



Module Specification

Critical Thinking and Political Theory

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Critical Thinking and Political Theory

Module code: UZQK8M-30-1

Level: Level 4

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Politics

Module type: Module

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: See Learning Outcomes

Outline syllabus: 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 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 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: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: See Assessment Strategy

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Understand how critical thinking skills may be applied in politics and international relations, and in particular to issues in political theory

MO2 Communicate key arguments related to issues covered in the module.

MO3 Critically analyse basic arguments by testing for clarity and consistency, and by identifying flaws in those arguments

MO4 Apply knowledge of a number of issues in normative political theory and the ability to apply critical thinking skills to these issues

MO5 Demonstrate evidence of critical thinking skills under exam conditions

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 234 hours

Face-to-face learning = 66 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqk8m-30-1.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzqk8m-30-1.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The first part of the assessment is a 5-minute presentation. Students will prepare a presentation focused on a specific topic addressed within the module. The presentation gives students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of one of the topics studied and begin to build presentation skills.

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.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 5-minute presentation

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Examination (Online) (First Sit)

Description: Online Exam (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 5-minute presentation

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Examination (Online) (Resit)

Description: Online Exam (24 hours)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Politics And International Relations {Foundation} [Sep][PT][Frenchay][8yrs] BA
(Hons) 2020-21