



# Values and Public Policy: Module Guide



In partnership with Pearson

## What to expect

The contents of each module will be available weekly. We expect students to participate in the course for 3–5 hours per week. Tasks and content vary per week but that is the guideline.

The course is deliberately designed to be flexible around your schedule. There are no live elements to the course – videos are pre-recorded and tasks are pre-set – so can be picked up whenever you want during the seven days each module is live. You will have the opportunity to interact with the course Facilitator via email and within the learning platform and there are discussion forums to engage with peers.





## Module 0: Getting started

Introduce yourself to your cohort and meet the Facilitator, who will be providing support to you throughout the duration of the course. Learn more about what the course offers and how to navigate through it. Tell us about yourself by answering the questions and posting to the discussion board.

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## Module 1: Introduction to foundations

**Your first module focuses on setting foundations.**

**You will:**

- Complete a psychological disposition test to explore your basic moral stance towards philosophical and ethical issues;
- Recognise the four main questions to ask when considering issues of political philosophy, including 'What is the aim?', 'What are the limits?', 'Who gets what?' and 'Who decides?'; and
- Analyse your intuitive judgments on a practical question (eg climate change).

## Module 2: The common good

**In this module, you will:**

- Describe the ways in which human beings find fulfilment in community;
- Think critically on and articulate the subject of just social order within the context of a bigger picture; and
- Demonstrate a capacity for a holistic and intuitive analysis of real-world social problems.



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## **Module 3:** **Distributive justice: property, tax and welfare**

### **In this module, you will:**

- Identify the role of the economy and the government's interventions in it; and
- Discuss the argument of taxation and distributive justice using theories from Nozick and Rawls.

## **Module 4:** **Justice beyond distribution**

### **In this module, you will:**

- Reflect on the idea of equality, focusing on equality in society;
- Distinguish between material equality as opposed to equality between people; and
- Evaluate the theory of social justice in light of the oppression of minority groups in society.

## **Module 5:** **Authority and resistance: democracy, its rivals and its pathologies**

### **In this module, you will:**

- Explore the notion of the state and political authority and how this impacts citizens;
- Reflect on democracy and its abuse in society, considering the populism vs. democracy debate; and
- Theorise on public duty to resist injustice in society, including thinking about what forms this resistance might take.



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## **Module 6:** **Authority and resistance: human rights and civil disobedience**

### **In this module, you will:**

- Explore the justification of human rights and how it is used in practice;
- Evaluate how systems of distribution can marginalise some groups in society; and
- Reflect on your position and how you would act when it comes to enforcement of unjust laws.

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## **Module 7:** **Philosophy in public life**

### **In this module, you will:**

- Reflect on the notion of 'integrity' and what it means to act with integrity;
- Recognise the tensions that acting with integrity may bring in real-world environments; and
- Explore moral obligation in the context of personal belief versus public expectation.

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## **Module 8:** **Summary**

**In this concluding module, you will work on your final assignment for the course and formally reflect on the four questions introduced in Module 1.**

**In the assignment, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the various value-based concepts that have been considered during the course and use them to reflect on a real-world policy. You should aim to evaluate the policy in question by drawing on these concepts to reach your final conclusion. This will count for 50% of your final grade.**



## How to earn a certificate and succeed in this course

### To succeed in this course, you are expected to:

- Watch all videos;
- Respond to all activities;
- Reflect on what you're learning;
- Share your ideas with your peers in the discussion forum; and
- Apply what you learnt to complete the final assignment.

In order to pass the course and qualify for a certificate of completion, you must receive an overall grade of 75% or higher. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

**Facilitator graded discussion forum = 5%**

**Discuss and reflect activities = 15%**

**Mid-course scaffolding assessment = 10%**

**Facilitator reviews reflections = 20%**

**Final assignment [summative assessment] = 50%**

Note that certificates do not indicate your score, only whether you have passed. Your certificate will be issued by the platform.



**Thank you again** for choosing to study with  
the Blavatnik School of Government,  
University of Oxford in partnership with Pearson.