

LSE100 SUMMER COURSE

8th-26th JULY 2019

THE LSE100 COURSE

LSE100 is LSE's flagship interdisciplinary course for undergraduate students. It is designed to broaden and deepen students' engagement with social scientific analysis by using pressing social issues as case studies to explore the ways different theories, methods and evidence can shape our understanding of events and phenomena.

In the LSE100 Summer Course, students will engage with three contemporary social issues from a range of social scientific perspectives. In this three-week course, students address one issue per week, receiving lectures from LSE100 academics, alongside seminars, trips and events designed to stimulate critical thinking about the topic.

Each issue is approached through a fundamental question. This year, the questions for each week are:

- 1: **Markets:** "Should markets be constrained or unleashed?"
- 2: **Security:** "Is there a path to global security?"
- 3: **The political future of the West:** "Is Western democracy in crisis?"

The course takes place from 8th-26th July 2019, and is based in the LSE LIFE centre at the heart of the LSE campus in Central London.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through a combination of lectures, classes, specialized skills workshops and field trips, you will immerse yourself in LSE's rich tradition of social scientific inquiry.

The principal learning outcomes of this summer programme fall in three areas: methodological skills, information skills and communication skills. Upon successful completion of the programme, you will have developed your ability to:

- Evaluate and interpret evidence of different types,
- Analyse contemporary social problems using theoretical perspectives from more than one social science discipline,
- Construct coherent and persuasive arguments – both orally and in writing – on current issues in the social sciences, structuring the arguments logically and supporting them with relevant evidence.
- Plan and deliver engaging and well-argued presentations that coherently address both question and audience.

WEEK 1: SHOULD MARKETS BE CONSTRAINED OR UNLEASHED?

MONDAY 8 th July	TUESDAY 9 th July	WEDNESDAY 10 th July	THURSDAY 11 th July	FRIDAY 12 th July
Welcome & Tour of LSE 10:00-11:30	LSE100 Lecture: Markets and regulation 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: The Social Life of Markets 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Moral limits of the market 10:00-11:00	Essay Writing 10:00-11:30
LSE100 Lecture: Are markets efficient? 12:00-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Who benefits from markets? 11:30-1:00	Diamonds in London: Exploring the diamond market. 11:30-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Ethical dimensions of markets 11:30-1:00	Historical Tour of the Financial District 12:30-2:30
LSE100 Seminar: Should we protect 'irrational' individuals? 2:00-3:30	Workshop: Argumentative Writing 2:00-3:30	Essay Preparation: Free time to research and plan	Essay Preparation: Feedback and guidance from teachers 2:00-3:30	

Timetables are for indicative purposes and are subject to change.

Whose interests are furthered by economic globalisation and neoliberal ideologies? Does the promotion of free markets unequivocally increase social welfare?

Advocates of free markets extol the virtues of efficient resource allocation – but does efficiency translate into a fair or equitable distribution? Who should be responsible for managing markets, and what kinds of judgments are exercised in doing so? In addition to reviewing some foundational economic theory, we will explore the social, cultural and ethical dimensions of markets, and the implications for analysing and intervening in them. We will consider the case for government intervention and the role of regulation, as well as the pitfalls of relying on the state to serve as a neutral arbiter of resource allocation. We will also consider the morality of markets: should there be limits on what can be commoditised for ethical reasons, and if so, how should these be determined?

This week, students will ask if it is time to restore economics to its traditional place as political economy, recognising that economic analysis and policy cannot be separated from the political, social and cultural contexts within which it is applied. Conceptually, this approach foregrounds the relational impacts inherent in all economic transactions. What role remains, then, for economic theory and modelling?

Key concepts

- Rational actor models
- Market efficiency
- Embeddedness and relationality
- Managing market failure
- Contested concepts of economic freedom
- Reflective equilibrium

Key skills

- Academic writing
- Debating

WEEK 2: IS THERE A PATH TO GLOBAL SECURITY?

MONDAY 15 th July	TUESDAY 16 th July	WEDNESDAY 17 th July	THURSDAY 18 th July	FRIDAY 19 th July
LSE100 Lecture: Human Security 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Game Theory and Security 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Private Military and Security Companies 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: International Intervention 10:00-11:00	Negotiation: Opening Statements and Debate 10:00-11:00
LSE100 Seminar: When is intervention justified? 12:00-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Is conflict inevitable? 11:30-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Who are the other players in the game? 11:30-1:00	Negotiation Preparation 11:30-1:00 2:00-3:30	Negotiation: Working Groups 11:30-1:00
Workshop: International Negotiations 2:00-3:30	Workshop: Negotiating Skills 2:00-3:30	Trip to the Tower of London 2:00-4:00	Essay Feedback One-to-Ones (Parallel Session) 11:30-1:00 2:00-3:30	Negotiation: Resolution and Debrief 2:00-3:30

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A huge amount of resources, time and effort are dedicated to keeping us safe and secure. Yet as any news bulletin shows, these efforts are often unsuccessful. Peace and security seem to be natural goals that should motivate all states and parties to join together in collective action, but security alliances prove hard to mobilise and maintain.

This week explores the questions of why these efforts so often fail, why consensus and cooperation in the international sphere is so hard to achieve, and what leaves us vulnerable to security threats. Are there ways to combat and overcome these challenges? What role can social scientists play in helping us converge on global security? Who is included and excluded in current ideas of security? How have those ideas of security shifted?

The week is capped off with a simulated negotiation, in which each student will take on the role of a diplomat or lobbyist at a simulated United Nations Security Meeting, called to address a security threat. Students write and deliver an opening statement, and engage in negotiations towards a mutually-agreeable resolution, experiencing first-hand the challenges involved in creating consensus in contentious territory.

Key concepts

- Collective security and global conflict
- Human Security
- Deterrence
- Public goods and collective action
- Game theory and Nash Equilibria
- Sources of power
- Negotiation theory and practice

Key skills

- Negotiation
- Argumentation
- Consensus building

WEEK 3: IS WESTERN DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS?

MONDAY 21 st July	TUESDAY 22 nd July	WEDNESDAY 23 rd July	THURSDAY 24 th July	FRIDAY 25 th July
LSE100 Lecture: Is Western Democracy in Decline? 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Populism as a threat to Democracy 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Post-Truth, Fake News and the 'Death of Expertise' 10:00-11:00	LSE100 Lecture: Democracy in the United Kingdom 10:00-11:00	Group Presentations 10:00-11:00
LSE100 Seminar: Are the people fit to rule? 12:00-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Is right-wing populism a threat to democracy? 11:30-1:00	LSE100 Seminar: Is society "post-truth"? 11:30-1:00	Presentation Preparation 11:30-1:00 2:00-3:30	11:30-12:30
Exploring the City of Westminster: A Treasure Hunt 1:30-4:30	Workshop: Presentation Skills 2:00-3:30	Democracy Archives: Britain and the European Union 2:00-3:30	Essay Feedback One-to-Ones (Parallel Session) 11:30-1:00 2:00-3:30	Certificate Ceremony and Lunch 12:30-2:00

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"Democracy is fragile, and no one can say with certainty that it can withstand the manifold risks to which it is now exposed." – Bill Moyers, 15 December 2017

As populist movements surge, voter participation rates decline, and leaders with authoritarian leanings achieve unprecedented levels of support in Western countries, growing numbers of scholars are arguing that Western democracy is experiencing a crisis of legitimacy. Is democracy in decline? Are watershed events such as Brexit and the election of Donald Trump signals of a fundamental change in the way Western democracies function?

This week explores three perceived threats or challenges to the legitimacy of Western democratic institutions. These challenges include citizen disengagement with democracy, as evidenced by declining electoral turnout and party membership, as well as the degree to which citizens are well-informed about the governance of their countries. The rise of populist parties and candidates, especially with right-wing or authoritarian affiliations, in states such as the UK and USA, has also been seen as a challenge to democratic values and institutions. Finally, we consider the rise of "fake news" and the challenge of sustaining Western democracy in an atmosphere of distrust and misinformation.

Key concepts

- Systems of governance
- Democratic deconsolidation
- Populism
- Post-truth society
- The 'death of expertise'
- Misinformation, disinformation and fake news
- Three faces of power

Key skills

- Presentation
- Policy Advice
- Communication