



CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

| Part 1: Basic Data | | | | | |
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| Module Title | Political Theory: Ideas in Context | | | | |
| Module Code | UZQNHFF-30-2 | Level | | Version | 1.1 |
| Owning Faculty | Health and Applied Sciences | Field | Politics | | |
| Contributes towards | BA(Hons) International Relations BA(Hons) International Relations and Politics BA(Hons) Politics Awards up to BA/BSc(Hons) | | | | |
| UWE Credit Rating | 30 | ECTS Credit Rating | 15 | Module Type | Standard |
| Pre-requisites | UZQNFF-30-1/UPPNFF-30-1: Ideas and Power or equivalent | Co- requisites | None | | |
| Excluded Combinations | None | Module Entry requirements | | | |
| Valid From | September 2010 | Valid to | | | |

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| CAP Approval Date | |
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| Part 2: Learning and Teaching | |
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| Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the methodological issues raised by the study of political ideas, and, in particular, to appreciate textualist and contextualist approaches. (All assessments). 2. Understand the significance of the historical development and historical contexts of political ideas. (Component A; Component B, Element 1). 3. Understand the significance of the political contexts in which political ideas are formulated and understand the role of debates concerning the nature of political ideologies. (Component A; Component B, Element 2). 4. Engage in a critical analysis of political ideas. (All components). 5. Communicate in writing an understanding of the historical and political importance of political ideas in their contexts. (All components). 6. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research activity. (Component B). |
| Syllabus Outline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the nature of political ideas and approaches toward the study of political ideas, especially textualist and contextualist approaches • the historical contexts and development of political ideas • selected political ideas in classical, medieval, early modern and late modern periods • an examination of the work of selected political thinkers, such as Aristotle, Cicero, Augustine, Machiavelli, Marx, Rawls • the political context of ideas, especially ideas formulated into ideologies • the nature, development and influence of political ideologies • detailed examination of the content of various ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, nationalism, feminism, environmentalism |

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| Teaching and Learning Methods | These will comprise formal lectures and seminars. Lectures will provide a survey of the themes and debates raised by the study of political ideas. Seminars will focus on discussion of the issues raised in lectures and will encourage students to engage in critical thinking about those issues and provide a setting for group work as seminars may be sub-divided, with students co-operating with other students in their sub-group to develop and defend a particular interpretation or argument. |
| Reading Strategy | The module handbook will provide an extensive guide to relevant reading. Students will be advised to buy at least one of recommended textbooks. Key sources will be placed in the library's short loan collection. Many recommended journal sources will be available in both hard copy and in electronic form. Students will be given help in locating source materials. |
| Indicative Reading List | <p>Note: this list does not include texts by the specific thinkers and ideologies to be studied.</p> <p>Bellamy, R & Ross, A, <i>A Textual Introduction to Social and Political Theory</i> Manchester U.P. 1996</p> <p>Boucher, D & Kelly, P <i>Political Thinkers</i> Oxford U.P. 2003</p> <p>Coleman, J, <i>Political Thought</i> vol 1, Blackwell, Oxford, 2000</p> <p>Dunn, J, <i>The History of Political Theory</i> Cambridge U.P. 1996</p> <p>Eccleshall, et al, <i>Political Ideologies</i> 2nd ed Routledge. London. 1994</p> <p>Freeden, M, <i>Ideologies and Political Theory</i> Oxford U.P 1998</p> <p>Freeden, M, <i>Re-Assessing Political Ideologies</i> Routledge. London. 2001.</p> <p>Hampshire-Monk, H, <i>A History of Modern Political Thought</i> Blackwell. Oxford. 1992</p> <p>Hayward, A, <i>Political Ideologies</i> 2nd ed Palgrave, London. 2003</p> <p>McLellan, D, <i>Ideologies</i> 2nd ed O.U. Press. Buckingham. 1995</p> <p>Plamenatz, J, <i>Man and Society</i> 3 vols. Revised eds. Longmans. London.1992</p> <p>Pocock, J, <i>Virtue, Commerce and History: Ideas in Context</i></p> <p>Skinner, Q, <i>Visions of Politics</i> Cambridge U.P. 2002</p> <p>Vincent, A, <i>Modern Political Ideologies</i> 2nd ed. Blackwell. Oxford. 1995.</p> <p>Wolin, S, <i>Politics and Vision</i> 2nd ed Princeton U.P., 2007</p> <p>Relevant Journals:</p> <p><i>American Political Science Review, Political Studies, Political Theory, Political Ideologies, History of Political Thought</i></p> |

Part 3: Assessment

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| Identify final assessment component and element | Component A | |
| % weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only) | A: | B: |
| | 50 | 50 |
| First Sit | | |
| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) | |
| 1. Three-hour Unseen Examination | 50% | |

| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
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| 1. Essay, 2,500 words | 25% |
| 2. Essay, 2,500 words | 25% |

| Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required) | |
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| Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| 1. Three-hour Unseen Examination | 50% |
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| Component B Description of each element | Element weighting (as % of component) |
| 1. Essay, 4000 words | 50% |
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| If a student is permitted an EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences. | |