STUDENT AND ACADEMIC SERVICES

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data					
Module Title	Comparative Politics				
Module Code	UZQNHG-30-2		Level	2	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	

Part 2: Learning and Teaching	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students be able to: 1. Understand and explain the value of the comparative method in political analysis (Component A and B) 2. Account for the different routes to democratization (Component A) 3. Understand the role of institutions, political processes and policy outcomes in different countries (Component A and B) 4. Complete an essay that considers a course theme in a comparative context, e.g. the comparison of countries (Component B.2) 5. Develop skills in writing short informative summaries based on work in seminars (Component B.1)
Syllabus Outline	The Course will incorporate at least some of the following: • The purpose and importance of comparative politics. • Political concepts and theoretical approaches. • The module will draw upon a number of themes for comparison, which include some of the following; democratization, elections and political parties: political participation and representation; political communication; political culture; legislatures; government formation; interest groups; public policy; global political economy; territorial and regional issues.
Contact Hours	72 hours – these will include 3 contact hours per week: lecture (1 hour); seminar (1 hour); virtual learning environment (discussion board)/workshop (1 hour)
Teaching and Learning Methods	The module combines lectures, seminars and independent study. Lectures establish the structure of the course, provide a survey of the comparative themes, and highlight important issues for debate and further discussion. Seminars draw on a variety of teaching/learning approaches (for example student presentations, small group work and general class discussion) to examine the topics highlighted in lectures in greater depth. Workshops or a virtual discussion board will be used to facilitate discussion and group interaction on contemporary policy issues, utilising current information and materials.

	Students will be expected to do at least 228 hours of independent learning, including preparation for classes and assessments.
Key Information Sets Information	Key Information Sets (KIS) are produced at programme level for all programmes that this module contributes to, which is a requirement set by HESA/HEFCE. KIS are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses allowing prospective students to compare and contrast between programmes they are interested in applying for. Further detail on Key Information Sets and how the University is implementing its requirements can be found at https://share.uwe.ac.uk/sites/ar/kis/KIS%20Background%20Information/Forms/AllItems.aspx

Hours to be allocated	Scheduled learning and teaching study hours	Independent study hours	Placement study hours	Allocated Hours	
300	72	228	0	300	✓

Total assessment of the module:		
Written exam assessment percentage		30%
Coursework assessment percentage		70%
Practical exam assessment percentage		0%
		100%

Reading Strategy	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. The module handbook will provide an extensive guide to relevant reading. Students will be advised to buy the recommended textbook(s). Where possible key sources will be provided via e-books. 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	Hague R. and Harrop, M. (2016) *Comparative Government and Politics.* 10th ed. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Bara, J. and Pennington, M. eds.(2009) *Comparative Politics: Explaining Democratic Systems.,* London: Sage*.* Burnham, P. et al. (2008) *Research Methods in Politics.* 2nd ed. London: Palgrave Macmillan. Caramani, D. (eds)(2013) *Comparative Politics* (3rd edition) Oxford: OUP Dalton, R., (2008) *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies.*, 5th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. Dalton, R. and M. Wattenberg, eds.(2001) *Parties Without Partisans: Political Change in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Farrell, D. (2001) *Electoral Systems: A Comparative Introduction.* London: Palgrave Macmillan.

	Newton, K & Van Deth, J. (2011) *Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World.* 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Relevant journals include:** 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

Part 3: Assessment

Assessment Strategy	1. Seminar Portfolio This piece of assessment requires a student to write short synopses of 450-500 words each about topics covered in seminars and lectures, based on the reading done in preparation for the classes and on discussions in seminars. Students are encouraged to write a number of synopses but the mark will be based on the average of the best 3, so the approach is both formative and summative. This assessment is designed provide students with the opportunity to develop their skills in gathering information and presenting it in summary form, as well as ensure engagement with some core issues covered in the module. 2. Essay This assessment requires students to write an essay (1500 words) on any aspect of the issues covered in the module, incorporating comparative political analysis (e.g. by comparing different countries). A list of essay titles will be provided but students will also be able to rework these to reflect their own specific interests (subject to approval of the course team). The essay should include an account of developments in the chosen area of comparative politics and present a coherent academic analysis, supported by appropriate references and a bibliography. Essays should link empirical developments with theoretical and explanatory perspectives. The assessment will provide students with an opportunity to develop their skills in advancing a clear and persuasive argument, using comparative academic analysis. 3. Seen Exam This piece of assessment will require a student to answer two exam questions in two hours, with the questions provided in advance. 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.

Identify final assessment component and element	**Exam (Component A)**	

	A:	**B**:
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	**30%**	**70%**

First Sit

Component A (controlled conditions) **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Seen Examination (2 hours)	100%

Component B **Description of each element**	**Element weighting** **(as % of component)**
1. Seminar portfolio (1500 words)	50%
2. Essay (1500 words)	50%

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

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First CAP Approval Date	28/3/2014				
Revision ASQC Approval Date *Update this row each time a change goes to CAP*	30/5/2018	Version	3	*RIA 12594*	