

The logo features the letters 'LSE' in white, bold, sans-serif font inside a red square. To the right of this square, the number '100' is written in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, followed by a small red square that serves as a period.

LSE 100.

A guide for first year undergraduates

From the Director of LSE100



Jonathan Leape

LSE100: The LSE Course is an innovative course which introduces you to thinking like a social scientist. The course uses important current issues and debates to explore questions of evidence, explanation and theory from the perspective of different social science disciplines. LSE100 brings students into the heart of the LSE tradition of engaging with big questions, with lectures by leading researchers and small, interactive classes that challenge you to confront new evidence, assess rival explanations and take a position. Whatever your degree course, LSE100 is designed to enhance your experience at the School by enabling you to complement your disciplinary training with an understanding of different ways of thinking; to learn from debating and collaborating with students from other disciplines and cultural backgrounds; and to strengthen your research and communication skills. This guidebook provides a summary of the course, including the aims and learning outcomes, the module topics, course assessment and resources.

Aims of the course

- To deepen and broaden your understanding of social scientific thinking – with its core elements of evidence, explanation and theory.
- To strengthen the critical skills which underpin your study and application of the social sciences
 - Research skills (e.g., information skills and data analysis)
 - Writing and presentation skills.

LSE100's learning outcomes

By providing an opportunity for you to engage with these issues and debates in the lectures and in small group classes with students from all degree courses, the course is designed to strengthen your skills in three broad areas.

What you will learn

On successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

Methodological skills

- 1 Evaluate** and interpret evidence of different types, including documentary and other qualitative sources as well as statistical data.
- 2 Explain** the respective roles of, and interaction between, questions, theories, evidence and explanations in the social sciences.
- 3 Identify** the role of counterfactuals in social science explanations.
- 4 Analyse** a contemporary social problem using theoretical perspectives from more than one social science discipline.

Information skills

- 5 Find** and access information relevant to social science problems, making use of good searching principles and techniques.
- 6 Evaluate** information sources, distinguishing scholarly sources from other content and critically assessing information from internet and other sources.
- 7 Manage** information – and reduce information overload – using online and other resources as well as appropriate citing and referencing techniques.

Communication skills

- 8 Construct** a coherent and persuasive argument – both orally and in writing – on a current issue in the social sciences, structuring the argument logically and supporting it with relevant evidence.
- 9 Plan and deliver** an engaging and well-argued presentation that coherently addresses both question and audience.



The LSE100 year: modules, lectures



Lent Term of your first year

In each of two terms, LSE100's series of three-week modules consist of three two-hour lectures (including a one-hour special lecture) complemented by weekly one-hour classes.

Week 1	Introductory lecture Mary S Morgan (Economic History) explores the interactions between questions, evidence, explanation and theory in the social sciences, by examining key milestones in the history of efforts to measure and understand poverty.
Weeks 2-4	Module 1: How should we manage climate change? Nicholas Stern (Economics), Simon Dietz (Geography) and Anthony Giddens (Political sociology) assess some of the questions posed by climate change, from the science through to economic, political, ethical and social responses, highlighting the conceptual and methodological contributions of different disciplines to understanding these issues. Special lecture 1: Social scientific reasoning
Weeks 5-7	Module 2: Does culture matter? Rita Astuti, Catherine Allerton (Anthropology) and Janet Hunter (Economic History) explore how culture and history influence everything we do – right down to how we work and what we eat – and the profound challenges they pose for research in the social sciences. Special lecture 2: Critical writing
Weeks 8-10	Module 3: Why are great events so difficult to predict? Michael Cox (International Relations) and Piers Ludlow (International History) use the end of the Cold War as a case study to explore the question of why great events are so difficult to predict, examining the role of agency and structural forces and the challenges of understanding causation. Special lecture 3: Asking the right questions

and classes

Michaelmas Term of your second year

In both terms, to keep your workload manageable, the majority of work for LSE100 is contained within the lectures and classes.



Weeks 1-3	Module 4: Who caused the global financial crisis? Howard Davies (Former Director), Danny Quah (Economics) and Jeff Chwieroth (International Relations), examine the causes – and implications – of the financial meltdown, considering a range of hypotheses and analysing the evidence, from international macroeconomic data to the incentive structures in the financial system. Special lecture 4: Effective communication
Weeks 4-6	Module 5: Is population growth a threat or an opportunity? Ernestina Coast, Wendy Sigle-Rushton, Tiziane Leone (Social Policy) and Tim Dyson (International Development) explore the population debate on both national and global levels, including the political, ethical, policy and evidence questions raised and emphasising the diverse disciplinary perspectives of social policy, sociology, development and politics. Special lecture 5: Groupworking skills
Weeks 7-9	Module 6: Who should own ideas? Dev Gangjee, Andrew Murray (Law) and Lillie Chouliaraki (Media) examine the notion of ideas as intellectual ‘property’ – drawing on legal argument as well as discourse analysis and the role of language – and the profound questions being raised by the evolving ‘information society’. Special lecture 6: Legal argumentation and debate
Week 10	Concluding lecture: Jonathan Leape (Director of LSE100) reviews key issues from the course, drawing on the range of different disciplines represented and highlighting the links to the learning outcomes.

Note: This provisional lecture programme is correct at time of going to print, but may be revised.

Assessment



Schedule

Summative ('S') assessments:

Lent Term 2012

S1 Week 9

In-class writing task

S2 End of term

Assessed essay
1,500 words

Michaelmas

Term 2012

S3 Week 6

In-class
groupwork
activity

S4 Week 9

In-class activity

Lent Term 2013

S5 Week 0

Exam

Types of assessment

Formatively assessed work

Formative work does not count towards your final mark for the course but provides feedback on how you are progressing. You are given feedback on your formatively assessed work and performance on LSE100 in various forms, including audio feedback (a short recording which you can play in Moodle or download as an mp3 to listen to later).

Summatively assessed work

LSE100 is graded on a non-numeric basis, using Pass, Merit, Distinction and Fail. Your final mark for LSE100 is based on the final exam and four pieces of work, three of which are completed in class. Two of these assignments are completed in Lent Term 2012: the first is a short piece of written work which you write during your week 9 class, the second is a 1500-word assessed essay, which must be submitted at the end of term. The third and fourth assessments are based on in-class writing and group presentation assignments in the Michaelmas Term of your second year.

Classification

Your final grade for LSE100

Your final grade for LSE100 is determined by the marks received for the final exam and the four summative assignments (the assessed essay and three in-class assignments), as shown below. The final grade appears on your transcript, but does not affect your degree classification.



Final Grade	Requirements
Pass	Three or more Passes including the exam.
Merit	Merit (or higher) in the exam and either: a Merit (or higher) in the assessed essay and no Fails. or Merits in two other summative assessments including one from Lent term and no Fails.
Distinction	Distinction in the exam and either: a Distinction in the essay and no Fails. or a Distinction in any of the other summative assessments, a Merit in the assessed essay and no Fails. or Merits in three summative assessments including the essay and no Fails.
Fail	You will fail LSE100 if you fail the exam or receive Fails in three or more of the other summative assessments.

Resources



Weekly resources

Class handouts: Most of the work for LSE100 is self-contained within the lectures and classes. You are given handouts for each lecture and class.

Class reading pack: Your teacher will give out a short class reading pack before the start of each module. You need to read the relevant section of it before your class, and bring it with you to class.

Moodle: Recordings of all the LSE100 lectures become available to watch again on Moodle. The Course office and your class teacher notify you of any important information via the course announcements section and you can access your audio feedback on the Moodle site.

Taking your studies further

For each module, there is a set of optional further resources on Moodle including:

Further reading and resources such as links to useful websites, podcasts, videos and newspaper articles. This additional material is not essential but available for those who want to investigate a topic further, or to revise it.

Online tutorials and self-test activities: On the LSE100 skills Moodle site there are resources which support the course learning outcomes and special lectures. Self-testing activities are available for both quantitative and qualitative skills including tips for researching and writing your assessed essay, help with statistical analysis, quizzes and tutorials, guides to working in groups, creating presentations and advice on reading and taking notes.

Additional Support for LSE100

Module office hours: are held by LSE100 Teaching Fellows for each module if you would like to talk about any queries or concerns that you have about the module's academic content. Your class teacher also offers office hours regularly during the term.

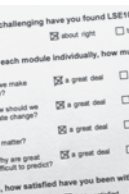
Muddy points: If you are unclear about any points raised during a LSE100 lecture you can text MUDDY to 07786 203188 along with a short message outlining your 'muddy point'. All texts are anonymous and are passed on to the lecturer who responds on Moodle to the most commonly raised issues. Muddy points can also be submitted free of charge on Moodle.

PRS: All LSE100 students are asked to collect a Personal Response Unit or 'clicker' from the Library before the course starts. Lecturers are then able to ask questions during LSE100 lectures and the answers submitted by students via PRS are immediately collated and displayed anonymously on screen to allow the lecturer to gain instant feedback on students' opinions and understanding.

Writing Lab: From week 3 of Lent Term, LSE100 students are able to book an appointment for a 30 minute one to one tutorial session to support written work from any course, including LSE100. Work must be submitted in advance of an appointment booked online via LSE For You. We hope to provide a similar service for those who would like help with their quantitative and presentation skills. See Moodle for more information.



Frequently Asked Questions



How will I fit this in? It's an extra course!

The course has been designed so that the majority of the work is contained within lectures and classes. You are required to read a short amount in preparation for each week's class. The only two assessments outside of class time are the assessed essay and the examination. The information, writing and reading skills you gain from LSE100 will help you to work more effectively on your other courses.

What can I expect to be provided?

There is a two-hour lecture and a one-hour class each week and we provide printed readings as well as class and lecture handouts to support each module. Further resources are available online on Moodle (see page 8).

How do I give feedback?

Feedback from you is very important to the Course team. Over the year, there are quick polls, focus groups, Teaching Quality surveys and a Staff:Student Liaison Committee to provide you with a variety of ways to give us your comments and suggestions about the course.

What is expected from me?

- Attendance at all the lectures and classes
- Completion of all assigned reading and formative and summative assessments
- Active participation in classes
- Asking for help if you need it!

Who should I ask for help?

Your class teacher should be the first person you speak to either during their office hour, during or after your weekly class or via email.

What if I have a problem with my class teacher?

In the first instance, come and talk with staff in the Course office.

What happens if I miss a class?

You should email your class teacher as soon as possible to let them know why you missed the class.

Can I change my class group?

Due to the small class sizes and the group work element of class activities, LSE100 class changes are only allowed in exceptional circumstances and cannot be made online via LSE for You.

Students who wish to request a class change should come to the LSE100 Course office by week 3 to complete a request form which will have to be approved by the Director of LSE100. Class changes will not be permitted after week 3 in either term.



The LSE100 examination

LSE100 has a two-hour unseen written examination which will take place in week 0 of the Lent Term of your second year (i.e. **the week before the start of term**). This is to allow you to complete LSE100 before the majority of your other second year degree course assessments. The skills that you develop on LSE100 will also help you to prepare for your second year exams. **You must pass the final examination in order to pass LSE100.**

If you have a question that is not answered here or on the website, please visit or email the Course office:

LSE100@lse.ac.uk, room KSW.G405.

The information in this publication can be made available in alternative formats, on request. Please contact the LSE100 Course office.



Contacts and information sources

LSE100 Course office:
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