SOCIAL SCIENCES BOARD

(a) MPhil in Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society)

With effect from 1 October 2010 (for first examination in 2011)

1. In Examination Regulations, 2009, p. 573, l. 29 after ‘(af)−(ag)’ insert ‘, (ai)’.
2. Ibid., l. 31 after ‘(s)−(ab)’ insert ‘, (ah)’.
3. Ibid., l. 33 after ‘(e)−’ delete ‘(ah)’ and substitute ‘(ag), (ai)’.

‘(ah)  Kant’s Political Philosophy

The course will address all aspects of Kant’s political philosophy, including its relation to his moral philosophy. Specifically, it will look at his theory of the formation of the state, the nature of law and constitution, the role of social contract, his rather authoritarian view of political obligation, his conception of citizenship, his theory of property, his theory of international law and international relations, and his cosmopolitanism. There will be some discussion of the roots of Kant’s political philosophy in the work of Jean–Jacques Rousseau and also of the influence of his political philosophy in the twentieth century, particularly in the work of John Rawls.

(ai)  Political Economy of Inequality and Democracy

This course will introduce MPhil students to some of the major topics related to the political economy of inequality, politics, institutions and redistribution. It is organized around a framework that emphasizes the relationship between equality and efficiency, the nature of inequality, the political causes and consequences of redistribution, and the relationship between inequality and democracy. Through reading, writing of discussion papers, and seminar participation, students will develop the relevant analytical skills to understand the relationships affecting individual preferences, political and economic institutions, and policy outcomes.’.