

Module Code:	SOC445
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Module Title:	Understanding Systems and Structures of Government
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Level:	4	Credit Value:	20
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Cost Centre(s):	GAPL	JACS3 code:	L200
		HECoS code:	100491

Faculty:	Social & Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Ken Perry
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	36 hrs
Guided independent study	164 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Public Service Leadership	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites
None

Office use only

Initial approval: 26/07/2018

Version no: 1

With effect from: 01/01/2019

Date and details of revision:

Version no:

Module Aims

By the end of the module students should show understanding of the Devolved, National, and International political and organisational context wherein debates about desired Public Service related outcomes are carried out.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Key skills for employability

- KS1 Written, oral and media communication skills
- KS2 Leadership, team working and networking skills
- KS3 Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
- KS4 Information technology skills and digital literacy
- KS5 Information management skills
- KS6 Research skills
- KS7 Intercultural and sustainability skills
- KS8 Career management skills
- KS9 Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
- KS10 Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to

Key Skills

1	Describe the essential characteristics of political institutions and inter-relationships between branches of government	KS1	KS6
		KS2	KS8
2	Review the adequacy of existing political arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and full participation	KS1	KS6
		KS2	KS8
3	Explain the rights and responsibilities of the Individual and citizenship in politics and the impact political institutions have on their citizens.	KS1	KS6
		KS2	KS8
4	Identify political ideologies, theories, processes, behaviour, and how these influence policy	KS1	KS6
		KS2	KS7

Transferable skills and other attributes

Understand systems
Working independently
Time Management

Derogations

None

Assessment:

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

Students will demonstrate their knowledge of political structures that drive policy and other political arrangements, by

1. Analysing a case study that highlights a key policy and reviews the application of this policy in practice (e.g. Universal Credit, Community Benefits policy)
2. Reflection Practice Assignment- Students will reflect on how their learning will inform their future working practices in relation to policy and improving outcomes for citizens.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1-2	Case Study	80%		2000
2	3-4	Reflective practice	20%		500

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Face to face lectures

Online VLE based support and discussions

Activity based session to provide real world practical examples. Group discussions/ workshop critically evaluating led by lecturer the policy context in the UK.

Self-directed study and further research to acquire additional perspectives of implementation and challenges.

Students will also be encouraged to take a proactive approach in discussions on political issues and begin to consider the similarities and differences at regional and national levels.

Syllabus outline:

This module will develop and awareness of the origin, development and current political processes in the UK. Students will review different ideological perspectives and relate this to current policy initiatives.

Topics will include :

What is politics?

The UK Constitution and Constitutional Reform

Parliament, Welsh Government

The Core Executives and Accountability
Electoral Systems, Campaigns and Elections
Voting Behaviour: theories and debates
The ideas of Politics
Political parties
Pressure Groups
Devolution
The European Union
Britain in the World/Brexit
Appreciate the nature and extent of devolution and regional responsibility

Indicative Bibliography:

Essential reading

Garnett, M. and Lynch, P. (2016) *Exploring British Politics*, (4th edn), Oxfordshire, Routledge
Jones, B. & Norton, P. and Daddow, O. (2018) *Politics UK*, (9th edn), Oxon, Routledge
Smits, K. (2016) *Applying Political Theory: Issues and Debates*, (2nd edn), London, Palgrave

Other indicative reading

Deacon, R. (2012) *Devolution in the United Kingdom* (2nd edn), Edinburgh, Edinburgh University Press
Flinders, M., Gamble, A., Hay, C., and Kenny, M. (2011) *The Oxford Handbook of British Politics*, (1st edn), Oxford, Oxford University Press
Grayson, R. (2016) *British Politics: A Beginner's Guide*, (2nd edn), London, Oneworld Publications

Websites:

www.welshgovernment.gov.uk
<https://www.gov.uk/>
<https://www.gov.scot/>
<https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/>
<https://futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>
<http://academiwales.gov.wales/>