



NEW COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Introduction to the Study of Politics

*This information is for students on the following courses:*

*History and Politics*  
*PPE*

The first-year course is divided into three parts: political theory; empirical political analysis; and quantitative methods.

In Michaelmas Term, you will have tutorials in political theory.

We will study both Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract*, and John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*. Please obtain your own copies of both, and you should read them before the beginning of Michaelmas Term.

You will study empirical political analysis in Hilary and Trinity Terms. The goal is to introduce you to both the methods used, and the findings proposed, in the broad study of 'how politics works' in different countries and over time. Rather than taking individual countries as discrete units for detailed, isolated study, the course is thematic and comparative from the start.

As an introduction, we recommend

A. Lijphart, *Patterns of democracy: Government forms and performance in 36 countries*, 2012.

Also, look through

W.R. Clark, M. Golder, and S. Golder, *Principles of comparative government*, 2009.

You will also have lectures and workshops in quantitative methods for political analysis, organised in the university Department of Politics and International Relations. As an introduction, you should try to look through

P.M. Kellstedt & G.D. Whitten, *The fundamentals of political science research*, 2008.