

## CORPORATE AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

### MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Comparative Politics				
Module Code	UZQNHG-30-2	Level	2	Version	1.1
Owning Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Politics		
Contributes towards	BA(Hons) International Relations BA(Hons) Philosophy and Politics BA(Hons) Politics Awards up to BA/BSc(Hons)				
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15	Module Type	Standard
Pre-requisites	UPPNFA-30-1/UZQNFA-30-1 Democracies or Dictatorships? or equivalent	Co- requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None	Module Entry requirements			
Valid From	September 2010	Valid to			

<b>CAP Approval Date</b>	27 Jan 2010
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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"> <li>1. Understand and explain the value of the comparative method in political analysis (All assessments)</li> <li>2. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of different political science methods (Component A and the research report)</li> <li>3. Account for the different routes to democratization (Component A)</li> <li>4. Account for the institutions, processes and outcomes in different democracies (All assessments)</li> <li>5. Complete a piece of independent research (Research report)</li> <li>6. Make an effective oral presentation (Presentation)</li> </ol>
Syllabus Outline	<p>The uses of comparative politics. The module will draw upon a number of themes for comparison, which include some of the following; democratization, elections and political parties, political recruitment and representativeness; political communication; political culture, government formation; public policy, territorial and regional issues.</p> <p>The module develops student awareness of both quantitative methods (such as; surveys, content analysis, aggregate data analysis), and qualitative methods (such as; participant observation, interviews, analysis of documents and personal records).</p>
Teaching and Learning Methods	These will comprise formal lectures and seminars. Lectures will provide a survey of the comparative themes and research methods. Seminars will promote critical analysis of both through group discussion. Seminars will also be the setting for group work, presentations and advice on locating relevant resources for the research report.

Reading Strategy	The module handbook will provide an extensive guide to relevant reading. Students will be advised to buy the recommended textbook(s). Key sources will be placed in the library's short loan collection. Many of the recommended journal sources are available in both hardcopy and electronic format. A class will be devoted to locating relevant resources prior to assessment.
Indicative Reading List	<p>Burnham, P. et al, <i>Research Methods in Politics</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Palgrave Macmillan 2008</p> <p>Dalton, R., <i>Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies</i>, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., CQ Press, 2008</p> <p>Dalton, R. and M. Wattenberg, eds, <i>Parties Without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies</i>, Oxford University Press, 2001</p> <p>Farrell, D., <i>Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction</i>, Palgrave Macmillan 2001</p> <p>Harrison, L., <i>Political Research: An Introduction</i>, Routledge 2001</p> <p>Landman, T., <i>Issues and Methods in Comparative Politics: An Introduction</i>, Routledge, 2000</p> <p>LeDuc, L. et al, <i>Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in Global Perspective</i>, Sage, 1996</p> <p>LeDuc, L. et al, <i>Comparing Democracies 2: New Challenges in the Study of Elections and Voting</i>, Sage, 2003</p> <p>LeDuc, L. et al, <i>Comparing Democracies 3: Elections and Voting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</i>, Sage, 2009</p> <p>Lijphart, A., <i>Electoral Systems and Party Systems: A Study of Twenty-Seven Democracies, 1945-1990</i>, Oxford University Press, 1994</p> <p>Marsh, D. and G. Stoker, <i>Theory and Methods in Political Science</i>, Macmillan, 1995</p> <p>Marsh, D. and G. Stoker, <i>Theory and Methods in Political Science</i>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Palgrave Macmillan, 2002</p> <p>Relevant Journals:</p> <p><i>American Political Science Review, Comparative Political Studies, Comparative Politics, Democratization, Journal of Democracy, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties, Party Politics, West European Politics</i></p>

### Part 3: Assessment

Identify final assessment component and element	<b>Component A</b>	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	<b>A:</b>	<b>B:</b>
	<b>30%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>First Sit</b>		
<b>Component A (controlled conditions)</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>	
1. Two-hour Examination	30%	
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>	
1. Contribution to group work The group work is based on 4 seminars where the class will be divided into groups. Each group will work on a	15%	

particular subject/ theme which will then lead to the (individual) presentations in which each member of the group will deal with an aspect of the subject. The groups will decide what subject to study, negotiate with groups in the seminar so as there is no duplication, allocate tasks within the group, share sources and help each other prepare for their presentations. The task will be assessed on overall performance across the 4 seminars in response to questions asked by the seminar tutor	
2. 10 minute Presentation	
3. 3000 word Research Report	

<b>Resit (further attendance at taught classes is not required)</b>	
<b>Component A</b> (controlled conditions) <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>
1. Two-hour Examination	30%
<b>Component B</b> <b>Description of each element</b>	<b>Element weighting</b> <b>(as % of component)</b>
1. 15 minute Presentation	30%
2. 3500 word Research Report	40%
If a student is permitted an <b>EXCEPTIONAL RETAKE</b> of the module the assessment will be that indicated by the Module Description at the time that retake commences.	