

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	The Policy Process in Britain	Level:	5	Credit Value:	20
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Module code:	SOC510	Is this a new module?	No	Code of module being replaced:	
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Cost Centre:	GASY	JACS3 code:	L230
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Trimester(s) in which to be offered:	1, 2	With effect from:	September 16
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School:	Social & Life Sciences	Module Leader:	Dr Ann Hynes
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Scheduled learning and teaching hours	60 hrs
Guided independent study	140 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Public and Social Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pre-requisites

Office use only

Initial approval August 16

APSC approval of modification *Enter date of approval*

Have any derogations received SQC approval?

Version 1

Yes No

Module Aims

- To extend knowledge and understanding of the theory and practice of analysing public policy.
- To integrate and develop prior knowledge on government and political ideas.
- To provide an analytical framework to underpin concurrent and future learning.
- To enable students to draw on alternative approaches within the social sciences.

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	Critically evaluate models of the policy process	KS1	KS3
		KS4	KS5
2	Identify and discuss the relative influence institutional actors have on the policy process	KS2	KS7
3	Apply various theories (e.g. power theories; decision theories) as analytical tools	KS4	KS2
4	Apply a range of strategies for the retrieval of information and comment on the reliability and validity of the evidence.	KS4	KS5
		KS6	
5	Initiate and undertake analysis of primary government documents e.g. parliamentary debates; acts of parliament, to illustrate discussions.	KS4	KS5
		KS6	KS10

Transferable/key skills and other attributes

- Research and study skills
- Communication skills
- Problem Solving skills

- Information Technology skills
- Reflection on Learning

Derogations

NA

Assessment:

Assessment 1: Oral presentation: Based on Assessment 2 report students deliver an oral presentation analysing the first three stages of the policy making process. (Policy initiation process, Policy formulation process and Parliamentary (decision-making) process)

Assessment 2: Report: Students select a case study and present a report, analysing the full five stages of the policy making process of their selected case study. (Policy initiation process; Policy formulation process; Parliamentary (decision-making) process; Policy implementation process and Policy outputs/outcomes process)

Formative assessment: Oral presentation feedback will be available from peers/mentors as well as opportunity to discuss preparation of written work.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2,3,4,5	Presentation	25%	10mins	
2	1,2,3,4,5	Report	75%		3,000

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

Weekly lectures/workshops will introduce students to the topics to be learned and applied to the analysis of a real-life policy case study which is the means by which their learning will be assessed. This will enable students to work on their chosen case study in preparation for their assessment reports, and to develop their skills of knowledge acquisition, organisation, integration and presentation. Supporting resources will be available on the VLE (Moodle). Additional support in developing presentation skills will be included in the Personal Development Workshops in Level 5.

Syllabus outline:

This module focuses upon the linear and systems models of policy analysis, theories on power, decision-making and implementation, and relevant institutions and actors in the policy-making process. Students learn through analysing a policy case.

Topics include:

- Models of analysing the policy process
- Power Theories
- Policy Initiation (pressure groups and other influences on Cabinet)
- Policy Formulation (actors and institutions, and decision theories)
- Parliamentary Process (actors and institutions, and power and decision theories)
- Policy Implementation (agencies and implementation theories)
- Measuring Policy Outputs and evaluating Policy Outcomes

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Bibliography:

Essential reading

- Dorey, P. (2014) *Policy Making in Britain: An Introduction*: London, Sage
- Hill, M. (2012) *The Public Policy Process 6th edition*. Routledge.

Other indicative reading

- Axtmann, R. (2006) *Democracy: Problems and Perspectives* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press
- Budge, I. et al (2007) *The new British politics 4th edition*: Harlow, Pearson Education. *Ebook available.*
- Governance
- Heywood A (2013) *Politics 4th edition* : Basingstoke, Palgrave
- Hill, M. & Hupe, P. (2014) *Implementing Public Policy 3rd Edition*, London: Sage
- Hudson, J. & Lowe (2009) S. *Understanding the Policy Process: Analysing Welfare Policy and Practice*, Bristol: Polity Press
- Jones, B. and Norton, P. (2013) *Politics UK*, Harlow: Pearson Education
- Jones, K. (2005) *Making of Social Policy in Britain*, Continuum International Publishing Group
- Kingdom, J. and Fairclough, P. (2014) *Government and Politics in Britain 4th edition*: Cambridge, Polity Press
- Local Government Studies
- Moran, M. et al (2008) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy (Oxford Handbooks of Political Science)*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Parliamentary Affairs
- Party Politics
- Peele, G. (2004) *Governing The UK 4th edition*: Oxford, Blackwell
- Policy & Politics
- Public Administration
- Public Policy & Administration