



University of the
West of England

ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Policy Making In Britain				
Module Code	UZQNGP-30-3	Level	3	Version	3
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	Stand alone	
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. Evaluate the various processes, institutions and policy actors at work in the initiation, formulation and application of public policy in the UK (assessment components A; and B element 2).2. Identify a variety of approaches to the study of public policy-making (component B element 2).3. Analyse and evaluate various theoretical explanations of policy-making through their application to discrete policy areas, in the central, local, EU or international context (components A; and B element 2).4. Gather information from a wide variety of sources, both printed and electronic, including academic works, government publications, and the press and media (component B, elements 1 and 2).5. Present a policy-analysis case study that incorporates the formulation of a research question, a critical appraisal of a discrete policy area, and the application of theories of policy-making. The case-study essay will demonstrate an ability to synthesise material, communicate this in a coherent form, write clearly and concisely, and use appropriate presentational formats (such as tables, charts, footnotes, etc.)(Component B, elements 1 and 2).

	<table><tr><td colspan="2">Total assessment of the module:</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Written exam assessment percentage</td><td colspan="2">40%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Coursework assessment percentage</td><td colspan="2">60%</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Practical exam assessment percentage</td><td colspan="2">0%</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>100%</td></tr></table>	Total assessment of the module:								Written exam assessment percentage		40%		Coursework assessment percentage		60%		Practical exam assessment percentage		0%					100%
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Reading Strategy	<p>Students will be encouraged to pursue further those topics on which they choose to concentrate, using guided reading of academic materials. Some essential reading will be provided electronically or as printed study packs. As module focusing on contemporary government policy, in accumulating learning material students will be encouraged to make use of bibliographic and full text data bases, abstracts, and official government and parliamentary publications – both printed and on-line. Students will be encouraged to buy at least one book and a selection of core readings from 4-5 main texts will be provided in the module handbook for each lecture/seminar topic. Access to an extensive reading list of books and journal articles, 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.</p>																								
Indicative Reading List	<p>Knill, C. and Tosun, J. (2012) <i>Public Policy: A New Introduction</i>. London: Palgrave.</p> <p>Cairney, P. (2012) <i>Understanding Public Policy: Theories and Issues</i>. London: Palgrave.</p> <p>Dodds, A. (2013) <i>Comparative Public Policy</i>. London: Palgrave.</p> <p>John, P. (2012) <i>Analyzing Public Policy</i>. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.</p> <p>Hill, M. (2013) <i>The Public Policy Process</i>. 6th ed. London: Pearson Longman.</p> <p>Rhodes, R. (1997) <i>Understanding Governance</i>. Buckingham: Open University Press.</p> <p>Relevant journals include:</p> <p><i>Political Studies, Parliamentary Affairs, Public Administration, Public Policy and Administration, Local Government Studies, Policy and Politics.</i></p> <p>Relevant websites include: www.gov.uk, www.parliament.uk, www.europa.eu</p>																								

Part 3: Assessment	
Assessment Strategy	<p>1. Case Study Literature Search and Review</p> <p>This piece of assessment requires a student negotiate a case study title on a contemporary policy issue of their choice with the module leader. They then develop skills in obtaining information from academic sources, official government parliamentary papers, and private organisations. A summary of one source of each of these types is reviewed (total 1500 words), and its relevance to the essay considered. This assessment will provide students with the opportunity to further develop their skills in gathering information and writing concise and informative summaries on different types of source material</p> <p>2. Case-Study Essay</p> <p>This assessment requires students to write an essay (2000 words) on the question negotiated with the module leader for the literature review (above). It</p>

	<p>is designed to get students to apply the concepts and ideas about policy analysis presented in lectures and seminars to a particular contemporary policy issue of their choice. It will provide students with an opportunity to further develop their skills in advancing a clear and persuasive argument, using critical policy analysis. Students also will be able to enhance their research skills, independent study, and the ability to communicating complex ideas in a long essay.</p> <p>3. Exam</p> <p>This piece of assessment will require a student to answer two unseen exam 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. The exam is designed to assess students' ability to offer clearly written and expressed critical analysis under specific time constraints.</p>
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Identify final assessment component and element	Exam (Component A)	
% 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. Literature Search and Review (1500 words)	43%	
2. Case Study Essay (2000 words)	57%	

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