

#SOC4/ARS4

POLITICAL SCIENCE  
HONOURS YEAR

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# *Honours Prospectus*

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DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE



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All efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of this prospectus. The contents may be subject to changes at the discretion of the department.

The prospectus is last updated as of 11 Sept 2017.

# **POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

## **PS Honours Graduation Requirements - Cohort 2015 and earlier**

Pass at least 100MCs of PS or PS recognised modules, which include the following:

1. PS1101E
2. PS3257
3. A minimum of **ONE\*** module from the following (Singapore Politics):
  - (i) PS2249 (CP)
  - (ii) PS2244 (GPP)
  - (iii) PS3249 (IR)

*\* The above may be used to fulfil requirement (4)*
4. A minimum of **ONE** module from each of the following subfields:
  - (i) Comparative Politics (CP)
  - (ii) International Relations (IR)
  - (iii) Political Theory (PT)
  - (iv) Governance and Public Policy (GPP)
5. A minimum of 60MCs at level 3000 or higher, with
  - (i) **a minimum of 40MCs at level-4000 or higher** and
  - (ii) a maximum of 2 level-5000 PS modules (subject to department's approval)

*\*Undergraduate students are not permitted to read Level 6000 modules.*

### **Level 5000R Modules**

Honours students will be allowed, in place of their Level 4000 modules, a maximum of 2 Level 5000R modules (subject to additional module pre-requisites, if any), to fulfill graduation requirements. Honours students are not allowed to read Level 5000 Independent Study Module (PS5660).

### **Honours Thesis (HT) – PS4401**

(For Cohort 2012 – 2015) The Honours Thesis (HT) is not a compulsory requirement for an honours degree except in the case of first class honours. In order to attain an Honours (Highest Distinction) degree, students must pass the HT (D grade or higher) and attain an overall CAP of 4.50 or higher.

### **Mapping of Level 4000 modules**

Students are allowed to read a maximum of 2 Level 4000 modules on Student Exchange Programme. This has to be approved by the SEP coordinator. If according to the MC Exchange Ratio ([click on website here](#)), the 2 Level 4000 mapped modules are worth less than 10MCs, then please contact the FASS Dean's Office ([studyabroadfass@nus.edu.sg](mailto:studyabroadfass@nus.edu.sg)) to clarify how the transfer of credits will be done.

# LIST OF HONOURS MODULES

## Level 4000 Modules

| Module Code             | Module Title   | Lecturer                    |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Semester 1, AY2017/2018 |  |                             |
| PS4203                  | China's Foreign Policy                                     | Chong Ja Ian                |
| PS4208                  | Theories of International Relations                        | Soul Park                   |
| PS4209                  | Public Organisation Theory and Practice                    | Shamsul Haque               |
| PS4213                  | International Political Theory                             | William Bain                |
| PS4224                  | State and Society  | Dunya Lepori                |
| PS4881C                 | Topics in CP: Labour Politics                              | Rebecca Grace Tan           |
| PS4881D                 | Topics in CP: Money and Politics                           | Kim Hyejin<br>Erik Moberand |
| PS4882F                 | The Politics of International Trade                        | Sooyeon Kim                 |
| PS4882G                 | Topics in IR: Politics of International Economic Relations | Sung Eun Kim                |
| PS4882H                 | Topics in IR: Food Politics                                | Kim Hyejin                  |

|         |  |              |
|---------|--|--------------|
| PS4883A | Topics in PT: Orientalism and Femininity | Dunya Lepori |
|---------|--|--------------|

| Module Code                                  | Module Title                               | Lecturer          |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Semester 2, AY2017/2018 (subject to changes) |  |                   |
| PS4202                                       | Political Parties and Elections            | Rebecca Grace Tan |
| PS4216                                       | The Study of War                           | Soul Park         |
| PS4217F                                      | Major Political Thinkers: Hobbes           | Luke O'Sullivan   |
| PS4219                                       | Comparative Political Thought              | Dunya Lepori      |
| PS4227                                       | Environmental Politics                     | Matthew Lepori    |
| PS4230                                       | Public Sector Reforms in China             | Gao Jie           |
| PS4233                                       | Existentialist Political Theory            | Ethan Putteman    |
| PS4234                                       | Identity Politics                          | Ted Hopf          |
| PS4235                                       | War Termination and the Stability of Peace | Soul Park         |
| PS4882I                                      | Topics in IR: International Society        | Elaine Tan        |

*\*Some modules may have 2 classes.*

## Level 5000R Modules

| Module Code            | Module Title                         | Lecturer       |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Semester 1 AY2017/2018 |                                      |                |
| PS5111R                | Research Design in Political Science | Sooyeon Kim    |
| PS5312R                | Seminar in Comparative Politics      | Jamie Davidson |
| PS5314R                | Seminar in International Relations   | Chong Ja Ian   |
| PS5408R                | International Institutions           | Sung Eun Kim   |

| Module Code                                 | Module Title                        | Lecturer      |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Semester 2 AY2017/2018 (subject to changes) |                                     |               |
| PS5316R                                     | Seminar in Public Administration    | Gao Jie       |
| PS5321R                                     | Seminar in Chinese Politics         | Chen An       |
| PS5506R                                     | Globalisation and Public Governance | Shamsul Haque |
| PS5603R                                     | Introduction to Qualitative Methods | Ted Hopf      |

## Non-PS Level 4000/5000R modules which are recognised towards PS Major

### ➤ **Fulfils Comparative Politics (CP) Subfield**

- SE4227 Nationalism in Southeast Asia
- SC4882A Perspectives on State & Society
- GL4886A Citizenship and the Politics of Belonging
- GL4887A The Modern Middle East in the Age of Globalisations
- NM5201R State and Civil Society in the Information Age

### ➤ **Fulfils International Relations (IR) Subfield**

- HY4209/EU4226 Imperialism and Empires
- JS4224 Japanese International Relations
- GL4882A Development and the Globalisation of Food
- GL4882B Contested Globalisations: Resistance and Resilience
- GL4883A Conflict and Natural Resources
- GL4885A International Law and World Politics
- GL4889A International Law and Terrorism
- GL4889B Debates on Human Rights (offered in Semester 2, AY2017/2018)

### ➤ **Fulfils Governance and Public Policy (GPP) Subfield**

- GL4883B Climate Justice (offered in Semester 2, AY2017/2018)
- GL4888A Justice and Emerging Technology

### ➤ **Fulfils Political Theory (PT) Subfield**

- PH4202 Political Philosophy
- GL4881A Colonial, Anticolonial and Postcolonial Globalizations

*\*Please check from CORS Module Information Listing ([click here](#)), when available, whether any of these PS-recognised modules are offered in Semester 2, AY2017/2018.*

# **DESCRIPTION OF LEVEL 4000 AND 5000 MODULES**

**Semester 2, AY2017/2018**

## **Level 4000 Modules**

### **PS4202 POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS**

#### **Comparative Politics**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

This module covers political parties and electoral systems in both established and new democracies. In the West, political party systems reflect highly institutionalised electoral systems and are relatively stable. In much of the world, however, political parties are less institutionalised and more responsive to volatile electorates than those in the West, and many new democracies have failed to develop even minimally stable party systems. The aim of the module is to provide students with a good grasp of the issues and current research on political parties and elections in the West, in Asia, and around the world.

### **PS4216 THE STUDY OF WAR**

#### **International Relations**

Cohort 2012 onwards :

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS or 28MCs in GL/GL recognised non-language modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track

Traditionally, as a discipline, International Relations have treated war as the use of the military instrument by states. This module aims to introduce students to an elementary comprehension of war as a form of politics. A philosophical approach will be taken towards an exposition of general theories of war, as well as land, air, sea, guerrilla and nuclear warfare. It will round off by inquiring whether war studies should necessarily encompass human security today. In this way, the field becomes open to Critical Theory and Postmodern perspectives as well. Students are strongly encouraged to read PS2237 Introduction to International Relations before signing up.

### **PS4217F MAJOR POLITICAL THINKERS: HOBBS**

#### **Political Theory**

Cohort 2012 – 2014:

- 1) Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS or 28MCs in EU/LA [French/German]/recognised modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.
- 2) Completed PS2204/EU2204.

Hobbes stands next to Machiavelli in the popular imagination as the author of a grim view of human nature whose political solution was even worse than the problem. Modern

scholarship has been slowly dismantling this myth, revealing Hobbes as one of the most profound thinkers in the English language. His metaphysical understanding of reality as matter in motion underpinned a systematic philosophy of the natural world and the place of human beings in it which gave particular attention to the linguistic and ethical problems which needed to be overcome in order to create a political community; the notorious 'Leviathan'.

## **PS4219 COMPARATIVE POLITICAL THOUGHT**

### **Political Theory**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

Preclusion(s): PS3201B, PS3231

This course will explore the emerging field of comparative political theory (or CPT) by considering to what extent it stands as a coherent, independent subfield, and what if any are the questions it is specifically poised to answer. Our treatment will be both topical and methodological. We will begin by reading the work of contemporary scholars who explicitly situate themselves within "comparative" as opposed to mainstream canonical political theory, and/or who use comparison as a tool for elucidating particular political problems. In the second part of the course, we will read primary sources that undertake comparative or synthetic perspectives on formulating theory in the modern world, but from self-consciously "indigenous" perspectives.

## **PS4227 ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS**

### **Comparative Politics**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS or 28MCs in GL/GL recognised non-language modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

This module introduces students to competing concepts and arguments in environmental politics. The module will enhance students' understanding of the ways in which political and economic institutions, regimes, culture, and norms interact with environmental outcomes at local, regional, and global levels. Students will also learn the roles different actors and institutions play in global environmental governance.

## **PS4230 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS IN CHINA**

### **Governance and Public Policy**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS, or 28MCs in SC, or 28MCs in GL/GL recognized non-language modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

Chinese leaders in the reform era face a distinct governance challenge: economic transition requires major revamps in the ways China is managed while an overhaul of the

political system is not a viable option. Against the backdrops, Chinese leaders have carried out substantial reforms in public sector organisations. This module examines the content, rationale, and outcomes of public sector reforms in China. Major topics include reforms on cadre personnel management, public finance, healthcare, education and enterprise systems. It helps students understand the significant role of public sector reforms in China's transition, and the challenges caused by these reforms.

#### **PS4233 EXISTENTIALIST POLITICAL THEORY**

##### **Political Theory**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

This module is an in-depth study of Friedrich Nietzsche's, Jean-Paul Sartre's and Albert Camus's political ideas. Reading selections from Nietzsche's Genealogy of Morals, Thus Spoke Zarathustra and Sartre's Being and Nothingness, as well as Camus's The Rebel and Myth of Sisyphus, this module introduces students to the major political ideas, concepts and problems of existentialist philosophy. Among the topics covered will be Kafka and Kierkegaard's Nietzschean critique of democracy and Camus's famous break with Sartre over Stalinist-Leninism. This module is for students with a background in political philosophy and an interest in existentialism and democratic theory.

#### **PS4234 IDENTITY POLITICS**

##### **Comparative Politics & International Relations**

Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS or 28 MCs in GL/GL recognised non-language modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

This is a course that explores the origins, reproduction, and effects of social identity from a variety of perspectives. The sources of identity that are investigated include the self, group, society, and state, as well as their more complicated combinations. The identities whose origins, maintenance, and effects we study are nation, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexuality, and race. The approaches we take to make sense of identity politics include writings in political science, social psychology, sociology, history, anthropology, and cultural and post-colonial studies.

#### **PS4235 WAR TERMINATION AND THE STABILITY OF PEACE**

##### **International Relations**

*Module Description to be finalised.*

## **PS4882I TOPICS IN IR: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY**

### **International Relations**

#### Cohort 2012 onwards:

Completed 80MCs, including 28MCs in PS or 28 MCs in GL/GL recognised non-language modules, with a minimum CAP of 3.20 or be on the Honours track.

International society is classically defined as a group of states that are associated in respect of common norms, values, and institutions. This module explores the historical development of international society, from its Christian and European origins to its gradual expansion into a genuinely global political arrangement. It also explores fundamental institutions, such as war, diplomacy, international law, great powers, and the balance of power. Particular attention will be given to the role of culture in international society (western and non-western), theories of empire, the revolt against the west, and alternatives to a society of states.

### **Level 5000R Modules**

**Important note: additional pre-requisites may be requested by the lecturers and will be made known to you during application.**

## **PS5316R SEMINAR IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

### **Governance and Public Policy**

This seminar is designed for graduate students in any subfield of political science. The module examines the intellectual history of public administration and the basic issues that confront it today. The seminar pays particular attention to administrative responsibility and ethics and to the formulation and implementation of public policy. To this end, it will emphasise the nexus of public administration and politics.

## **PS5321R SEMINAR IN CHINESE POLITICS**

### **Comparative Politics**

This seminar addresses some major questions of politics in China in recent decades. These include leadership succession, economic privatization, new forms of social stratification, representation and elections, civil society, changing rural governance, corruption, protest politics, the role of the Internet, and ethnic politics. The module will review current scholarship and provide a foundation for masters and doctoral students planning to undertake research on Chinese politics.

## **PS5506R Globalisation and Public Governance**

### **Governance and Public Policy**

This graduate module explains how the powerful forces or actors of globalization led to pro-market neoliberal reforms in the nature of state formation and introduced changes in public governance (policy and administration). In particular, it analyses the neoliberal mode of public management, known as the reinvention of new public management (NPM) model. The module examines major elements of NPM-type reforms (e.g. privatization, outsourcing, public-private partnership, managerial autonomy, and financial decentralization) in East and Southeast Asia. It evaluates the impact of globalization-led neoliberal reforms on democracy, citizen-administration relations, and corruption by using a politic-economic perspective on globalization, state formation, and governance.

## **PS5603R INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE METHODS**

### **Methodology**

This module is an introduction to qualitative methods in political science. After a review of the main competing epistemological approaches we concentrate on the most prevalent qualitative method in political science: the comparative case-study. We then turn to interpretivism, ethnography, and discourse analysis, and their respective applications in political science.

# **REGISTERING FOR HONOURS MODULES**

## **Module Preference Exercise (MPE)**

We will pre-allocate PS Level-4000 modules to SOC4/ARS4 PS students during MPE if the demand by students for each module is less than the number of places offered for the module.

We will not pre-allocate PS Level-4000 modules to ARS3 students during MPE.

## **CORS Bidding Exercise**

PS students who have met the following requirements will be promoted by FASS Dean's Office to SOC4/ARS4 status, and they will be able to bid for PS Level-4000 modules from Round 1A of CORS Bidding onwards:

### **(Cohort 2012 – 2015)**

- 1) Complete at least 110 MCs including 60 MCs of PS major requirements
- 2) Obtain a minimum CAP of 3.20.

ARS3 students (completed at least 80 MCs including 28 MCs of PS major requirements, and a minimum CAP of 3.20) will only be able to bid for PS Level-4000 modules from Round 1C onwards in Semester 1 and from Round 2B onwards in Semester 2 of CORS Bidding (<http://www.nus.edu.sg/cors/useful-info.html>).

## **Returning Year 4 PS Majors from Student Exchange**

Only FASS Dean's Office can approve the SEP credit transfer and promote you to SOC4/ARS4 in the CORS System. Remember to submit all your required documents to Dean's Office once you have completed your SEP, so they can process the credit transfer and promote you accordingly in time before MPE and CORS Bidding.

Refer to <http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/international-relations/undergraduates/student-exchange-programme/upon-return.html> for more details on what to submit upon return from SEP.

Some of you may face a delay in mapping the credits back in time for promotion to SOC4/ARS4 (e.g. SEP transcript is not ready or even there is too many SEP credit transfers pending processing by Dean's Office, etc.). This delay will result in your status in the system still being reflected as ARS3 or even ARS2. **When this happens, you will not be pre-allocated Level-4000 modules during MPE and the CORS system will not allow you to bid for level-4000 modules in Round 1A.**

Therefore before the start of the MPE and CORS Bidding Exercise (at least 2 to 3 weeks earlier), you are advised to login to the MPE and CORS System to check that your status has been updated to SOC4/ARS4. If you realise that your status is still reflected as ARS3, please send an email to me at [polbox2@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polbox2@nus.edu.sg) or [poltyca@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poltyca@nus.edu.sg).

- 1) Title your email as “manual SOC4/ARS4 status verification and waiver required”.
- 2) Give me your full name and NUS matriculation number.
- 3) Give me a list of PS Level-4000 modules that you want to read.
- 4) Attach a screenshot of the “Module Mapping Summary” on myisis, so that we can see the modules that have been approved for mapping.
- 5) Attach a copy of the SEP Credit Transfer Form.
- 6) Attach a copy of the SEP transcript. If the SEP transcript is not ready, give me a screenshot of your module enrolments on the partner university’s module enrolment website, so I can verify that you are indeed enrolled for these modules.

We will manually verify if you would meet SOC4/ARS4 requirements after transferring the relevant SEP credits. *Note that we are only doing a manual verification to see if you meet SOC4/ARS4 requirements after SEP. The department cannot promote you to SOC4/ARS4 because only Dean’s Office can do so.*

**If you qualify for promotion to SOC4/ARS4:**

- We will manually pre-allocate Level-4000 modules to you during MPE. *Therefore, you will still need to indicate your preferred Level-4000 modules during the MPE exercise (when your status is still ARS3).*
- We will manually add your preferred Level-4000 modules in the CORS system for you to bid in Round 1A onwards. *Otherwise, you can only add them as an ARS3 student under Round 1C or later.*

Registration for PS4401 Honours Thesis (HT) and PS4660 Independent Studies Module (ISM) will be via manual application. Refer to the section on HT and ISM for registration details.

### **Level 5000R modules**

There is no MPE or CORS bidding for PS Level 5000R modules. Registration is via manual application. We will send out an email on Level-5000R module registration before the MPE exercise.

Only PS students who meet SOC4/ARS4 requirements can apply for PS Level 5000R modules. Approval is granted on a case-by-case basis. Priority will also be given to graduate students.

If your application is approved, we will inform you via email and manually add the Level-5000R modules for you into the CORS system.

While pending outcome of the application, you may attend the first class.

## Appeals for honours modules

Please continue bidding until the end of Round 3B. We are unable to process module appeals during CORS bidding because we will need to wait until the end of CORS bidding to see how much quota we have left to help appeal cases.

Submit an online module appeal via the CORS system after Round 3B.

The following appeal types will be available on CORS after the last bidding round ends.

- Unable to secure module for graduation this semester
- Unable to secure module

You will be able to indicate how many more modules you will need and list down a list of honours modules that you are willing to be considered for (ranked by choices).

Honours students who will be graduating in that semester will be given 1<sup>st</sup> priority in module appeals.

While pending outcome of appeal, please attend the first class and inform the lecturer that you are appealing for the module. Because you have shown enthusiasm and interest to take the effort to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> class, sometimes, the lecturer may take down your names and request for us to add your name into the class (thereby helping your appeal).

## Waiver of pre-requisites for honours modules

For some PS-Level 4000 modules, there are prerequisites. If you do not meet the module pre-requisite and would like to request for a waiver of the pre-requisite (e.g. you have read other similar modules in the same subfield). You may write to the lecturer directly to appeal to read their module. If they are agreeable, forward their approval email to us ([polbox2@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polbox2@nus.edu.sg)) and we will waive the pre-requisite for you in the CORS system so that you can bid for the module.

# **HONOURS THESIS (HT) – PS4401**

## **What is an HT?**

An HT is an independent research project that addresses an important question or puzzle, and provides a strong argument based on sound and substantial empirical evidence.

It is a major research undertaking at an undergraduate level, and requires far more effort in terms of originality, detail, clarity and independence than an ISM or a normal module essay.

Each HT will carry 15 modular credits. This requires the student to work on the HT for a total of 37.5 hours per week.

The subject of the HT must fall within one of the four main sub-fields in the Department:

- a) Comparative Politics (CP)
- b) International Relations (IR)
- c) Political Theory (PT)
- d) Governance and Public Policy (GPP)

The HT will be examined on the basis of several criterion including:

- a) Presentation
- b) Coherence and consistency
- c) Comprehensiveness (including the use of primary sources)
- d) Factual accuracy
- e) Writing discipline

The usual conventions pertaining to any research (for example, footnoting, bibliographic sources and appendices) must be followed.

## **Qualifying Criteria**

HT is only available for Honours students in their **Final Graduating Semester** and it must be completed in that semester.

### **Pre-requisite (Cohort 2015 and earlier):**

The prospective HT student must have completed 110 MCs, including 60 MCs of PS major requirements with a minimum SJAP of 4.00 and CAP of 3.20.

Students may seek a waiver of the SJAP pre-requisite from the department if they have a minimum CAP of 4.25 after completing 110MCs.

### **Preclusion**

PS4660

## Registration

An email will be sent to Honours students, inviting applications to read an HT.

Students are responsible for drawing up a proposal of the intended HT based on the application form attached in the email. The application form should include a proposed HT title, a synopsis of the intended study and the name of the proposed supervisor.

The submitted proposal should comprise the following:

- Research question or puzzle, and its significance or originality,
- Hypothesis or argument and its significance, and
- Feasibility of this research project
- Timeline of your research plans

Preparation is very important. Students are strongly encouraged to start working on a proposal and undertake necessary preliminary research for it as soon as possible.

### **Advance Registration of HT for Semester 2**

There is no Advance Registration for HT submission in Semester 1, AY2017/2018.

An email for “Advance Registration for HT submission in Semester 2, AY2017/2018” will be send out in September 2017.

Students can use their Semester 2, AY2016/2017 exam results for this Advance Registration of HT. You will qualify if you have completed 110 MCs, including 60 MCs of PS major requirements with a minimum SJAP of 4.00 and CAP of 3.50.

HT can only be formally enrolled in the **Final Graduating Semester** even if the HT is approved already in the first semester under advanced registration. Hence the department will only pre-allocate PS4401 to you during Semester 2, AY2017/2018.

If you wish to withdraw, you should let us know before we pre-allocate the HT.

Students approved under advanced registration are still required to read the minimum workload of 20 MCs stipulated by the University in the first semester (Semester 1 AY2017/2018).

Although the module formally “commences” in Semester 2, students are strongly recommended to start refining their topics, in consultation with supervisors, upon receiving the approval from the Department.

## Supervisor

The role of the supervisor is to provide general guidance on the research topic. Students should not expect their supervisors to correct grammatical errors. You are primarily

responsible and independent for the standard of research and presentation.

The normal procedure is for each supervisee to be assigned to one formal supervisor. The frequency of contact between supervisor and supervisee is a flexible arrangement to be worked out between themselves.

The Department reserves the right to approve or disapprove applications for HTs and has the final say on the assignment of supervisors for the proposed HTs.

Any change in supervisors after the Department's approval must be preceded by the completion of the "Change of Supervisor" Form. Please email [polbox2@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polbox2@nus.edu.sg) to request for this form.

## Submission

### Word Count

The word limit for the thesis is **12,000 words** (excluding cover page, content page, and abstract, list of abbreviations, acknowledgement, preface, footnotes, endnotes, appendix and bibliography).

To ensure that the thesis adheres to this limit, you are encouraged to use the word count function in your word processing programme regularly, both when writing the thesis and when making corrections.

HT supervisors are expected to monitor the word count and help students keep within the word limit. The penalty for excess words in the thesis is as follows:

- |    |               |           |
|----|---------------|-----------|
| 1) | 1 – 999 words | 1.0 mark  |
| 2) | 1,000 – 1,999 | 2.5 marks |
| 3) | 2,000 – 2,999 | 5.0 marks |
| 4) | > 3,000 words | 7.5 marks |

The penalty scheme will be strictly enforced. Please be aware that even minor penalties can change the grade in an HT or ISM and, in some cases, the class of honours awarded.

### Report Format

- a) Each thesis, in general, should include cover page, abstract, acknowledgement, list of abbreviations (if any), contents, main text (all chapters), bibliography, and appendix (if any).
- b) The main text in the report should be typed using a general font (i.e. Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri etc), with a font size of 12.
- c) For presentation and professionalism, single-sided printing format is preferred.
- d) You should follow the Chicago Manual of Style for references – with reference number(s) in the text and corresponding reference(s) at the bottom of each page. In addition, you

should compile all references used into the bibliography. An online version is available via NUS Library at (<http://linc.nus.edu.sg:2084/record=b2357715>). You may also use some of last year's theses as examples in this regard.

- e) Please submit to the Department **1 copy of your thesis bound in dark blue/black hardcover** (for NUS Library storage if subsequently accepted), **2 plastic ring-bounded copies** and **upload a soft copy in Microsoft Word format** in IVLE (for word count and plagiarism check purposes) by the stipulated deadlines. Penalties will be imposed for late submissions.
- f) Student must take into consideration the time taken to bind the thesis by the printing companies, which typically ranges from **3 to 10 WORKING DAYS** (for hard bound). Binding cost charged by printing companies varies depending on the lead time given.
- g) For illustrations of the Cover Page, Spine of HT and Title Page, please refer to Appendix A, B and C. When in doubt, consult the Central Library for a model copy of the HT. You can refer to this website <http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/polsci> and click on "Theses" at the top, and do a search for a particular HT title and the location in the Central Library.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) is **NOT** tolerated. Since the HT is equivalent to 3 examination papers, it should be taken seriously.

Students found guilty of plagiarism will be severely penalized. Such cases may be referred to the University's Board of Discipline (BOD).

Please refer to the following link for further information on plagiarism <https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/policies/plagiarism/index.html>

# **INDEPENDENT STUDY MODULE (ISM) – PS4660**

## **Introduction**

The ISM is available only for Honours students in their **Final Graduating Year**.

Level 4000 ISM is intended to allow students not engaged in writing the Honours Thesis (HT), an opportunity to conduct research and writing on a specialised topic of their choice.

Each ISM will carry 5 modular credits. This requires the student to work on the ISM for a total of 12.5 hours per week.

The student is responsible for drawing up a broad proposal of the intended ISM. This proposal should fall into one of the four sub-fields in the Department:

- a) Comparative Politics (CP)
- b) International Relations (IR)
- c) Political Theory (PT)
- d) Governance and Public Policy (GPP)

Students may opt to form a “Group ISM” consisting of 2 to 3 students, supervised by a single lecturer. Although group members will work on a single broad theme or topic, it is expected that each member will focus on different substantive areas and submit his/her own written assignment. For example, a group might be working on the topic of “technology and political violence”, but each member may focus on 3 different regions or countries where the theme might be applied.

## **Qualifying Criteria**

### **Pre-requisite (Cohort 2012 – 2015):**

Completed 100 MCs including 60MCs in PS, with a minimum CAP of 3.20.

### **Preclusion**

PS4401

## **Registration**

An email will be sent to all Honours students, inviting applications to read an ISM.

Students are responsible for drawing up the proposal of the intended ISM based on the application form attached in the email. The application form should include a proposed ISM title, a synopsis of the intended study and the name of the proposed supervisor.

## **Supervisor**

In an ISM, the supervisor’s role is that of a facilitator.

The primary responsibility for work on the ISM, including the final product, is with the student. Students should bear in mind that this is a Level-4000 ISM and the work required, and subsequently graded, will reflect this.

The nature of the work for the ISM is to be determined through discussion and agreement between the supervisor and the student. The frequency of contact between supervisor and supervisee is a flexible arrangement to be worked out between themselves.

The Department reserves the right to approve or disapprove applications for ISMs and has the final say on the assignment of supervisors for the proposed ISMs.

Any change in supervisors after the Department's approval must be preceded by the completion of the "Change of HT/ISM Supervisor" Form. Please email [polbox2@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polbox2@nus.edu.sg) to request for the form.

## Submission

Students are required to submit an essay of between **5000-6000 words**. Please submit to the Department **1 plastic ring-bounded copy of your ISM** and **upload a soft copy in Microsoft Word format** in IVLE (for word count and plagiarism check purposes).

The main text in the report should be typed using a **general** font (i.e. Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri etc), with a **font size of 12**.

For presentation and professionalism, single-sided printing format is preferred.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) is **NOT** tolerated.

Students found guilty of such an offence will be severely penalized. Such cases may be referred to the University's Board of Discipline (BOD).

Please refer to the following link for further information on plagiarism <https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/policies/plagiarism/index.html>

## **PENALTY POLICIES FOR HT & ISM\***

These penalty schemes will be **strictly enforced**. Please be aware that even minor penalties can change the grade for an HT/ISM and, in some cases, the class of honours awarded.

### **Change/Alteration of title after deadline for title confirmation**

The imposition of a title confirmation 2 weeks before its submission is a test of professionalism and discipline.

A **1% mark penalty** will be imposed on the final mark if there is a change of title for HT or ISM 2 weeks before the deadline for submission.

### **Late submission of HT or ISM**

**Important Note:** Penalties will be **strictly imposed** for late submission of the ring-bounded copies. The contents in the ring- bounded copy **must be exactly the same** as the softcopy uploaded onto IVLE and the hardcover bounded copy. Penalties will be imposed for any changes after submission.

#### Two-Step Penalty System

- A **daily 5% deduction** from the final mark, cumulative up to a full working week (i.e. 7 working days or a maximum of 35% of the final mark)
- Rejection of HT/ISM from the 8<sup>th</sup> working day.

#### Waiving Penalties for Late Submission

All penalties will be waived if early (i.e. on or before the submission deadline) documented explanations are given. Valid documents include medical certificates (MCs), psychiatric reports or letters by other certified professional and government bodies.

Appeals (documented or otherwise) submitted after the deadline will be considered by the Honours Year Coordinator in consultation with the Head of Department and the Supervisor(s) concerned.

### **Exceeding the Word Count of the HT<sup>†</sup>**

As stated before, the penalty for excess words in the thesis is as follows:

- |                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| 1) 1 – 999 words | 1.0 mark  |
| 2) 1,000 – 1,999 | 2.5 marks |
| 3) 2,000 – 2,999 | 5.0 marks |
| 4) > 3,000 words | 7.5 marks |

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\* These applies only to PS4660 and does not extend to USP-ISMs coordinated by the University's Scholars' Programme (USP)

† PS4660 ISM is excluded from this set of penalties since it contains a wider set of discretionary practices.

## **ETHICS (INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD – IRB)**

All undergraduate research (HT, ISM etc.) involving humans as research subjects must be subject to ethics review by the Departmental Ethics Review Committee (DERC).

**This is important if you are planning to conduct interviews or surveys for your HT/ISM!**

These research projects may be carried out by individual students and the results from such research may or may not be intended for publication or presentation outside the classroom. They include experimental protocols, **observational studies, interviews, questionnaires**, secondary use of data that are not in the public domain and research involving human remains, tissues, or biological fluids.

If your research falls within the categories listed above, please make an appointment with me ([poltyca@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poltyca@nus.edu.sg)) and I will guide you how to fill up the IRB forms.

**Please make an appointment with Mr Aloysius Tan via email ([poltyca@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poltyca@nus.edu.sg)) before you come to the office.**

The Department Ethics and Review Committee (DERC) will determine whether the research can be exempted or expedited (minimal risk projects) or referred to the NUS-IRB for review based on the risk to the research participants.

Please note that ethics board approval, particularly if NUS IRB approval is required, can take anywhere from **one week to two months**. Students are advised to plan well in advance and undertake the necessary measures. **A copy of the ethics approval must be bounded within the thesis as an appendix.**

For any query and clarification on IRB, please send an email to Mr Aloysius Tan ([poltyca@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poltyca@nus.edu.sg)).

## **HT & ISM DEADLINES**

| <b>GENERAL DEADLINES FOR PS4401 HONOURS THESIS</b> |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | <b>Semester 1<br/>Normal<br/>Registration</b>  | <b>Semester 2<br/>Advance<br/>Registration</b> | <b>Semester 2<br/>Normal<br/>Registration</b>  |
| Start of HT Application                            | Mid-June   | Mid-August                                     | Mid-November                                   |
| Application Deadline                               | Mid-July   | Mid-September                                  | Mid-December                                   |
| Deadline to change HT title and/or synopsis        | Friday, Week 8 of Semester 1   | Friday, Week 8 of Semester 2                   | Friday, Week 8 of Semester 2                   |
| *Submit 2 plastic ring bound HT copies             | <b>Last working day of<br/>October</b>   | <b>Last working day of<br/>March</b>           | <b>Last working day of<br/>March</b>           |
| *Upload softcopy of HT onto IVLE work bin          |  |  |  |
| *Submit 1 hardcover black or dark blue bound HT    | <b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> week of<br/>November</b>  | <b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> week in<br/>April</b> | <b>End of 1<sup>st</sup> week in<br/>April</b> |
| IRB Application Deadline                           | As soon as possible once your HT proposal is approved. Interviews and surveys may commence only after IRB approval is given. |  |  |

*\*Non-negotiable deadlines*

| <b>GENERAL DEADLINES FOR PS4660 ISM</b>      |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <b>Semester 1 normal<br/>registration</b>  | <b>Semester 2 normal<br/>registration</b> |
| Start of ISM Application                     | Mid-June   | Mid-November                              |
| Application Deadline                         | Mid-July   | Mid-December                              |
| Deadline to change ISM title and/or synopsis | Friday, Week 8 of Semester 1   | Friday, Week 8 of Semester 2              |
| *Submit 1 plastic ring bound ISM copy        | <b>Last working day of<br/>October</b>   | <b>Last working day of<br/>March</b>      |
| *Upload softcopy of ISM onto IVLE workbin    |  |   |
| IRB Application Deadline                     | As soon as possible once your HT proposal is approved. Interviews and surveys may commence only after IRB approval is given. |   |

*\*Non-negotiable deadlines*

## **PRIZES FOR HONOURS STUDENTS**

Eligible Honours students may be nominated by the Department for the following Awards/Prizes:

### ➤ **Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement (LHL-OAA)**

The Lee Hsien Loong Award for Outstanding All-Round Achievement (LHL-OAA) was first implemented in 2010. The Award is presented to post-secondary students who have done well, both academically and non-academically, particularly those who have made outstanding contributions to the community and demonstrated the spirit of Innovation and Enterprise.

The LHL-OAA is awarded to one Singaporean fresh graduate/graduating student from each of the following four groups of educational institutions each year – Junior Colleges/Centralised Institute (JC/CI), the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Polytechnics and Autonomous Universities (AUs). All schools from each of the educational institution group are required to nominate suitable candidates for the award. Following this, a selection panel chaired by MOE will decide the eventual recipients of the award through desktop and interview selections.

**Nominations period: Jan/Feb every year.**

### ➤ **Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher (OUR) Prize**

[https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/deans\\_list/outstanding-undergrad-researcher.html](https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/deans_list/outstanding-undergrad-researcher.html)

The Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher (OUR) Prize launched in AY 2006-2007 is an annual, university-wide competition which aims to encourage research among undergraduates at NUS by presenting opportunities for them to participate in research while integrating teaching and research at various levels of experience and expertise. This allows undergraduates to develop the capacity for discovery through research.

Through this competition, undergraduates will have more meaningful experiences at university by fostering learning through hands-on work. It also serves to develop their research skills for use in courses and other academic and professional pursuits; identify academic and career interests; learn about a new field; develop working relationships between classmates and faculty mentors; and provide them a glimpse of graduate life.

**Department will nominate students based on their HT and ISM results for both Semester 1 and Semester 2.**

### ➤ **NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement**

[https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/deans\\_list/nuss-medal-for-outstanding-achievement.html](https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/fas/ug/deans_list/nuss-medal-for-outstanding-achievement.html)

Since AY2009-10, the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) has donated an endowed

sum of \$105,000 for the award, “NUSS Medal for Outstanding Achievement”, with the intention to recognise one graduating student from each NUS Faculty/School for outstanding all-round achievements. The establishment of this award shall aid in fostering closer bonds between NUS and the University and its alumni community. Each winner shall be presented with a gold medal and a NUS membership with a one-year waiver of the monthly subscription. Each Faculty/School can select a winner, from each year’s graduating cohort, who is an outstanding student having achieved academic excellence as well as made significant co-curricular contributions.

**Nominations period: Feb every year.**

➤ **Association of Malay Professionals (AMP) Prize**

Department may nominate the best Honours Thesis on any aspect that is of relevance to the Malay/Muslim community in Singapore.

➤ **Political Science Book Prize**

Department will nominate the best SOC4/ARS4 graduating student in Political Science. Value of the prize is S\$100 (book voucher).

➤ **Gerald De Cruz Memorial Prize**

Department will nominate the **Top Honours Thesis (by overall score)** in Political Theory or Asian Politics. Value of the prize is S\$300 (cash prize).

➤ **Political Science Honours Thesis Prize**

Department will nominate the **Second Best Honours Thesis (by overall score)**. The topic of the winning thesis can be in any of the 4 subfields offered by the department. Value of the prize is S\$200 (cash prize).

# **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

## **Library Resources for Political Science**

Please refer to: <http://libguides.nus.edu.sg/polsci>

You will be able to find library resources related to Political Science.

E.g. you can search and locate past Honours Theses written by our past PS honours students (all Political Science HTs stored in the library are required to have the grade of B+ and above).

## **Library Tutorial for Political Science Honours Year Students**

**The Library Tutorial will be held on:**

25th September 2017 (Monday)

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Central Library Theatrette 2

**No registration is required**

**\*Please bring your own laptops for this session** as PCs will not be provided.

### **About the Tutorial:**

This tutorial will be most useful for students embarking on their thesis or ISM paper. As these academic exercises are principally self-driven, you must know how to carry out your own research quickly, efficiently, and comprehensively.

Students doing general coursework modules only for their honours year are also encouraged to attend the session since the topics covered are applicable to any form of research you may be required to do.

The following topics will be covered during the tutorial. Come with your own research topic/question/proposal, if you have one, to put into practice what you will learn.

- The research process where information gathering is concerned,
- How to make better use of relevant Political Science indexes and databases,
- Introduction to other services available to Honours Year students.

## **Honours Room**

AS1-05-01 is a designated room for Political Science Honours students to conduct their own self-study, reading and research. Since the room is not locked and is opened 24/7, please ensure that you do not leave your valuables unattended. Do keep the room clean and keep your volume down as the lecturers' offices are nearby.

The department reserves the right to revoke usage of the room if there are any complaints.

## **Contact Details**

If you need any assistance regarding the Honours Programme, you may contact us at email: [polbox2@nus.edu.sg](mailto:polbox2@nus.edu.sg). Alternatively, you can call me directly at 65173703 or email [poltyca@nus.edu.sg](mailto:poltyca@nus.edu.sg), or look for me at the Political Science General Office AS1-04-10.

# APPENDICES

## **APPENDIX A**

HT Cover Page (applicable only for thesis bound in hardcover)

[TITLE of HT in BLOCK LETTERS]

[FULL NAME as shown on Matriculation Card]

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE  
[ACADEMIC YEAR 20??-??]

## **APPENDIX B**

Spine of HT (applicable only for thesis bound in hardcover)



## **APPENDIX C**

**HT Ring-bound Copy Cover Page**

[TITLE of HT/ISM in BLOCK LETTERS]

[FULL NAME as shown on Matriculation Card]

AN HONOURS THESIS IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR  
THE BACHELOR OF SOCIAL SCIENCE (HONOURS)  
DEGREE

PRESENTED TO DEPARTMENT OF

POLITICAL SCIENCE

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

[ACADEMIC YEAR 20??-??]

## **APPENDIX D**

### **General Questions and Answers on HTs**

1) How is writing an HT different from taking non-HT modules?

In writing an HT, the student needs to be much more independent and responsible than in the case of taking regular non-HT modules. The student has to demonstrate initiative and conduct serious and substantive research independently. This is often a lonely (and frustrating) journey.

The supervisor's role is to provide the student with appropriate advice along the way. From past experiences, some students were over-reliant on their supervisors for guidance at all stages of their research projects. You should attempt an HT **ONLY** if you are confident and ready to take on the enormous intellectual challenge that lies ahead of you. Writing an HT is far more challenging than taking three non-HT modules.

2) What is the difference between a HT and an Independent Study Module (ISM)?

Both projects are similar in that students must address an important question or puzzle, and provide a strong argument based on sound and substantial empirical evidence. The major difference is that writing an HT requires much more of your time and energy as an independent researcher. You should write an HT only if you are prepared to put in substantial investments in time and effort along with other necessary sacrifices over several months. You cannot complete writing an HT in just one month, let alone in a few weeks.

3) Would my decision not to read an HT affect my chances of gaining admission into a graduate school in the future?

Our department's graduate programme does not require applicants to write a HT during their undergraduate years. The requirements for graduate entry admission varies from one school to another, but as far as we know, most graduate schools require no more than a writing sample.

4) What constitutes a strong HT proposal? How original should the proposal be?

Your proposal should be sufficiently detailed enough to convince your potential supervisor of its merits. For starters, you might submit an abstract via email, with a note explaining that you are ready to submit a more detailed proposal or to elaborate on it in a face-to-face meeting. You should also explain your reasons to the staff member you have contacted on why he or she would be a suitable supervisor to help in your research. The success of the HT application depends, in no small part, on your communication and interactions with the potential supervisor, so you should place utmost importance on this process.

As you are still an undergraduate student, we do not expect you to generate a wholly path-breaking research question or answer. That said, within the limitations you face, you are required to come up with a question on which relatively little research has been done to date, and an argument original enough to pique the interest of your potential supervisor. Finding that kind of question and answer through a good deal of preliminary research is one essential part of any promising research project, and would help convince your potential supervisor that you are worth working with over a period of one semester. (Remember that the staff member would have to invest a substantial amount of his or her time in supervising any HT too.)

In addition to the originality of your question and argument, we look for evidence that you are adequately prepared to undertake your research project (How many relevant modules have you taken? Do you have any relevant internship or any other kind of relevant experience? How familiar are you with the relevant literature?), and feasibility of your proposed research (Is there enough literature/data available? Can the data be collected in Singapore within a reasonably short period of time? Does the research involve any fieldwork, and if so, where, and how much fieldwork?). You should also make sure that there is a reasonable match between your HT proposal and your potential supervisor's expertise, in terms of sub-fields (e.g., international relations, public administration), specific themes (e.g., corruption, democratization, migration), and/or regional/country specialization (e.g., Europe, China).

- 5) I have asked one staff member to be my supervisor, and he/she said "no". Can I ask another staff member? Can I keep on trying until I find someone who is willing to be my supervisor?

You can, but if more than two faculty members say "no", it is possible that there may be significant problems with your proposal. In such situation, you may approach the faculty members who declined your request to find out why they are not able to supervise your thesis and request for some inputs where applicable to help you refine your proposal.

- 7) Can I submit a HT proposal and an ISM proposal concurrently?

No, students can submit only one application (either a HT or an ISM), not both.

- 8) How many drafts am I expected to write if my application for a HT is successful? Is there a prescribed weekly number of hours I have to adhere to in writing my HT?

It all depends on the student and his/her supervisor.

- 9) Are other Professors other than my supervisor allowed to read my HT draft(s) and make comments to help improve my work?

There is no rule against it. It is up to the student's supervisor and other Professors to decide.

10) If extenuating circumstances occur during the course of writing my HT (e.g. severe illness) that causes me to take a leave of absence from NUS, am I allowed to defer my HT to a subsequent semester? Do I have to reapply?

Such requests will be considered by the Honours Committee and the Head of Department on a case-by-case basis.

11) How are HTs graded?

As mentioned in the Honours Prospectus, the HT will be graded on its own merits and on several criterion such as presentation, coherence and consistency, comprehensiveness (including the use of primary sources), factual accuracy and writing discipline, etc.

12) Is there a minimum word limit?

There is no minimum word limit. Having said that, given the fact that a HT is worth 15 MCs, it should be reasonably long and certainly longer than an ISM.

13) Can I use aesthetic designs in my HT?

There is no rule against aesthetic designs but we recommend that students should focus more on the contents and substance of their HT instead.

14) Does the word count include words in graphs and tables?

No. After you have done the graph and tables, you may consider pasting the graph and table as a picture file instead so that the word processing program does not count the words in the graph or table.