

MODULE SPECIFICATION PROFORMA

Module Title:	Introduction to Politics	Level:	4	Credit Value:	20
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Module code:	SOC408	Is this a new module?	No	Code of module being replaced:	
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Cost Centre:	GASY	JACS3 code:	L210
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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:	Neil Bryan
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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 provide students with an understanding of the main structures, mechanisms and actors in political life and activity.
- To encourage students to engage critically with political activity and issues.
- To develop students' knowledge of contexts, events and issues pertinent in the study of politics.
- To gain awareness of concepts and theories of government and governance and examine their usefulness in the contexts of the political systems studied.

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	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the essential characteristics of political institutions and inter-relationships between the branches of government.	KS1	KS3
		KS4	KS5
2	Evaluate the adequacy of existing political arrangements for ensuring representative democracy and full participation.	KS1	KS2
		KS3	KS5
			KS9
3	Explain the rights and responsibilities of the individual.	KS1	KS2
		KS5	KS7
			KS9
4	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of political ideologies, theories, processes, behaviour and traditions.	KS1	KS3
		KS5	KS4
		KS5	KS7

			KS9
Transferable/key skills and other attributes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and study skills • Critical thinking skills • Communication skills • Problem solving skills • Information Technology skills • Reflection on Learning. 			

Derogations
NA

Assessment:					
<p>Assessment 1: Essay: Students will choose a title from a list presented by the tutor. Example topics may include The UK Constitution and Constitutional Reform, Parliament, The Core Executive and Accountability, Elections and voting behaviour. Students will be required to explain the functioning of the institution and assess the adequacy of the current provision.</p> <p>Assessment 2: Examination: An examination in which students answer questions, applying their knowledge and understanding in order to address the demands of the question. Topics could include the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the political process, the impact on Governance of recent developments in the local, regional and international frameworks etc.</p> <p>Formative assessment: Plans for essay can be discussed with tutor and there will be opportunity to practise exam technique.</p>					
Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	1,2	Essay	50%		2,000
2	2,3,4	Examination	50%	2hrs	

Learning and Teaching Strategies:
<p>The module will utilise a variety of methods for teaching and learning. These will include lectures, structured briefing papers, discussion, DVD and Video materials, individual research and presentations by outside speakers. Lecture slides and wider reading will be posted, together with opportunities for online discussion on VLE (Moodle). Exam preparation will be supported and guided within the Personal Development Workshops at Level 4.</p>

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

Topics will include :

- What is politics?
- The UK Constitution and Constitutional Reform
- Parliament
- The Core Executive and accountability
- Electoral Systems, Campaigns and Elections in the UK
- Voting Behaviour: theories and debates
- The ideas of politics
- Political parties
- Pressure Groups
- Devolution
- The European Union
- Britain in the World
- Globalisation
- The Civil Service and Quangos
- The politics of Law and Order
- Economic policy
- Local Government

Bibliography:

Essential reading

- Coxall B, Robins L and Leach R (2011) British Politics 2nd Edition. Basingstoke: PalgraveMacmillan
- Heywood A (2013) Politics 4th Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Jones B, Norton P (2014) Politics UK 8th Edition Abingdon: Routledge.

Other indicative reading

- Heywood A (2012) Political Ideologies: An Introduction 5 th Edition, Basingstoke: PalgraveMacmillan
- Norton (2010) The British Polity 5th Edition Harlow: Pearson Longman.
- Clark A ((2012) Political Parties in the UK, Basingstoke.: Palgrave Macmillan
- Budge I, McKay D, Bartle J and Newton K (2007) The New British Politics 4th Edition Harlow:Pearson Longman.
- Denver D, Carman C, Johns R (2012) Elections and Voters in Britain 3 rd Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- McCormick J (2011) European Union Politics, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
- Garnett M, Lynch P (2012) Exploring British Politics 3 rd Edition Harlow: Pearson Longman
- Jackson N (2015) Politics: The Basics 5 th Edition Abingdon: Routledge.
- Politics Review Deddington: periodical 4 volumes published annually by Phillip Allan.