



ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Theories of Politics and International Relations				
Module Code	UZQSSW-30-2	Level	2	Version	1
Owning Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Politics		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Awards in Politics and International Relations				
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	Module Type	Standard
Pre-requisites	None		Co- requisites	None	
Excluded Combinations	None		Module Entry requirements		
Valid From	September 2014		Valid to	September 2020	

CAP Approval Date	28/03/2014
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Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. demonstrate an understanding of a variety of theories in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations (Component A and Component B – all elements) 2. demonstrate an ability to think independently about and reflect critically on theories of politics and international relations (Component B – elements 1 and 2) 3. apply and evaluate different theoretical approaches to practices of contemporary politics and international relations (Component B – elements 1 and 2) 4. apply and integrate theoretical and empirical material on politics and international relations (Component A and Component B – all elements) 5. demonstrate the ability to write articulately and persuasively (Component A and Component B – all elements) 6. demonstrate an ability to engage in constructive discussion in a seminar setting (seminar)
Syllabus Outline	<p>This module will introduce students to theories of politics and international relations. In it 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.</p>

	<p>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> <p>The syllabus will be drawn from the following list of topics:</p> <p><u>Political Theory:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining the state Theories of state formation Pluralism Elite theory Neo-pluralism Identity politics Democratic critique Globalization <p><u>Theories of International Relations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Realisms Liberalisms Marxisms Constructivisms Feminisms Post-structuralisms <p>Areas of Research and Practices in International Relations: International Institutions and Security</p> <p>Key events: World War II; the Cold War and its end; 9/11</p>
Contact Hours	<p>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)</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>Weekly lectures will be used to introduce students to academic scholars and key debates in theories of politics and international relations.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>To further facilitate students' learning, prompt, detailed and constructive oral and/or written feedback will be provided.</p> <p>Students will be expected to do at least 228 hours of independent learning,</p>

including preparation for classes and assessment.

Key Information Sets Information

Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for.

Key Information Set - Module data				
Number of credits for this module				30
Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours
300	72	228	0	300

The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a -

- Written Exam:** Unseen written exam, open book written exam, In-class test
- Coursework:** Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project
- Practical Exam:** Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam

Please note that this is the total of various types of assessment and will not necessarily reflect the component and module weightings in the Assessment section of this module description:

Total assessment of the module:	
Written exam assessment percentage	40%
Coursework assessment percentage	60%
Practical exam assessment percentage	0%
	100%

Reading Strategy

Two text books will be recommended:

1. Dryzek, J. and Dunleavy, P. (2009) *Theories of the Democratic State*, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Dunne, T, Kurki, M. and Smith, S.eds. (2013) *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hard copies of both texts are available in the library. To enhance students' reading, both texts will be ordered in electronic format.

Each week students will have to complete the required reading. This reading will be available via blackboard in a digitised format.

An extensive list of recommended reading on each topic will be provided within a syllabus. These lists of readings will be available via blackboard.

Students will be encouraged to read regularly in this module. Students will be encouraged to consult and integrate a wide range of sources in their written work.

Indicative Reading List	<p><u>Political Theory</u></p> <p>Dryzek, J. and Dunleavy, P. (2009) <i>Theories of the Democratic State</i>. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Held, D. (2006) <i>Models of Democracy</i>. 3rd Ed. Cambridge: Polity Press. Leftwich, A. (2004) <i>What is Politics? The Activity and Its Study</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press.</p> <p><u>International Relations Theory</u></p> <p>Hollis, M. and Smith, S. (2003) <i>Explaining and Understanding International Relations</i>. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Mingst, K. A. and Snyder, J. L. eds. (2014) <i>Essential Readings in World Politics</i>. London: W. W. Norton and Company. Webber, C. (2013) <i>International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction</i>. London: Routledge.</p>
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Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	<p>1. Essay</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. Essay</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. Exam</p> <p>This piece of assessment will require a student to answer two unseen essay questions in two hours. The exam is designed to test both students' knowledge regarding the topics examined in this module and their essay-writing abilities. Thus, the exam of this module does not merely test students' memory, but also the exam assesses students' ability to offer critical analysis under specific time constraints.</p>

Identify final assessment component and element		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A: 40%	B: 60%
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	

1. Examination (2 hours)	100%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Essay (1500 words)	50%
2. Essay (1500 words)	50%

Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)	
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
1. Examination (2 hours)	100%
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)
3. Essay (3000 words)	100%
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.	