Finding courses at Stellenbosch University
A few important things to note

- Stellenbosch University has two course offerings available to international students: IPSU (International Programmes Stellenbosch University) and Mainstream.

- International students can choose either IPSU or Mainstream courses or a combination of the two.

- Academic departments at Stellenbosch University reserve the right to determine whether students meet with their requirements for admission to mainstream courses within their department and their decision is final. The department(s) can take up to 14 days and sometimes even longer to review applications and provide feedback.

- It is a student’s own responsibility to make sure that they apply for mainstream and IPSU courses that are on the correct level as requested by their home university (i.e. postgraduate or undergraduate – please note that all IPSU courses are undergraduate courses). Students may also choose a combination of undergraduate and postgraduate courses if approved by both home and host university.

- Please do not contact departments directly. All enquiries and concerns regarding courses should be sent to the coordinator at the PGIO who in turn liaises with the relevant departments.
Defining the first and second semester at Stellenbosch University

The first semester is the first half of the academic year at Stellenbosch University which usually commences in February and ends in June. The second semester is the second half of the academic year at Stellenbosch University which usually commences in July and ends in December.

Term dates for the current year are available at http://www.sun.ac.za/english/dates/term-dates
Undergraduate courses
IPSU (International Programme Stellenbosch University) COURSES:

http://www0.sun.ac.za/international/prospective-students/non-degree-seeking--short-term-students-I/i-want-to-enrol-at-su-I/exchange-programmes/course-information-I.html

Please note that the IPSU booklet may be updated during the year but IPSU courses are usually repeated every semester. If you are unsure about the availability of an IPSU course, do not hesitate to send an email to interchange@sun.ac.za.
MASTSTREAM COURSES:

Go to http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/ and click on the link for Calendar the relevant faculty – if this link does not work, do not hesitate to send an email to interchange@sun.ac.za

Understanding the Calendar

When making a choice for a mainstream course or module at the University of Stellenbosch, it is important to know what the different markers indicate to make it easier for you to make the right choice. This document gives a crash-course in deciphering the module codes so that you know exactly what you are choosing.
Language of instruction

Stellenbosch University Policy – Mainstream courses:

The following indicates the medium of instruction
(A) – Only Afrikaans
(E) – Only English
(T) – T option: 50/50
(A/E) – parallel: two class streams

*Take note that all academic material will be made available in English
Each of the following abbreviations is used throughout the University to denote the stated combination of (i) type of instruction and (ii) length of time:

- **L** lecture of 50 minutes;
- **P** practical period of 50 minutes [for instance: 2P and 10P stand for totals of two practical periods and ten practical periods, respectively]; 3P a practical of maximally 170 minutes [this maximum is made up of 3 x 50 minutes, plus the two intervals of 10 minutes each];
- **S** seminar of 50 minutes;
- **T** tutorial of 50 minutes; 2T tutorial of maximally 110 minutes [this maximum is made up of 2 x 50 minutes, plus the interval of 10 minutes].
Please familiarise yourself with the coding of mainstream and IPSU courses in order to make a course selection. The codes will tell you when the course is offered (in the case of undergraduate course).

The code consists of three digits. The first indicates the year-level of the course, the second indicates which semester the course is offered in (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

For example: English 348 is a third year course (3); offered in the second semester (4).

It is your responsibility to make sure that you apply for courses on the correct level and in the correct semester.
At the end of the document please see the visual explanation for additional assistance
Postgraduate courses
Please note the following:

- All postgraduate courses at Stellenbosch University are offered in English.

- Go to http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/ and click on the link for Calendar the relevant faculty – if this link does not work, do not hesitate to send an email to interchange@sun.ac.za.

- All postgraduate course codes start with a 7 or 8.

- For postgraduate courses, it may be easiest to go directly to the department’s website to find out which courses are on offer and when they will be on offer and what the language of instruction will be. You do this by going to the A-Z index on the official university website http://www.sun.ac.za/english/a-z and searching for the name of the department. You can also search for the name of the faculty in the index and follow the link from the faculty website to the relevant academic department. The contents of these postgraduate course offerings differ between departments. Some departments only indicate the course names, whiles others indicate the semester in which a course is offered and some departments have a detailed course description of the course available on the website.

- If you cannot find sufficient postgraduate course information on the departmental website, please contact our office so that we can further assist you in finding such information. Please do not contact departments directly. All enquiries and concerns regarding courses should be sent to the coordinator at the PGIO who in turn liaises with the relevant departments.
Visual explanation

Please see below the examples from various calendars to give you a better understanding of what you are looking at and what you should be looking for. The visual explanation includes both undergraduate and postgraduate examples.
Step one: Choose the relevant calendar for the faculty
The first example is from Arts and Social Sciences
In the index, scroll down until you can see on which page the module content is listed for the department that you are interested in:
6. Module Contents

EXPLANATION OF NUMBERING SYSTEM AND SYMBOLS

Various symbols, numbers and codes (some for computer purposes) are used in explaining the module contents in this section.

Numbering system for subjects and modules

All subjects are represented by a subject number of 5 digits. Each module of the subject is represented by a three-digit module code, in which the year of study and semester of presentation (unless otherwise stated) are combined. The number following the module code represents the credit value of the module.

The prescribed subjects for the various BA programmes, as well as the module content, credit value, prerequisite pass, prerequisite and corequisite modules are summarised, as illustrated below, in this section.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>114</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>Psychology as a Science</th>
<th>2L, 1T</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Explanation:

1. The subject number refers to the subject, Psychology.
2. 14 and 24 (the number 12 will normally be written in brackets) is the module code of the module Psychology 14 (12) with the module subject: Psychology as a Science.
3. The module code 14 (12) has the following meaning:
   - First digit: 1 refers to the year of study in which the module is presented.
   - Second digit: 1 is a number to discriminate between modules of the same subject in the same year of study and refers to the semester (unless stated otherwise), according to the following pattern:
     - 2: modules offered in the first semester,
     - 4, 5 or 6: modules offered in the second semester,
     - 7, 8 or 9: modules offered over two semesters, i.e. a year module.
   - Third digit: 4 has no specific meaning, but can be used to discriminate between different modules of the same subject in the same semester of the same year of study.
4. The number in the block (otherwise in brackets) next to the module code 12 indicates the
## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Module contents for undergraduate programmes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44687</td>
<td>POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.5L, 1S, T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>South African Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Introduction to African Politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **112**: The characteristics of Political Science as an academic discipline; the development of the modern state: constitutions and constitutional change; state forms: democratic, authoritarian, union, federal and confederations; forms of government: parliamentary and presidential systems of legislative and executive authority; the dynamics of political participation in modern political systems.

- **122**: An overview of the most important actors, structures and processes in the international system; an orientation towards the theoretical approaches to this field.

- **142**: An analysis of the process of political transition to democracy in South Africa, party political policy, elections, the government of national unity, the Constitution and policy issues.

- **152**: State formation in Africa: the delimitation of land and boundaries; population composition and independence; the influence of external factors such as colonialism on state formation; decolonisation and its internal dynamics, e.g. nationalism and resistance; the classification of modern African systems, e.g. multiparty, one-party, Marxist and military regimes; the most recent trends, including external and internal pressure to democratis.

**Note**

Political Science 112, 122, 142 and 152 are compulsory modules for all the undergraduate programmes in which Political Science 1 is taken, except for the BA (Policy and Value Studies).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>212</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Political Behaviour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A study of the way that figures and institutions with authority transfer political values.
You will see the courses on offer in Political Science listed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Introduction to Political Science</td>
<td>1.5L, 1S</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>1.5L, 1S</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>South African Politics</td>
<td>1.5L, 1S</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Introduction to African Politics</td>
<td>1.5L, 1S</td>
<td>T</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Political Science 112, 122, 142 and 152 are compulsory modules for all the undergraduate programmes in which Political Science I is taken, except for the BA (Policy and Value Studies).
Deciphering the details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152</td>
<td>Introduction to African Politics</td>
<td>State formation in Africa: the delimitation of land and boundaries; population composition and independence; the influence of external factors such as colonialism on state formation; decolonisation and its internal dynamics, e.g. nationalism and resistance; the classification of modern African systems, e.g. multiparty, one-party, Marxist and military regimes; the most recent trends, including external and internal pressure to democratise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The code consists of three digits. The first indicates the year-level of the course, the second indicates which semester the course is offered in (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

This indicates the amount of credits for the course:
- 2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
- 4 South African credits = 1 USA credit

This indicates the specific name of the module:

Provides short description of course:

Indicates type of instruction and length of time (indicated per week):
- (A) – Only Afrikaans
- (E) – Only English
- (T) – T option: 50/50
- (A/E) – parallel: two class streams

* Take note that all academic material will be made available in English.
An example from Business Management

The code consists of three digits. The first indicates the year-level of the course, the second indicates which semester the course is offered in (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

This indicates the specific name of the module:

244 16 Advertising and sales promotion

This indicates the amount of credits for the course:

2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
4 South African credits = 1 USA credit

This indicates the specific name of the module:

P Marketing Management 214
Home department: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Indicates type of instruction and length of time (indicated per week):

3L, 1P

The following indicates the medium of instruction:

(A) – Only Afrikaans
(E) – Only English
(T) – T option: 50/50
(A/E) – parallel: two class streams

* Take note that all academic material will be made available in English

Provides short description of course:

Advertising and the marketing process; the consumer audience; portfolio planning and research; functioning of advertising; advertising planning and strategy; advertising media; media planning and buying; printed media; creative advertising; integration of the elements of marketing communication.
An example from Engineering (it looks a bit different than the others but still contains the same information)

The code consists of three digits. The first indicates the year-level of the course, the second indicates which semester the course is offered in (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

This indicates the specific name of the module

Indicates type of instruction and length of time (indicated per week)

Provides short description of course

The following indicates the medium of instruction
(A) – Only Afrikaans
(E) – Only English
(T) – T option: 50/50
(A/E) – parallel: two class streams

* Take note that all academic material will be made available in English

This indicates the amount of credits for the course:
2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
4 South African credits = 1 USA credit

2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
4 South African credits = 1 USA credit
If a postgraduate course is listed in the module description from a department, it will look like the following examples. Please just remember that the course codes for postgraduate courses are more complicated, as the digits do not always correspond to the semester it is offered in. For postgraduate courses, it is the easiest to go directly to the department’s website to find out which courses are on offer and when they will be on offer.
**Example from Law**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62537-843</td>
<td>International Law and Children’s Rights</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>2L</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This module deals with the main international children’s rights documents pertaining to children and their rights. The following aspects are covered: the status of international children’s rights instruments in South Africa; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; the African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child; the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoptions and Children in Armed Conflict.

1 question paper of 4 to 8 hours

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The Law faculty provides the full module code for their courses – you only need to look at the last three digits – if the first digit is a 7 or 8, you know it is a postgraduate course. The second digit still indicates when it is on offer (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

- **This indicates the amount of credits for the course:**
  - 2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
  - 4 South African credits = 1 USA credit

- **This indicates the specific name of the module**
- **Indicates type of instruction and length of time (indicated per week)**
- **Provides short description of course**

The following indicates the medium of instruction:
- (A) – Only Afrikaans
- (E) – Only English
- (T) – T option: 50/50
- (A/E) – parallel: two class streams

* Take note that all academic material will be made available in English
Example from Agricultural Science – as from the example, postgraduate courses sometimes have no type of instruction, length of time or language of instruction indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>711 16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Aquaculture production and management systems I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management practice of aquaculture production in relation to production systems; production planning; production management: applied biology, nutrition, water quality; including intensive and extensive systems, with reference to marine and freshwater species.

Home department: ANIMAL SCIENCES

- If the first digit is a 7 or 8, you know it is a postgraduate course. The second digit can still indicate whether it is on offer in a specific semester (1, 2 and 3 indicates a course taught in the first semester; 4, 5 and 6 indicates a second semester course. 7 or 8 indicates a course that runs over a whole year). The third digit is irrelevant for your purposes.

- This indicates the amount of credits for the course:
  - 2 South African credits = 1 ECTS
  - 4 South African credits = 1 USA credit

- This indicates the specific name of the module

- Provides short description of course
Please do not hesitate to send an email to interchange@sun.ac.za should you have questions at any stage.