



DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICS
AND
**INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**

Manor Road Building
University of Oxford

Introduction to the Advanced Study of Political Science and International Relations

Michaelmas Term 2009

Thursdays 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. DPIR Lecture Theatre

Convenors: Eddie Keene and Elizabeth Frazer

A central component of our theory and methods teaching for first year MSc, MPhil and PRS students across the department, this lecture series has three aims:

- 1. to provide graduate students with an academic introduction to the variety of research interests in the Department*
- 2. to identify key research questions in our field*
- 3. to familiarise students with the methodological questions arising - how they might be addressed, what difficulties are encountered, how difficulties are resolved, and how choices about method affect research conclusions.*

We hope that students will complete the course with a clear sense of the field's breadth, of the plurality of approaches to addressing its substance, and of the pluralistic research profile of the Department.

Week 1: Eddie Keene: State and Society in Politics and International Relations

Week 2: Jennifer Welsh: The state of the debate

Week 3: Rana Mitter: *Title to be confirmed*

Week 4: David Soskice: Comparative and International Political Economy

Week 5: Dan McDermott: Analytical Approaches to Political Theory

Week 6: *No lecture this week*

Week 7: Ray Duch: Institutional and Behavioural Approaches to Comparative Political Science

Week 8: A discussion between Eddie Keene, Elizabeth Frazer and The Audience.

Requirements. *Attendance at all eight lectures is compulsory. A short review (about 1000 words) of the substance of the lectures must be submitted to the Courses Office by midday on Friday 0th week Hilary Term 2010. You may choose one of the following suggested titles for this review:*

- 1. Are there any significant differences between the study of 'politics' and the study of 'international relations'?*
- 2. With reference to any one of the topics covered in class, discuss how students of politics and/or international relations understand the relationship between the theoretical approach they take to the objects of their study and the methodological commitments they bring to their research practice.*
- 3. What limits are there to plurality in research method in the study of politics and international relations?*