

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**  
**Unit Specification**

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Title</b>	Methodology of Political Studies
<b>Unit code</b>	PS019
<b>Credit Rating</b>	15
<b>Level</b>	MA in Political Science and International Relations
<b>Contact hours</b>	21
<b>Pre-requisite units</b>	None
<b>Co-requisite units</b>	None
<b>School responsible</b>	Moscow School of Social & Economic Sciences (Faculty of Politics)
<b>Member of staff responsible:</b>	Mikhail Velizhev, Ph.D.

**2. AIMS**

**This unit aims to:** discuss a wide range of problems concerning the history of political concepts and languages. The unit is intended to provide students with an advanced knowledge of the recent debate in history of political languages and to help them in orientating themselves in the variety of approaches and huge literature having political concepts as a main object (first and foremost within the British and German traditions). This unit also seeks to stimulate study of the intellectual history as a history of political arguments in politics, focusing on distinct approaches to this discipline.

**3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT**

To this aim the first part of the unit will explore the main concepts and approaches in history of political thought while the second part will focus on the case studies concerning a possible use of these methods in the Western and Russian intellectual history (theories of republicanism, Russian political language in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries). As a result, this unit offers a combination of historiographical and methodological reflection, with the particular emphasis on two methodological issues. Firstly, we will analyze the famous and seminal discussion between so-called “Cambridge school of political thought” (Q. Skinner, J.A.G. Pocock) and German “Begriffsgeschichte” (R. Koselleck) trying to evaluate its methodological implications for the development of the intellectual history. We expect students to learn more about the main concepts and tools used by the scholars in order to define and to interpret different political languages as political actions. Secondly, we will examine the most problematic issue of the history of political thought – the definition of “context” (historical? linguistic? social? cultural?) as a framework within which the politicians and thinkers are acting. As a consequence, students are provided with various tools of analysing politics as linguistic activity.

**4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

<b>Category of outcome</b>	<b>Students should/will be able to:</b>
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Knowledge and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- conceive of political language as a conventional linguistic phenomenon; understand historical conditions of its appearance and modification;</li> <li>- conceive of different interpretations of “political concept/language” and its “historical context” in contemporary Western historiography;</li> <li>- understand the interdisciplinary context of the studies about the political language (intellectual history and humanities, intellectual history and social sciences)</li> </ul>
Intellectual skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- examine and reconstruct various modes of use of languages in politics of the past;</li> <li>- analyse the functions of linguistic actions in political field</li> </ul>
Practical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- write well-structured and problem-focused academic papers on the history of political idioms and political concepts research;</li> <li>- participate in academic and public discussions, critically assess the use of political concepts by public intellectuals</li> </ul>
Transferable skills and personal qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- think critically and reflect on the position of intellectual historian as a specialist in the history of political languages in changing political environment</li> </ul>

## 5. LEARNING AND TEACHING PROCESSES (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Contact hours: lectures (80%) and tutorials (20%)

Collective reading and commenting in the class

One essay (homework)

Students are encouraged to enter in e-mail communication with tutor concerning the search for appropriate literature and developing original argument during preparation of essay

## 6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE USE OF E-LEARNING)

Assessment task	Length	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
essay	5000 words	80%
written exam		20%

## 7. INDICATIVE READING LIST

1. Bourdieu P. Langage et pouvoir symbolique. Paris, 2001.
2. Chignola S., Duso G. Storia dei concetti e filosofia politica. Milano, 2008.
3. Die Cambridge School der politischen Ideengeschichte / Herausgegeben von Martin Mulrow und Andreas Mahler. Berlin, 2010.
4. Hume R.D. Pocock's Contextual Historicism // The Political Imagination in History. Essays concerning J.G.A. Pocock / Ed. by D.N. DeLuna. Baltimore, 2006. P. 27-59.
5. Koselleck R. L'experience de l'histoire. Paris, 1997.

6. Koselleck R. *Futures Past. On the Semantics of Historical Time*. Cambridge, Mass., London, 1985.
7. *Meaning and Context. Quentin Skinner and his Critics* / Ed. by James Tully. Princeton, 1988.
8. *The Meaning of Historical Terms and Concepts. New Studies on Begriffsgeschichte* / Ed. by H. Lehmann and M. Richter / German Historical Institute. Washington D.C., Occasional Paper No15. Washington, 1996.
9. Palonen K. *Quentin Skinner. History, Politics, Rhetoric*. Cambridge, 2003.
10. Pocock J.G.A. *The Machiavellian Moment. Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition*. Princeton, 1975.
11. Pocock J.G.A. *Political Thought and History. Essays on Theory and Method*. Cambridge, 2009.
12. Pocock J.G.A. *Virtue, Commerce and History. Essays on Political Thought and History, chiefly in the 18<sup>th</sup> century*. Cambridge, 1985.
13. *Republicanism. A Shared European Heritage* / Ed. by Q. Skinner and M. van Gelderen. Vol. I-II. Cambridge, 2002.
14. Richter M. *Conceptual History (Begriffsgeschichte) and Political Theory // Political theory*. Vol. 14. N. 4 (Nov., 1996). P. 604-637.
15. Richter M. *The History of Political and Social Concepts. A Critical Introduction*. New York, Oxford, 1995.
16. Skinner Q. *Forensic Shakespeare*. Oxford, 2014.
17. Skinner Q. *Visions of Politics. Vol. I-III*. Cambridge, 2003.

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