies
6	To produce graduates capable of successfully pursuing careers in government agencies, business, the media and other areas where an advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary critical geopolitics is needed or desirable
7	To meet the needs of stakeholders
8	To provide a programme which meets the FHEQ requirements at Masters level 7
9	To comply with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice

11	Learning Outcomes
<p>The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. Critical Geopolitics; international relations theory; social science methods and methodologies; international and regional studies politics topics; human geography; independent learning; cooperative group work; individual presentations skills.</p>	
Knowledge and Understanding	
<p>On completing the programme students should:</p>	
A1	Have an advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary critical geopolitics
A2	Have knowledge of the more important approaches and methods in social science research and of the techniques required to carry out advanced research
A3	Have a foundation of specialist knowledge and research skills from which they can embark upon careers with significant international dimensions or pursue a postgraduate research degree in critical geopolitics studies

A4 Have the theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to successfully complete an MA dissertation
Teaching and Learning Methods
The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is seminars (A1-A4). Throughout the MA programme students are strongly encouraged to engage in independent reading for which they are given extensive support and guidance on reading materials and their appropriate use. Students are strongly supported by staff in their completion of self-designed research projects.
Assessment Strategy
Knowledge and understanding are primarily assessed by research projects which are designed to assess theoretical and conceptual understanding and the capacity of students to relate knowledge through case studies and other empirically focused projects (A1-A4).
Intellectual Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> B1 Synthesise information from a variety of primary and secondary sources B2 Analyse, evaluate and interpret the principal source materials for critical geopolitics B3 Plan, conduct and communicate research through research papers B4 Understand the theoretical basis of international studies and human geography research.
Teaching and Learning Methods
Cognitive skills are developed through seminars (B1-B2), research projects (B2-B3, B4) and supervision of research projects and dissertations (B3). Students are encouraged to develop cognitive skills through analysis of case studies (B1), independent reading and designing research projects (B2-B4).
Assessment Strategy
Intellectual skills are examined through research papers and the MA dissertation (B1-B4).
Practical Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C1 Critically evaluate key arguments in critical geopolitics C2 Critically evaluate the most important texts and themes in critical geopolitics C3 Present a reasoned and informed position both in writing and in spoken presentations C4 Identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate scholarly and other materials relevant to critical geopolitics
Teaching and Learning Methods
Critical skills are developed through independent reading and encouraging active participation individually and in groups in seminar settings (C1-C3). Formal spoken presentations (C3) and written research projects (C1-C4) are informed by appropriate materials in critical geopolitics some of which references are provided to students and others of which students have to locate.

Assessment Strategy
Practical skills are assessed through research projects (C1-C4).
Transferable/Key Skills
On completing the programme students should be able to: D1 Take responsibility for his/her own learning and personal professional development D2 Manage time and prioritise tasks by working to deadlines D3 Communicate effectively to others when working in seminar group settings. D4 Make effective use of appropriate resources including journals and other online materials
Teaching and Learning Methods
Student self learning and time and task management is encouraged in weekly seminars and one on one research supervision sessions (D1-D2). Communication is practiced in weekly seminars (D3). Students are directed to appropriate journals and provided information concerning appropriate internet usage (D4).
Assessment Strategy
Self-learning is assessed in the context of the timely submission of research projects (D1-D2). Effective use of electronic resources is assessed in the context of their analysis and correct presentation in research projects (D4).

12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features
Basic structure of the programme
One year full time or two years part time. 180 credits (120 coursework, 60 dissertation) 100 credits compulsory (2 x 20 credit modules and 1 x 60 credit dissertation), 80 optional credits
Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)
Rigorous compulsory training in Critical Geopolitics.
Programme regulations (link to on-line version)
4088 Programme Regulations 23-24

13 Support for Student Learning
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. Generic Information

14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning
Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link. Generic Information

Accreditaton reports

N/A

Additional mechanisms

N/A

16 Regulation of assessment

Generic information regarding University provision is available at the following link.

[Generic Information](#)

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/>)

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs/>)

The Degree Programme Handbook

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en>).