



Module Specification

Theories of Politics and International Relations

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Theories of Politics and International Relations

Module code: UZQSSW-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Politics

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will introduce students to theories of politics and international relations.

Features: Not applicable

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.

This module is intended to get students thinking rigorously and critically about both domestic and international politics.

In addition to the Learning Outcomes students will be expected to demonstrate an ability to engage in constructive discussion in a seminar setting.

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.

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

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

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.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an understanding of a variety of theories in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations

MO2 Demonstrate an ability to think independently about and reflect critically on theories of politics and international relations

MO3 Apply and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practices of contemporary politics and international relations

MO4 Apply and integrate theoretical and empirical material on politics and international relations

MO5 Demonstrate the ability to write articulately and persuasively

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment part 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.

Assessment part 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 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.

Assessment tasks:**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Essay (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Issue briefing (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Essay (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Issue briefing (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA
(Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA
(Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Politics And International Relations [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA
(Hons) 2019-20

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA
(Hons) 2018-19