



# History and Politics

Full details about the course are available from

<http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/prospective-undergrads/history-politics> and

<http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/history-and-politics>

## The subject at Selwyn

History and Politics is an exciting degree which offers subjects from both the History and the Politics and International Relations courses, together with particular papers which will allow students to explore the space between the two disciplines. Students will also be able to build strengths in understanding the nature of evidence, methodology, and approaches in both History and Politics. They will be able to choose from a wide range of topics in British, European, American and World history and politics. This degree balances a strong grounding in the two component subjects with the opportunity to explore the ways in which historical and political understanding together illuminate the modern world.

The College is located a two minute walk from both the History Faculty and the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS). Several Fellows have research and teaching interests in areas covered by this new course. The Master of the College, Roger Mosey, is a former editor of the Today Programme on Radio Four, Head of BBC Television News and Controller of Radio Five Live. We promote a lively interest in matters central to the course, not least through a range of visiting speakers from politics, journalism and the media.

Students on this course will be eligible for support from funds that assist the studies of students of HSPS and related courses and that support subject-related vacation travel, internships and projects.

The College Library holds over 40,000 books. This includes a large history section, housed in its own room, where you will find books of central importance to your course. The Library's holdings in History and Politics are continually updated. The Library also provides a pleasant study area in line with students' needs.

## The Teaching Fellows

Dr Mike Sewell, Director of Studies in History and Politics, specialises in modern American political history and the history of international relations and is Course Director for the highly successful part-time Masters degree in International Relations.

Dr Lauren Wilcox is Deputy Director of the Centre for Gender Studies. Her research is located at the intersections of international relations, political theory and feminist theory.

Dr David Smith specialises in seventeenth and early eighteenth century British and European history.

## Qualities we are looking for

We are looking for ambitious and hard-working students who relish a challenge, seek to excel and love reading on academic topics. We look for an ability to excel in arguing and writing about history and politics.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate an interest in both subjects and will be assessed on their potential to succeed in them. They need not have studied either or both of them formally, but will be expected to have read widely around them and to show an awareness of the relationships between the two disciplines as well as their differences. A lively *academic* interest in the underlying forces that shape politics and political history will be essential.

## Written work

Applicants are asked to submit a recent and marked essay from their sixth-form studies. It should not be revised, still less specially prepared for the application to Selwyn. Nor should it be an entry for essay competitions or other such non-curricular activities. Nor should the essay be based on documents extracts or other stimulus materials. It may be a timed, exam conditions essay or an extract from a more extended piece. It will be used as a basis for discussion in one of the interviews and should be on a subject which has especially interested and excited you, and which you would like to talk about at interview. We seek to stretch candidates and gauge how they respond to new insights, go about tackling problems, and react to new ideas or questions.

## Pre-interview assessment

As at other Colleges, applicants will be asked to take the pre-interview written assessment for History, which will take place in schools and other assessment centres on **30 October 2019**. You must be registered in advance (separately to your UCAS application) to take the assessment. The registration deadline is **15 October 2019**. Your assessment centre must register you for the pre-interview assessment (you cannot register yourself).

## Interviews

You will have one subject interview which will focus on both History and Politics. As well as your submitted written work we will base some discussion on a stimulus passage that you will be asked to read immediately before the interview. We may also ask questions arising from contemporary events of relevance or from your application. You will also have a shorter general interview. This is intended to let us find out more about your motivation in applying for History and Politics at Cambridge. It is intended to give us a fuller sense of your aptitude for your chosen course, the maturity of your approach towards academic work, and your historical and other interests.

## Finding out more and Open Days

The Faculty will be participating in the Cambridge Open Days on 4 and 5 July. See the insert in our prospectus about this and other open days at Selwyn. Full details are also available on our website.

The College hosts the prestigious annual Ramsay Murray Lecture which is often on topics connected to this Tripos. Speakers have included Paul Kennedy, David Cannadine and Bridget Kendall. The 2016 lecture "The Obama Legacy" was delivered by Professor Theda Skocpol of Harvard University.