Programme Specification

Section 1: Basic Data

Awarding institution/body	UWE
Teaching institution	UWE
Faculty responsible for programme	Social Sciences and Humanities
Programme accredited by	Not Applicable
Highest award title	BA (Hons) Politics
Default award title	BA (Hons) Social Science
Interim award title	BA Politics; Diploma in Higher Education - Social Science; Certificate in Higher Education - Social Science
Modular Scheme title (if different)	HLSS Undergraduate Modular Scheme
UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	L200
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Politics & International Relations
On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date)	Ongoing
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 2000 Updated: 1 September 2005 Updated: 1 September 2007 Updated: 1 September 2008

Authorised by…Chair of QSC   **Date:….**18/11/08

Version Code: 4

For coding purposes, a numerical sequence (1, 2, 3 etc.) should be used for successive programme specifications where 2 replaces 1, and where there are no concurrent specifications. A sequential decimal numbering (1.1; 1.2, 2.1; 2.2 etc) should be used where there are different and concurrent programme specifications

Section 2: Educational aims of the programme

- To provide a general educational experience in which students might acquire knowledge, skills and those virtues associated with learning and reflection.
- To promote critical, creative and analytical thinking.
- To assist students realise their potential.
- To provide a general foundation for the world of work by equipping students with the broad range of skills, understanding and knowledge employed in a wide range of vocations.
- To teach academically challenging and vocationally relevant modules in Politics and other allied disciplines, which will provide students with an understanding of the political features of the world.
- To teach those same disciplines in combination with each other and in groupings ("pathways") organised about specific themes, such that students may benefit from diversity of perspective as well as specificity of discipline.
- To impart a broad range of skills: discipline specific, cognitive and general transferable skills, which, together with the points above provide the student with a sound basis for further study.
- To acknowledge the wide diversity of students and their interests through a flexible programme, enabling the student to choose between a variety of modules and disciplines in order to meet their particular educational needs and to foster their individual development.
- To encourage scholarship and to foster the virtues of objectivity, reflection and judgment.
- To foster critical study, collaborative and individual, independent learning. This aim includes the promotion of self-criticism and reflexive awareness.
- To provide an opportunity for international exchange and study abroad.

Section 3: Learning outcomes of the programme

The award route provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas: …

A Knowledge and understanding

Learning outcomes	Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies
A Knowledge and understanding of: 1. the quality of political knowledge; 2. the range of political theory; 3. the nature and evolution of political systems; 4. political scientific methodology.	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:** Students acquire knowledge and understanding through lectures, seminars, independent study and assessment preparation. Knowledge and understanding of the range of political theory is conveyed level 1 modules and the post-level 1 modules in *Political Theory and Ideas*, at least one of which must be taken by politics students. Understanding and knowledge of political systems is promoted in all level 1 modules, and level 2/3 modules in *Political Science* from which all politics students must select at least one. The methods used to gain knowledge about politics, its quality and limitations, are discussed in lectures and seminars in the compulsory level 2 module, Reading Politics (UPPNGA-30-2) Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent reading both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.

	Assessment:
	Testing of knowledge and understanding takes place through a range of assessed coursework and examinations. The former include essays, case studies, oral presentations and seminar performance.
	Assessments in level 1 modules and level 2/3 modules in *Political Theory and Ideas* test students' knowledge and understanding of the range of political theory. Level 1 modules and those at level 2/3 in *Political Science* assess students' knowledge and understanding of the nature and evolution of political systems.
	The quality of political knowledge, and the methods used to acquire it, are assessed through test, examination, seminar exercises and research decision making evaluations in the Reading Politics module at level 2.

B Intellectual Skills

B Intellectual Skills	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
Students should develop the capacity to:	Intellectual skills are developed by the examples set by academic staff in lectures and seminars, through seminar debate, independent reading, assessment writing and tutors' feedback on students' work.
1. develop a reasoned argument;	
2. gather, retrieve and synthesise information;	Library inductions at the start of level 1 modules, and introduction to IT in Induction Week provide students with a foundation in information gathering and retrieval.
3. review and evaluate evidence;	
4. appreciate the complexity of politics and assess the merits of competing explanations;	Issues dealing with the gathering and presentation of evidence are dealt with explicity in the compulsory level 2 module, Reading Politics (UPPNGA-30-2), facilitating the application of skills 4 and 5 at level 3.
5. evaluate research.	
	Assessment
	Assessment methods motivate students to develop their intellectual skills and hone them in the light of their preparatory reading and feedback from tutors.

C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills	Teaching/learning methods and strategies
On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills: 1. understand subject matter and the discipline; 2. investigate politically relevant questions; 3. use political science methods; 4. apply concepts and theories.	Lectures and seminars convey understanding of the subject matter of the discipline its concepts and theories. Political science methods are taught in the compulsory level 2 module, Reading Politics (UPPNGA-30-2). **Assessment** Understanding of the subject matter of the discipline, its concepts and theories are assessed through essays, exams, oral presentation, performance in seminar discussion, and text reviews. Level 3 case studies, and research essays require students to investigate politically relevant questions using the political science methods they have acquired in the level 2 compulsory module. It is also in these assessments at level 3 where students apply concepts and theories.

D Transferable Skills and other attributes

D **Transferable skills and other attributes**	**Teaching/learning methods and strategies**
1. communicate; 2. use numeracy; 3. use information technology; 4. learn to learn; 5. work as a team; 6. self-manage.	Students' oral communication is developed through seminar discussion and presentations. Written communication skills are developed in level 1 seminars devoted to essay preparation, and through assessment and tutor feedback. Students receive an introduction in the use of information technology in their library and IT inductions at the beginning of the first year. Instruction in information retrieval through IT is also delivered in seminars in the compulsory module at level 2. Students use the Conferencing System /Blackboard to obtain deliver learning materials. Students are encouraged to use the world wide web by the inclusion of named sites in module handbooks. Team work is promoted through seminar discussion, and in students' assumption of specific seminar obligations to their seminar group in all level 1 modules. Numerical applications to politics, such as the use of survey and aggregate data analysis, are taught in Reading Politics Students development as learners is enhanced through guidance from tutors in lectures, seminars, module handbooks and coursework assessment feedback. Students also use the programme of study skills sessions and individual tutorials provided by the Study Skills Tutor. The Disability Centre facilitates learning for students with special needs. Self-management is encouraged through the choice given to students choice of modules, through selection of subjects for case studies, and research essays. **Assessment** All modules involve written assessments. Several modules also use oral assessment. All assessed written coursework after term 1 of the first year has to be word processed. The progression in the independence required of students in assessment as they move through the different levels of programme promotes student learning. Team work is assessed through seminar performance element in all level 1 modules, and in various modules at levels 2 and 3. Self management is required through the enforcement of deadlines for all coursework assessment, and in the independence required to manage self-selected case studies and research essays.

Section 4: Programme structure

ENTRY
↓

level 1

Compulsory modules

Students must take:
- UPPNFE-30-1 Democracies or Dictatorships?
- UPPNFF-30-1 Ideas and Power

Core modules
There are no core modules in the level of the award

Optional modules

Students must take two other 30 credit Politics module or other (subject to prerequisites) from the selection available.

Interim Awards:
- Credit requirements: 120 – Certificate in Higher Education
- Other requirements: None

level 2

Compulsory modules

- UPPNGA-30-2 Reading Politics

Core modules
Students must take two Politics modules:
- one Political Theory and Ideas subject
- one Political Science subject

Optional modules

Students must take one other 30 credit Politics module or other (subject to prerequisites).

Interim Awards:
- Credit requirements: 240 – Diploma in Higher Education
- Other requirements None

level 3

Compulsory modules

There are no compulsory modules at this stage of the award.

Core modules

There are no core modules at this stage of the award.

Optional modules

Students must take four Politics modules:

- one or two Political Theory and Ideas subject module

- one or two Political Science subject module

- one politics option module

Prerequisite requirements
- Minimum credit/module requirements: 240
- Other: None

Awards:
- Target/highest BA(Hons)
- Default title - BA (Hons) Social Science

Credit requirements
BA (Hons) – 360
BA – 300

→ **GRADUATION**

Section 5: Entry requirements

Candidates must be able to satisfy the general admissions requirements of the University of the West of England with specific requirements as detailed below:

GCSE levels
English

A & AS Levels
Normally Tariff Points within the range of 240-300.

BTEC - An appropriate National Diploma with good standing and final year grades within the range 6 Merits – 2 Distinctions and 4 Merits.

Irish Highers – Passes with grades within the following range: BBB – BBBB.

Access Courses – Validated access course in appropriate subjects.

Baccalaureate – European with between 66% and 70%. International with between 24 and 28 points.

Section 6: Assessment Regulations

a) **MAR**   ✓

b) **Approved MAR variant (insert variant)**

c) **Non MAR**

Section 7: Student learning: distinctive features and support

- Induction Programme for orientation and study skills.
- Detailed Student Handbooks and Module Guides.
- Extensive specialist library
- On-line learning resources, Internet, Intranet and email access
- Dedicated office hours for all staff, student email system, trained counsellors for both pastoral and academic support.
- Specialist equipment, resources, and technical and instructing staff.
- A wide range of teaching and learning strategies and a varied range of assessment modes.
- A strong emphasis on developing analytical and critical skills.
- A lively relationship between theory and practice.
- Access to academic tutors and student advisors

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

- QAA subject benchmarks.
- University teaching and learning policies.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications. These are available on the University Intranet.

Programme monitoring and review may lead to changes to approved programmes. There may be a time lag between approval of such changes/modifications and their incorporation into an authorised programme specification. Enquiries about any recent changes to the programme made since this specification was authorised should be made to the relevant Faculty Administrator.