



## MODULE SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Critical Thinking and Political Theory		
Module Code	UZQK8M-30-1	Level	Level 4
For implementation from	2020-21		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences	Field	Politics
Department	HAS Dept of Health & Social Sciences		
Module type:	Standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description
<p><b>Educational Aims:</b> See Learning Outcomes</p> <p><b>Outline Syllabus:</b> This module introduces students to a range of critical thinking skills, which will be applied primarily to the field of politics and international relations, and in particular to a series of topics in political theory. These skills will be applied in the first instance to a series of important practical issues in the field of political theory. These issues may include: political knowledge and political judgement; power and authority; citizenship and non-citizenship; democracy and participation; equality and justice; national identity and values; states and nations; freedom of speech and its limits; the relationship between religion and politics; the principles of just war; humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect; global justice and international development. An understanding of these issues is vital in contemporary societies which are characterised by deep and profound disagreements on a wide range of issues, including, for example, who has the right to become a citizen, whether hate speech should be protected by a right to free speech, and when military intervention by one state in another's affairs is justified.</p> <p>The critical thinking skills to be introduced and applied may include: the distinction between arguments and nonarguments; the identification of different parts of arguments; testing for clarity and consistency; the identification of hidden assumptions and non-sequiturs; and an understanding of different sorts of conclusion. These skills are widely recognised to be vital both</p>

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for university studies and also beyond as part of the skill set which graduates will need in a wide variety of careers and professions. Acquisition of these skills will enable students to think critically about the information they receive, by questioning assumptions, evaluating evidence and comparing hypotheses.

**Teaching and Learning Methods:** See Assessment Strategy

### Part 3: Assessment

The first part of the assessment is a group presentation. Groups of approximately four students present for a total of twenty minutes on a topic of their choice, five minutes per person. More specifically, the group presentation gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of one of the topics studied. In particular, they can show that they have an ability to communicate this knowledge effectively in a way which encourages them to work collaboratively with their fellow group members.

The final part of the assessment is an online unseen examination, with a 24 hour submission window and two hour anticipated completion time. Students are expected to answer a number of questions in essay format, so that they can demonstrate their understanding of specific issues drawn from those studied over the course of the whole module and apply their critical thinking skills to those topics.

The referral component A mirrors the first-sit. For component B, a set of annotated presentation slides replaces the group presentation.

First Sit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Examination (Online) - Component A	✓	50 %	Online Exam (24 hours)
Presentation - Component B		50 %	Group presentation (5 minutes per person)
Resit Components	Final Assessment	Element weighting	Description
Examination (Online) - Component A	✓	50 %	Online Exam (24 hours)
Presentation - Component B		50 %	1500 word annotated presentation slides

### Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods

Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes:	
	<b>Module Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Reference</b>
	Understand how critical thinking skills may be applied in politics and international relations, and in particular to issues in political theory	MO1
	Distinguish between arguments and non-arguments, and to identify different parts of arguments	MO2
	Critically analyse basic arguments by testing for clarity and consistency, and by identifying flaws in those arguments	MO3
	Apply knowledge of a number of issues in normative political theory and the ability to apply critical thinking skills to these issues	MO4
Demonstrate evidence of critical thinking skills under exam conditions	MO5	

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Contact Hours	<b>Independent Study Hours:</b>	
	Independent study/self-guided study	234
	<b>Total Independent Study Hours:</b>	234
	<b>Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:</b>	
	Face-to-face learning	66
	<b>Total Scheduled Learning and Teaching Hours:</b>	66
	<b>Hours to be allocated</b>	300
	<b>Allocated Hours</b>	300
Reading List	<p>The reading list for this module can be accessed via the following link:</p> <p><a href="https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html">https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html</a></p>	

### Part 5: Contributes Towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: