

**MODULE SPECIFICATION**

Part 1: Information			
Module Title	Critical Thinking and Political Theory		
Module Code	UZQK8M-30-1	Level	1
For implementation from	September 2019		
UWE Credit Rating	30	ECTS Credit Rating	15
Faculty	Health and Applied Sciences	Field	Politics and International Relations
Department	Health & Social Science		
Contributes towards	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations, BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (with Foundation Year)		
Module type:	standard		
Pre-requisites	None		
Excluded Combinations	None		
Co- requisites	None		
Module Entry requirements	None		

Part 2: Description

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.

The critical thinking skills to be introduced and applied may include: the distinction between arguments and non-arguments; 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 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.

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 a two hour seen examination, in which students are expected to answer a number of questions in essay format under controlled conditions. The examination enables students to prepare their answers in advance 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.

Identify final timetabled piece of assessment (component and element)	Component A	
% weighting between components A and B (Standard modules only)	A: 50	B: 50
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. Group presentation (5 minutes)	100%	
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. Annotated presentation slides	100%	
Part 4: Teaching and Learning Methods		
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand how critical thinking skills may be applied in politics and international relations, and in particular to issues in political theory (Components A and B) 2. distinguish between arguments and non-arguments, and to identify different parts of arguments (Components A and B) 3. critically analyse basic arguments by testing for clarity and consistency, and by identifying flaws in those arguments (Component A and B) 4. apply knowledge of a number of issues in normative political theory and the ability to apply critical thinking skills to these issues (Components A and B) 5. demonstrate evidence of critical thinking skills under exam conditions (Component A) 	
Key Information Sets Information (KIS)		

Contact Hours	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	<p>The table below indicates as a percentage the total assessment of the module which constitutes a;</p> <p>Written Exam: Unseen or open book written exam Coursework: Written assignment or essay, report, dissertation, portfolio, project or in class test Practical Exam: Oral Assessment and/or presentation, practical skills assessment, practical exam (i.e. an exam determining mastery of a technique)</p> <p>Total assessment of the module:</p> <table style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Written exam assessment percentage</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coursework assessment percentage</td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> </table>						Written exam assessment percentage	50%	Coursework assessment percentage	50%		100%
	Written exam assessment percentage	50%										
Coursework assessment percentage	50%											
	100%											
Reading List	<p>https://uwe.rl.talis.com/lists/29C82172-0A5B-1E54-7A90-B163FD8A5C79.html</p>											

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First ASQC Approval Date	5 March 2019				
Revision CAP Approval Date		Version	1	RIA 12891	