

## **Errata in the Humanities Postgraduate Handbook 2024 – Omission from Political Studies Section:**

**Pages 362 & 363: The course entries for the following courses were erroneously omitted:**

**POL5044FS      SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS**  
**POL5053FS      COMPARATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**The course entries should appear as follows:**

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### **POL5044FS    SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS**

24 NQF credits at NQF level 9

**Convener:** Professor A Butler

**Course entry requirements:** Admission to a master's programme, and by permission of the course convener.

**Course outline:**

This advanced course explores South African politics through a variety of historical, theoretical and comparative lenses. The early weeks of the course draw on historical, sociological, and other materials to investigate the 20th century political history of the country. Students will address conflicts that have unfolded between traditional, liberal, popular and quasi-Marxist conceptions of how a society ought to be governed. The middle sections of the course investigate the causes, significance, and implications of the 'democratic transition' using a diversity of scholarly resources. In the final sections, students will explore some key issues in South Africa's contemporary political life. They will focus on the party system; the nature of the post-apartheid state; the relationships between party, state and business; contests over the meaning of democracy; and the changing character of the ANC. There will be a core of essential readings. Beyond these, however, the course will be centred around student-led, independently researched, seminars and discussions.

**DP requirements:** Submission of all written coursework and satisfactory attendance of seminars.

**Assessment:** Two long essays (45% each) and a student presentation (10%).

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### **POL5053FS    COMPARATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

24 NQF credits at NQF level 9

**Convener:** TBA

**Course entry requirements:** Acceptance for a master's programme.

**Course outline:**

This course provides an advanced exposure to the historical literature, global comparative practices, and selected themes in the comparative study of local government. Local government around the world represents the front-face of the state; the level of government which is closest to responding to the everyday needs and challenges of citizens. It is also the level of government which bears the brunt of increasing environmental and demographic pressures to sustain the livelihoods of millions of people. This is particularly acute in developing countries, which exhibit massive spatial inequalities between urban and rural communities and are forced to innovate their modalities of public service delivery. In the first part of the course, we will study the historical evolution of literature on local government globally, including major theoretical and conceptual questions about the role, size and function of local governments. We will also look at selected themes in the transformation of South Africa's local government system following the end of apartheid, and the functioning of local governments across Sub Saharan Africa. In the second part of the course, we will discuss contemporary policy challenges facing local governments around the world, and examine the nature of the threats these issues pose along with possible solutions. These include climate resilience, urban densification and housing, public transport, public participation and accountability, and water and sanitation.

**DP requirements:** Submission of all written coursework and satisfactory attendance of seminars.

**Assessment:** Assignment (1) 20%; Assignment (2) 30%; Exam 30%; Participation 20%.