

Welcome to Politics and International Relations at Brunel

Discover Brunel

Congratulations on securing your place at Brunel

We're looking forward to meeting you - either in person or online - and introducing you to life at Brunel.

To help us get started, we've put together a short activity and some further information to help you prepare for your course - including useful resources.

If you have any questions please email cbass-tpo-gask@brunel.ac.uk.

Pre-arrival activity

We'd like you to complete a short activity before you join us. We can discuss your answers in one of your first personal tutor sessions. Your work will not be officially assessed however it will allow your tutor to get to know you better.

For those doing the International Politics degree. Please read the below articles and answer the following question:

- Does Donald Trump deserve to be re-elected?

Harris, J.F., Isenstadt, A. and Lippman, D. (2019) '[Why Trump's path to reelection is totally plausible](#)', *Politico*, 17 December 2019

Karmack, E. (2020) '[Trump's Failed Presidency](#)', *Brookings Institute*. 16 March 2020, available at:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/03/16/trumps-failed-presidency/>

Firey. T.A. (2020) '[About that Trump Economy](#)', *Cato Institute*, 22 June 2020

For those doing degrees in either Politics or Politics and Sociology or Politics and History. Please read the below articles and answer the following question:

- Is no trade deal with the EU a bad deal?

Collins, D. (2018) '[Why a no-deal Brexit is nothing to fear](#)', *Spectator*, 4 August 2018

Dunt, I. (2020) '[Brexit 2020: Everything you need to know about Boris Johnson's trade deal nightmare](#)', *Politics.co.uk*, 23 January 2020)

Reading list

The following material provides a broad introduction into the study of Politics and Political Science and discusses themes which will be covered throughout your time at Brunel.

- Heywood, Andrew. 2019. *Politics*. Abingdon: Red Globe Press, 5th Edition.

Themes Reading

- What is Politics? chapter 1
- The Role of Ideologies, chapter 2
- Democracy Heywood, 4 & 5
- Nationalism and Populism, chapter 6
- Globalisation, chapter 7
- Politics and Identity, chapter 8
- Politics and Media, chapter 9
- Elections and Voting, chapters 10 & 11
- Governments & Institutions, chapters 14 & 15
- Security, chapter 18
- World Order, chapter 19

International Politics

While there is no single book that covers all of the themes which we will explore in International Politics at Brunel, the following should give you a good foundation:

- Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: Norton (4th Edition).

Note: there are two versions of this book: a US-version, and an “international student” version. They are fundamentally the same book, except some of the pictures are different.

Theme Content

- Foundations of world politics, chapter 1
- Understanding the international system, chapter 2
- Why do we have war? chapters 3-6
- International political economy Frieden, 7-10
- Human rights Frieden, 12
- Environment Frieden, 13
- The rise of China Frieden, 14

You might also find it useful to listen to select freely-available podcasts, which discuss current events pertinent to national and international politics.

Such podcasts include:

- ‘[The Intelligence](#)’ by The Economist
- ‘[The Daily](#)’ by the New York Times
- ‘[Global News Podcast](#)’ by the BBC World Service

We look forward to meeting you in Welcome Week (Monday 21 – Friday 25 September).

Politics and International Relations Team

Find out more about Welcome Week
brunel.ac.uk/welcome-week



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