Module Specification

Nature and Use of Research (Politics and International Relations)

Version: 2021-22, v2.0, 26 Jan 2021

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Nature and Use of Research (Politics and International Relations)

Module code: UZQSTA-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2021-22

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Delivery locations: Frenchay Campus

Field: Politics

Module type: Standard

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Approach

An aspiration of this module is that students become practiced at utilising

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL), in particular through use of common online resources (on topics such as good ethical practice, developing research questions, writing research proposals) developed by the module team.

Outline syllabus: Content

The nature and impact of ethics and governance processes upon the generation of knowledge research in Politics and International Relations.

Formulating research questions and using appropriate research design and data collection skills.

Evaluating evidence of diverse kinds and drawing appropriate conclusions.

Managing and analysing data including indexing and retrieval of qualitative data, and use of basic statistics.

Different approaches to research in political science and international relations.

Comparative methods in analysing politics and international relations.

Research design in the social sciences including exploratory research; case studies; evaluation research; action research; comparative research; negotiating access; managing field work; reflexivity and the use of self in research.

The politics of research including positivism versus interpretivism; anti-discriminatory research; participative methods; ethics, privacy and confidentiality; legal issues; context and uses of social research; and working with marginalised and 'hard to reach' groups.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: In scheduled classes, students will attend weekly lectures and engage in facilitated activities such as debates, problem based learning, group working, research.

Integral to this programme is the use of subject based as well as generic use of technologies. For instance, data analysis and modelling, are subject areas reliant on a range of contemporary technologies using public domain data sources such as Home Office crime statistics, World Health Organisation Databases.

In addition modern technologies may be incorporated by programme teams delivering the module as vehicles of learning (for example, blogs, podcasts) and as vehicles for learning through formative assessment (for example, online portfolios, online tests, wikis).

For each contact hour, students will spend approximately 3 hours in independent study, including preparing their assessed research proposal.

Module Learning outcomes:

> **MO1** Formulate questions appropriate to research in Politics and International Relations

> **MO2** Understand and engage in the processes through which knowledge is generated and claims to truth are evaluated in their subject area

> **MO3** In classroom activities, acquire skills in communicating information from their discipline to the public.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

> Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

> Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

> Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzgsta-15-2.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Students are assessed through a research proposal (Component A). The research proposal will prepare students for a final year project, and reflect a synthesis of relevant syllabus content, and be written for subject specialists. Formative assessment, including learning the principles and skills of communicating research to the general public, will be undertaken within seminar sessions, using techniques from a range of online approaches such as quizzes, wikis, and online discussion.

Assessment components:

Written Assignment - Component A (First Sit)
Description: Research proposal (1500 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Written Assignment - Component A (Resit)
Description: Research proposal (1500 words)
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested:

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: