

**PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	MA
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	World Politics and Popular Culture
<b>5</b>	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	4109 F/P
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	N/A
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 7
<b>9</b>	<b>Date written/revised</b>	July 2021

**10 Programme Aims**

- 1** To offer a research environment in which students can learn about World Politics and Popular Culture 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 world politics and popular culture
- 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 world politics and popular culture or which did not include a significant component of world politics and popular culture
- 5** To produce graduates who, if suitably qualified, will be capable of embarking upon research degrees in World Politics and Popular Culture 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 world politics and popular culture is needed or desirable
- 7** To meet the needs of stakeholders
- 8** To provide a programme which meets the FHEQs required at level 7
- 9** To provide a programme that conforms to University policies and to QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualification

**11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas. world politics and popular culture; international relations theory; media theory and practice; social science methods and methodologies; methods and methodologies appropriate to the study of culture; international and regional studies politics topics; independent learning; cooperative group work; individual presentations skills

**Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should:

**A1** Have an advanced knowledge and understanding of contemporary World Politics and Popular Culture

<b>A2</b>	Have a critical understanding of the more important approaches and methods in social science and in cultural studies research and of the techniques required to carry out advanced research
<b>A3</b>	On the basis of exposure to research practices and experience, to develop 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 World Politics and Popular Culture studies
<b>A4</b>	Critically evaluate the theoretical bases of world politics and of popular culture research.

#### **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 based on topics selected in consultation with their module leaders.

#### **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:

<b>B1</b>	Synthesise information from a variety of primary and secondary sources
<b>B2</b>	Analyse, evaluate and interpret the principal source materials for world politics and popular culture
<b>B3</b>	Plan, conduct and communicate research through examinations and research papers
<b>B4</b>	have the theoretical and practical skills that will enable them to successfully complete an MA dissertation.

#### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Cognitive skills are developed through seminars (B1-B2), research projects (B2-B3, B4) and through working with the supervisors of their 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:

<b>C1</b>	Critically evaluate key arguments in world politics and popular culture
<b>C2</b>	Critically evaluate the most important texts and themes in world politics and popular culture
<b>C3</b>	Present a reasoned and informed position both in writing and in spoken presentations
<b>C4</b>	Identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate paper, visual, sound, electronic, and other materials relevant to world politics and popular culture

#### **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 world politics and

popular culture 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 World Politics and Popular Culture

#### **Programme regulations (link to on-line version)**

[4109 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](#)

*Accreditation 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.