

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

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**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Title	Theories of State and State Power
Unit code	PS039
Credit rating	15
Level	MA in Political Science and International Relations
Contact hours	21
Other Scheduled teaching and learning activities*	None
Pre-requisite units	None
Co-requisite units	None
School responsible	Moscow School of Social & Economic Sciences (Faculty of Politics)
Member of staff responsible	Dr. Daniil Aronson
ECTS**	
Notional hours of Learning***	150

**2. AIMS**

The unit aims to provide students with profound knowledge of the dominant concepts of state and state power in the European political thought since the early modern age till present time. The students will learn about different ways of conceptualizing the state, about the nature of different varieties of state power, about the position state occupies among other power actors such as financial elites, the church, the military, social groups and organizations etc. This will enable the students to analyse historical as well as contemporary occurrences in terms of power struggle and administration.

**3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE UNIT**

The course is dedicated to the concept of state and state power in modern political philosophy. The first part of the course will deal with the predecessors of modern concepts of state power in the modern age, such as N. Machiavelli, T. Hobbes, B. Spinoza and K. Marx. Further it will be demonstrated how the approaches laid down by these classical philosophers evolved, being modified, reinterpreted, renewed and/or challenged and deconstructed by successive thinkers (e.g. C. Shmitt's analyses of Machiavelli and Hobbes, A. Negri's revaluation of Spinoza, M. Foucault's critique of sovereign concept of state power). Brief attention will also be paid to the implementation of these philosophical concepts of state power in modern sociology, primarily to the pluralist, elitist and Marxist theories of state power.

\* To inform the "Key Information Set". Defined as 'any activity that a student has to attend or undertake at a fixed point and that has no flexibility for when it is undertaken, and where the student also has access to an available staff member' (*"Provision of Information about Higher Education: Outcomes of consultation and next steps" June 2011/18*)

\*\* ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System): There are 2 UK credits for every 1 ECT credit, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA). Therefore if a unit is worth 30 UK credits, this will equate to 15 ECT.

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\*\*\* Notional hours of learning: The number of hours which it is expected that a learner (at a particular level) will spend, on average, to achieve the specified learning outcomes at that level. It is expected that there will be 10 hours of notional study associated with every 1 credit achieved. Therefore if a unit is worth 30 credits, this will equate to 300 notional study hours, in accordance with the Credit Framework (QAA).

**4. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

<b>Category of outcome</b>	<i>Students should/will (please delete as appropriate) be able to:</i>
Knowledge and understanding	know and understand the development and inner logic of the dominant state and state power theories during the last 3 centuries
Intellectual skills	think and judge philosophically in matters of politics and governance
Practical skills	analyse and interpret political occurrences and situations, contemporary as well as historical ones, in terms of power struggle and administration
Transferable skills and personal qualities	preserve soundness of judgment in the face of informational chaos and propaganda

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

The course makes use of a series of formal lectures supported by an almost equal amount of seminars and approximately 3000 words of essay work.

**6. ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT, E-ASSESSMENT, and INFORMATION ABOUT FEEDBACK)**

Assessment task	Length	How and when feedback is provided	Weighting within unit (if relevant)
Essay	3500 words	after the end of the course	80%
Exam	1000 words	after the end of the course	20%

**7. INDICATIVE READING LIST**

Butler J. *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*. Stanford University Press, 1997.  
 Derrida J. *The Beast and the Sovereign*, Volume I, University Of Chicago Press, 2011.  
 Easton, D. 1965. *A Framework for Political Analysis*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall.  
 Engels F. *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. URL: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm>  
 Foucault M. *Government of Self and Others*. Picador, 2011.  
 Hobbes T. *Leviathan*. Revised Edition, eds. A.P. Martinich and Brian Battiste. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2010.  
 Kropotkin P. *The State: It's Historic Role*. URL:

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<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/kropotkin-peter/1896/state/>

Machiavelli N. *The Prince*. Bantam Classics, 1984.

Mann M. *Autonomous Power of the State*. *European Journal of Sociology*, vol. 25 (2). November 1984, pp 185-213.

Marx K. *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*. International Publishers, New York, 1963.

Morgenthau, H. 1978. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for War and Peace*, 5th ed. New York: Knopf.

Mouffe Ch. *On the Political*, Routledge: London, New York, 2005

Negri A. *Subversive Spinoza: (Un)Contemporary Variations*, edited by Timothy S. Murphy, translated by Timothy S. Murphy, Michael Hardt, Ted Stolze, and Charles T. Wolfe, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2004.

Negri A., Hardt M. *Empire*, Harvard University Press, 2000.

Plato. *Republic*. Basic Books, 1991.

Schmitt C. *The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes: Meaning and Failure of a Political Symbol*. George D. Schwab & Erna Hilfstein, trans. Greenwood Press, 1996

Schmitt C. *The Concept of the Political*. George D. Schwab, trans. University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Schmitt C. *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*. George D. Schwab, trans. MIT Press, 1985.

Spinoza B. *Theological-Political Treatise*, Samuel Shirley, translator, second edition (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001).

Taubes J. *The Political Theology of Paul*. Stanford University Press, 2003.

Weber M. *Economy and Society*. University of California Press, 1978.

For Information and advice on Link2Lists reading list software, see:

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/academicssupport/informationandadviceonlink2listsreadinglistssoftware/>

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