



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Theories of Politics and International Relations		
Module Code	UZQSSW-30-2	Level	Level 5
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences	Field	Politics
Department	HAS Dept of Health & Social Sciences		
Module Type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co-requisites	None		
Module Entry Requirements	None		
PSRB Requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>Overview: This module will introduce students to theories of politics and international relations.</p> <p>Educational Aims: In the module students will acquire critical knowledge of the writings of the academic scholars within the fields of Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>This module is intended to get students thinking rigorously and critically about both domestic and international politics.</p> <p>In addition to the Learning Outcomes students will be expected to demonstrate an ability to engage in constructive discussion in a seminar setting.</p> <p>Outline Syllabus: The module will be divided into two sections. In the first section, students will have an opportunity to develop an understanding of a variety of theories of the state. In the second section, students will have an opportunity to develop an understanding of certain theories of international relations. Students will be encouraged to consider the ways in which theories of politics and international relations might be applied in the context of research regarding national and international politics.</p>

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The syllabus will be drawn from the following list of topics:

Political Theory:

Defining the state
Theories of state formation
Pluralism
Elite theory
Neo-pluralism
Identity politics
Democratic critique
Globalization

Theories of International Relations:

Realisms
Liberalisms
Marxisms
Constructivisms
Feminisms
Post-structuralisms
Areas of Research and Practices in International Relations: International Institutions and Security
Key events: World War II; the Cold War and its end; 9/11

Teaching and Learning Methods: A total of 72 hours – these will include 3 contact hours per week: 1 lecture (1 hour); 1 seminar (1 hour) and 1 face-to-face or virtual tutorial (1 hour).

Weekly lectures will be used to introduce students to academic scholars and key debates in theories of politics and international relations.

Weekly seminars will be used to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, analyse, and debate substantive issues related to the material of the week.

To complement lectures and seminars, weekly face-to-face or virtual workshops will be used to actively engage students. In these sessions students will have an opportunity to broaden gained knowledge on the subject-matter and to practice skills gained by undertaking short, manageable tasks. Tasks might include: critical reading of a piece of academic writing; writing a briefing paper; group work on a specific topic; conducting e-research on a specific topic. These tasks will help students to develop and enhance transferable skills, such as effective written and/or oral communication, team work, leadership skills, and research-related skills.

To further facilitate students' learning, prompt, detailed and constructive oral and/or written feedback will be provided.

Students will be expected to do at least 228 hours of independent learning, including preparation for classes and assessment.

Part 3: Assessment

Component A: Issue Briefing (2,000 words)

This piece of assessment requires a student to write an essay in response to one of the questions from a list that will be provided at the beginning of an academic year. This piece of assessment will provide students with an opportunity to further develop their skills in advancing a clear and persuasive argument. Students will be encouraged to deploy critical analysis in order to develop and support argument/s made. Students will be able to enhance their research skills, independent study, and a skill of clearly articulating and communicating complex ideas in writing and within a set word limit.

Component B: Essay (2,000 words)

This piece of assessment requires a student to write an essay in response to one of the questions from a list that will be provided at the beginning of an academic year. This piece of assessment will provide students with an opportunity to further develop their skills in advancing a clear and persuasive argument. Students will be

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encouraged to deploy critical analysis in order to develop and support argument/s made. Students will be able to enhance their research skills, independent study, and a skill of clearly articulating and communicating complex ideas in writing and within a set word limit.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B		50 %	Essay (2000 words)
Written Assignment - Component A	✓	50 %	Issue briefing (2000 words)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Written Assignment - Component B		50 %	Essay (2000 words)
Written Assignment - Component A	✓	50 %	Issue briefing (2000 words)

Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:	
	Module Learning Outcomes	Reference
	Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of theories in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations	MO1
	Demonstrate an ability to think independently about and reflect critically on theories of politics and international relations	MO2
	Apply and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practices of contemporary politics and international relations	MO3
	Apply and integrate theoretical and empirical material on politics and international relations	MO4
	Demonstrate the ability to write articulately and persuasively	MO5
Contact Hours	Independent Study Hours:	
	Independent study/self-guided study	228
	Total Independent Study Hours:	228
	Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	
	Face-to-face learning	72
	Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:	72

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	Hours to be allocated	300
	Allocated Hours	300
Reading List	<i>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</i> https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html	

Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19