

Programme Specification	
Section 1: Basic Data	
Awarding institution/body	UWE
Teaching institution	UWE
Faculty responsible for programme	Social Sciences & Humanities
Programme accredited by	Not Applicable
Highest award title	BA (Hons) Politics and (another half award)
Default award title	BA (Hons) Social Science BA (Hons) Joint Studies
Interim award title	BA Politics and(another half award) Diploma in Higher Education – Social Science
Modular Scheme title (if different)	Social Science Undergraduate Modular Programme
UCAS code (or other coding system if relevant)	LN24, GL72, GL32, GL42, PL32, LW24, LLc2, LX23, QL42, LW26, BL92, LV21, GL52, GLK2, QLC2, TL72, LM21, CL72, QL12, LF28, LL23, L290, LV25, LP29, LC28, LLF3, LN28
Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Politics and International Relations
On-going/valid until* (*delete as appropriate/insert end date)	Ongoing
Valid from (insert date if appropriate)	September 2000 Int Variant: 1 September 2008
<u>Faculty Processes:</u>	
(Original Version 2) Approved by: SSH PMAC (28th May 2008)	
(Updated Version 2) Approved by Professor Adrian Chandler (Chair of SSH PMAC) – 1.9.08	
(Final Version 2) Approved by Professor Adrian Chandler - 27.9.08	

Version Code: 2

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

International Variant

Valid from September 2008

Variant delivered via Bachelor of Science in Politics programme, College of Humanities and Sciences. Virginia Commonwealth University

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 to 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 economic, political and social 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.

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;

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 in level 1 module *Ideas and Power* and

<p>3. the nature and evolution of political systems;</p> <p>4. political scientific methodology.</p>	<p>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 level 1 module <i>Democracy or Dictatorships?</i>, and level 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 core level 2 module, <i>Reading Politics</i> (UPPNGA-30-2).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Assessments in level 1 modules and level 2/3 modules in <i>Political Theory and Ideas</i> test students' knowledge and understanding of the range of political theory. Level 1 modules and those at level 2/3 in <i>Political Science</i> assess students' knowledge and understanding of the nature and evolution of political systems.</p> <p>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 <i>Reading Politics</i> module at level 2.</p>
--	--

B Intellectual Skills

<p>B Intellectual Skills</p> <p>Students should develop the capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. develop a reasoned argument; 2. gather, retrieve and synthesise information; 3. review and evaluate evidence; 4. appreciate the complexity of politics and assess the merits of competing explanations; 5. evaluate research. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Issues dealing with the gathering and presentation of evidence are dealt with explicitly in the core level 2 module, Reading Politics (UPPNGA-30-2), facilitating the application of skills 4 and 5 at level 3.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Assessment methods motivate students to develop their intellectual skills and hone them in the light of their preparatory reading and feedback from tutors.</p>
--	---

C Subject, Professional and Practical Skills

<p>C Subject/Professional/Practical Skills</p> <p>On successful completion of this award students will be able to demonstrate the following skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. understand subject matter and the discipline; 2. investigate politically relevant questions; 3. use political science methods; 4. apply concepts and theories. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>Lectures and seminars convey understanding of the subject matter of the discipline its concepts and theories. Political science methods are taught in the core level 2 module, Reading Politics (UPPNGA-30-2).</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 core module. It is also in these assessments at level 3 where students apply concepts and theories.</p>
---	---

D Transferable Skills and other attributes

<p>D Transferable skills and other attributes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. communicate;2. use numeracy;3. use information technology;4. learn to learn;5. work as a team;6. self-manage.	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 core 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.</p> <p>Team work is promoted through seminar discussion, and in students' assumption of specific seminar obligations to their seminar group in all level 1 modules.</p> <p>Numerical applications to politics, such as the use of survey and aggregate data analysis, are taught in Reading Politics</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Self-management is encouraged through the choice given to students choice of modules (note there is one compulsory module in the entire politics programme), through selection of subjects for case studies, research essays and the project.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>All modules involve written assessments. Several modules, including all of those at level 1, use oral assessment.</p> <p>All assessed written coursework after term 1 of the first year has to be word processed.</p> <p>The progression in the independence required of students in assessment as they move through the different levels of programme promotes student learning.</p> <p>Team work is assessed through seminar performance element in all level 1 modules, and in various modules at levels 2 and 3.</p> <p>Self management is required through the enforcement of deadlines for all coursework assessment, and in the independence required to manage self-selected case studies, essays and the project.</p>
--	--

Section 4: Programme structure				
ENTRY ↓	L e v e l 1	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPPNFE-30-1 Democracies or Dictatorships? • UPPNFF-30-1 Ideas and Power 	Optional modules [Other half award] 60 credits in the other discipline	Interim Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements: 120 – Diploma in Higher Education • Other requirements: None
		<hr/> Core modules		
	L e v e l 2	Compulsory modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPPNGA-30-2 Reading Politics <hr/> Core modules <p>There are no core modules at this stage of the award.</p>	Optional modules Students must take one other 30 credit Politics module (subject to prerequisites). [Other half award] 60 credits in the other discipline	Interim Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements: 240 – Diploma in Higher Education • Other requirements: None
	Y e a r a t V C U	<i>Use this space to describe optional/compulsory year abroad/placement/clinical placement</i> (See International Variant – next page)		
	L e v e l 3	Compulsory modules There are no compulsory modules at this stage of the award. <hr/> Core modules There are no core modules at this stage of the award.	Optional modules Students must take two Politics modules: - one Political Theory and Ideas subject (from the available list) - one Political Science subject (from the available list) [Other half award] 60 credits in the other discipline	Prerequisite requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum credit/module requirements: 120 • Other: None <hr/> Awards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target/highest BA(Hons) • Default title - BA Credit requirements BA(Hons) – 360 BA – 300
→ GRADUATION				

Level 2 BA (Hons) Politics Half Award International Variant – Politics undergraduate programme, College of Humanities and Sciences. Virginia Commonwealth University

<p>NOTE: STUDENTS MUST TAKE A TOTAL OF 10 (US three credit – Level 300/400) MODULES, INCLUDING 5 IN POLITICS (equivalent to UWE Level 2 modules)</p>	<p>Compulsory modules</p> <p>POLI 320/SOCY 320 Research Methods in the Social Sciences (1)</p>	<p>Optional modules Students must take FOUR of:</p> <p>POLI 301 U.S. Parties and Elections POLI 302/AFAM 302 Politics of the Civil Rights Movement POLI 303 Public Opinion, Polling and the Media POLI 306 The Congress POLI 308 U.S. Presidency POLI 310 Public Policy POLI 311/ENVS 311 Politics of the Environment POLI 314 U.S. Constitutional Law POLI 315 Courts and Politics POLI 318/AFAM 318/WMNS 318 Politics of Race, Class and Gender POLI 341, 342 History of Political Thought POLI 344 Contemporary Political Theory POLI 345/AFAM 345 African- American Politics POLI 351/INTL 351 Governments and Politics of the Middle East POLI 352/INTL 352 European Governments and Politics POLI 353/INTL 353 Latin American Governments and Politics POLI 354/INTL 354 Russian and Post-Soviet Politics POLI 355/INTL 355 Asian Governments and Politics POLI 356/AFAM 356/INTL 356 Government and Politics of Africa POLI 357/AFAM 357/INTL 357 Politics of Southern Africa POLI 358/INTL 358 Concepts of Comparative Government POLI 363/INTL 363 U.S. Foreign Policy POLI 365/INTL 365 International Political Economy POLI 366/WMNS 366/INTL 368 Women and Global Politics POLI 367/CRJS 367/HSEP 301 Terrorism POLI 448 Scope and Method of Political Science</p> <p>Students must also take 5 modules for their other Half Award</p>	<p>Interim Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements: 120 – Certificate in Higher Education • Other requirements: None
---	---	---	--

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
Maths/Statistics, English

A & AS Levels
Normally Tariff Points within the range of 200 – 240.

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.

Joint Honours students must check the specific entry requirements of the other subject chosen. The offer made will be a combination of the two.

Students seeking to undertake the international variant are advised that a selection process may apply. Further information is available from the Faculty Academic Registrar (or nominee)

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 of theory and practice.
- Access to academic tutors and student advisors

International Variant includes directly comparable features and support. In many areas student support at VCU is superior to that provided at UWE. .

Section 8 Reference points/benchmarks

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

International Variant was also planned in accordance with QAA benchmarked requirements

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.