



## **Module Specification**

### **From Plato to Nato**

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** From Plato to Nato

**Module code:** UZQRV9-30-0

**Level:** Level 3

**For implementation from:** 2025-26

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Health, Science & Society

**School:** CHSS School 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:** Throughout the module, students explore tools for understanding the world, including political theories, basic political science methods, and philosophical areas and topics such as metaphysics, ethics, and reflections on self and society.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** Introduce students to the key terms, concepts, and approaches within philosophy and political science.

Enable students to demonstrate that they understand and can convey the significance of these areas of knowledge, including their relevance to contemporary political and societal issues.

Encourage reflection on the connections between philosophical concepts and real-world political systems.

**Outline syllabus:** Half of the module will focus on the foundations of Western philosophical thought, focusing primarily on theories of knowledge, the self, and the foundations of the political state. Lectures and discussions will be based on a series of classical philosophical texts from the Greek tradition up to the modern that will introduce students to concepts such as ethics, being, knowledge, the self, justice, education, beauty, politics, and the state.

The other half of the module explores the key components of the contemporary political and international order. The lectures and discussions examine the state, the international system, and the contemporary issues facing both such as climate change, terrorism, poverty, war and peace, culture and religion, security (and others).

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** Weekly lectures and discussions via a lectorial format that is flexible week-on-week depending on the subject at hand. Regardless of the shape of the lectorial, there will always be a taught element via lecturing, and always a flipped and/or discussion based element.

Key concepts are addressed and unpacked by the lecturer and subsequently discussed and debated. Students will also be expected to have read a set reading prior to arriving in class. This approach is suited to the foundational nature of this module and maximises face-to-face contact time to ensure students understand, and appreciate, the core issues in politics and philosophy that will form the foundations of

their onward study.

The timetabled hours incorporate student led debates and flipped classroom elements, allowing students to develop their interpersonal and academic skills. This mixed method of delivery will enable students to actively engage with philosophical and political material and encourage them to articulate concepts and ideas amongst their peers. This style of learning will leave students well prepared for the transition to a standard degree course.

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

**MO1** Identify and compare the key philosophical concepts and arguments introduced by major thinkers from the classical to the contemporary era.

**MO2** Identify and compare the key issues and debates that dominate political science and international relations.

**MO3** Apply philosophical ideas and concepts to analyse issues in politics and society.

**MO4** Develop the ability to construct clear and coherent written arguments in a scholarly manner that engage with philosophical ideas and political issues.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqrv9-30-0.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqrv9-30-0.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** The assessments for this module have been designed to meet the learning outcomes of the module, to test a range of skills, and embed a

foundational understanding of politics, international relations and philosophy.

Task 1: A written assignment (1200-words maximum) covering a topic of the students' choosing from the module. This assessment is designed to allow students to exhibit their understanding of philosophical concepts covered on the module, in relation to their own reflections and examples. One of the workshops will focus on essay skills and essay writing to ensure students are well supported to complete this form of assessment.

Rationale: the essay enables students to analyze arguments, identify underlying assumptions, and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various positions using reasoned argumentation. It also enables students to develop the interpretative and communicative skills needed to address complex real-world problems: both of these are skills that they will need to use throughout their assessments in the rest of their degree. This form of assessment is also important for scaffolding, as on the BA Philosophy course there are a number of modules with this form of assessment. Although there is a single Blackboard hand-in for this assessment, students will also have the option to submit a draft to the module leader earlier in the teaching block to gain feedback so that they can use this element as a chance to check and improve their understanding during the module.

Task 2: A poster (500 words maximum)

Rationale: the poster assessment tests the content drawn from the Politics and International Relations half of this module. This broad, but focused, assessment of knowledge allows the students to demonstrate their knowledge and their understanding of the foundational concepts covered. The format of the poster suits the foundational level to help promote a variety of skills when it comes to delivering the knowledge they have gained. It underlines to the students the importance of coverage of the widest range of material, as a way to ensure that the taught content is seen as important for students in order for them to successfully progress.

**Assessment tasks:**

**Written Assignment (First Sit)**

Description: Essay on a topic covered in Term 1.

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

**Poster (First Sit)**

Description: Poster (one side of A3 with a maximum of 500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

**Written Assignment (Resit)**

Description: Essay on a topic covered in Term 1

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4

**Poster (Resit)**

Description: Poster (one side of A3 with a maximum of 500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

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

Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26  
Sociology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26  
Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26  
Philosophy {Foundation}[Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26  
Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26  
Criminology and Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26  
Criminology with Psychology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26  
Sociology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26  
Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2024-25  
Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26  
Psychology with Criminology {Foundation} [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2024-25  
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