



Module Specification

Governing Society

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Governing Society

Module code: UZQJSU-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field:

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 explores the core concepts and issues necessary for an in depth understanding of Politics in the contemporary world, at local, national and global levels. It provides a historical context for those concepts and issues through an examination of political theory, policy and practice, and the use of contemporary and historical case studies.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The module interrogates how states and societies are structured and governed through an exploration of the ways in which ideas, policies and practices are created, legislated and legitimated through different processes and institutions, and the consequences for citizens and others.

It builds on the political theories and concepts introduced at level four/year one and delves into modern and complex theories of the state and contestation. It encourages students to explore the challenges and issues that lead us to question the stability and legitimacy of the state and its institutions, such as globalization, populism, forced displacement, and regional processes (such as Europeanization). Students will engage with theories of decision-making and examine a range of actors in the policy process who seek to influence it. They will also consider other relevant elements of the process, such as contestation, power and the use of evidence and political communication.

Through this module, students will gain an in depth, and critical, understanding of relevant theories, policies and practices, through the exploration and comparison of a range of historical and contemporary case studies.

Outline syllabus: This module examines the development and application of political theories and policy-making processes, as well as how their implementation and the consequences impact the field of political science and everyday citizens. This includes comparative, historic and contemporary cases, derived from a range of challenges to the state, such as populism, an ageing population, artificial intelligence, and forced displacement. For example, it may consider the tense relationship between democracy and development and links between governance structures and socio-economic development, drawing on a wide range of perspectives (such as local, national, regional, etc.).

By engaging in learning in lectures (which are interactive, with opportunity for questions) and undertaking self-directed learning, students will develop the potential to critically analyse theoretical developments, policy-making processes, and debates in contemporary politics.

Specific topics covered may vary from year to year to take account of developments in the field and/or staff expertise. Some or all of the indicative themes below will factor into the syllabus in any one year, shaping the module's delivery for that particular year, and will be confirmed in each module handbook:

Indicative themes :

Democratisation

Regional processes e.g., Europeanisation

Policy-making processes

Ideas and Evidence in Policy

Institutions of decision making

Political culture and communication

Globalisation

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will mix lecture/lectorial content and seminar/discussion activities to allow students to both learn and actively participate in issues related to political theory and the policy-making process.

Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students will be encouraged to actively participate in the learning process by contributing ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange. Technology enhanced learning will be incorporated where appropriate, including the use of online resources and learning environments.

Teaching and learning will be directed towards providing students with a wide range of perspectives on theories, policies and practices. Through this, students will be able to engage with these perspectives through case studies and develop the capacity to challenge them and build their own critiques.

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

MO1 Conduct comparative analyses of governance structures, processes and outcomes of state and society across different contexts.

MO2 Critically analyse and apply theoretical approaches and concepts to contemporary and historic political issues.

MO3 Communicate effectively and present evidence-based arguments and recommendations for addressing contemporary policy or governance challenges.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 0

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/CE6EF6F7-4BD2-FCFA-6136-CC52E2D1602B.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/CE6EF6F7-4BD2-FCFA-6136-CC52E2D1602B.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Written assessment (maximum 2000 words)

This will adapt to reflect the opportunities and material covered in any specific year. For example, it may take the form of a critical policy analysis, issue brief, or case study analysis. Regardless of format, students will always produce a 2000 word piece of academic writing to a set format as advised in the relevant assessment brief.

Oral presentation (maximum 10 minutes)

Each student will prepare and deliver an individual presentation. The format will adapt to reflect the opportunities and material covered in any specific year. For example it may take the form of a pre-recorded podcast, a live presentation (in class

or online), or a pre-recorded presentation. Regardless of format, students will always produce a 10 minute oral presentation to a set format as advised in the relevant assessment brief.

Opportunities for formative input and feedback will be built into the delivery of the module. The input and feedback will help develop topic and assessment understanding, target future reading, and enable students to engage more critically with the contents of the module.

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

Description: A 2000 word piece of academic writing to a set format as advised in the relevant assessment brief.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: A 10 minute oral presentation to a set format as advised in the assessment brief.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: A 2000 word piece of academic writing to a set format as advised in the relevant assessment brief.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2

Presentation (Resit)

Description: A 10 minute oral presentation to a set format as advised in the assessment brief.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26