



MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Public Policy and Decision Making		
Module Code	UZQY6N-15-3	Level	3
For implementation from	September 2018		
UWE Credit Rating	15	ECTS Credit Rating	7.5
Faculty	HAS	Field	Politics
Department	HASS		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations (with Foundation Year)		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p>This module will focus on the making of decisions and policies. It will cover explanations of key issues including how and why policy issues emerge, which issues are deemed important and why, how do policy actors formulate their ideas and responses to problems, what problems can be encountered in implementing policies and decisions, and what factors contribute to the success of failure of policy action. It will take a broad approach that will allow students to examine policy processes in countries of their choosing.</p> <p>Due to the dynamic and evolving nature of this content, and the range of cases that will be used in the module, content will be variable to reflect developments in the real world. Frameworks for analysis will include areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of policy stages and cycles • Policy actors and institutions • Theories of decision making • Issue emergence and policy agendas • Policy formulation & Legitimation • Implementation • Policy success and failure
Part 3: Assessment

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<p>The assessment is in two parts, an oral policy presentation and a 'policy brief' on a contemporary issue, which are designed to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow students to identify and consider a contemporary policy issue from a country of their choice (component B) and 2. Develop policy making skills and test the understanding of students about the broad the nature of decision and policy making (component A). <p>The oral presentation (component A) is intended to develop presentational skills in relation to the effective social scientific communication of complex policy detail (a transferable skill to 'real world' situations), drawing on material in relation to decision and policy making. It will typically involve the use of well-chosen text and graphics/charts/tables to present a proposal in relation to policy information and to demonstrate processes relating to key themes in the content of the module, including for example the definition of policy, stages models of policy processes (agenda-setting, formulation and implementation), theories of decision making, and considerations of policy success and failure.</p> <p>The policy brief on a contemporary issue (component B) allows students to select an issue from any policy area, and from any country, and to present an informative brief about the nature of the policy, including why it emerged onto the policy agenda, how the issues has been 'framed', the broad nature of formulation of the policy proposal, considerations of which policy instruments have been chosen, how the policy is implemented, and whether or not is has been successful. The board aim is to develop thinking about what constitutes effective policy and decision-making.</p> <p>While the content of the module focuses on 'public' policy, many of the approaches considered in both assessments are transferable to 'private' and non-governmental decision making, for example in businesses and voluntary organisations.</p>		
Component A		
Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)		
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A:	B:
	30	70
First Sit		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Policy Proposal Presentation (10 minutes)	100	
2.		
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Policy Brief (2000 words)	100	
2.		
Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)		
Component A (controlled conditions) Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Policy Presentation (10 minutes)	100	
2.		
Component B Description of each element	Element weighting (as % of component)	
1. Policy Brief (2000 words)	100	

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2.											
Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods											
Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Critically engage with, and evaluate, how decisions and public policies are made (components A and B). 2. Show a critical understanding of policy cycles and processes (component A) 3. Demonstrate an awareness of explanations relating to stages such as agenda setting and policy implementation (component A) 4. Understand the nature and operation of the main policy institutions and actors such as governments, parliaments and organized interests (component A and B). 5. Demonstrate critical skills in analysing contemporary policy issues (component B) 										
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key Information Set - Module data</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Number of credits for this module</i> 15</p>										
Contact Hours	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Hours to be allocated</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Scheduled learning and teaching study hours</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Independent study hours</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Placement study hours</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Allocated Hours</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>150</td> <td>36</td> <td>114</td> <td>0</td> <td>150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 5px;"></div>	Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	150	36	114	0	150
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150	36	114	0	150							
Total Assessment	<p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Total assessment of the module:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td>70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Practical exam assessment percentage</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total assessment of the module:		Written exam assessment percentage	0%	Coursework assessment percentage	70%	Practical exam assessment percentage	30%		100%
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	100%										
Reading List	<p>Students will be encouraged to pursue topics on which they choose to concentrate using guided reading of academic materials. As module focusing on contemporary public policy, in accumulating learning material students will be encouraged to make use of a wide range publications in addition to books and journal articles, e.g. parliamentary and government publications, material produced by political parties, think-tanks and organized interests, and media reports. Access to books, journal articles and reports, available through the Library, will be via Blackboard. It is expected that assignment bibliographies and reference lists will reflect the range of reading carried out. It is not presently envisaged that students will be required to buy a recommended textbook.</p> <p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/2523318C-2629-40A3-525C-D30BE17F8EBF.html</p>										

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