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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Contemporary Issues In Politics

Reference	BS3145	Version	4
Created	February 2017	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	October 2006	SCQF Points	15
Amended	August 2017	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To introduce the basic tools of information enquiry about politics and to enable students to focus upon contemporary issues in politics as they arise. The module will aid students in the development of initial competence and skills in politics-oriented information enquiry, and offer students opportunities for engagement in current affairs issues.

Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Apply insights drawn from political science to the study of current issues in politics.
- 2 Demonstrate competence in the use of a range of information sources to acquire information on current affairs.
- 3 Demonstrate skill in the use of some of the basic tools of analysing public affairs, and to apply the concepts in basic form.

Indicative Module Content

An introduction to the methods and techniques that are used in the research and study of political issues. How to engage in the research of political issues. The selection of current affairs issues by negotiation with students. Help and advice to students as they conduct practical research on issues. Help with analysing and writing up research findings.

Module Delivery

This is a lecture-based course. It is supplemented by seminars in which students will be engaged in debates around contemporary political issues, and in which students will be asked to make class presentations.

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	25	25
Non-Contact Hours	125	125
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

ASSESSMENT PLAN

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

Component 1

Type:	Coursework	Weighting:	80%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3
Description:	The coursework will involve the selection of a specific current affairs issue and the identification of: the range of information sources about it; how the issue arose; and its engagement by political institutions, political parties, pressure groups and others.				

Component 2

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	20%	Outcomes Assessed:	3
Description:	Class participation/presentation. This will encourage each student to engage in class discussion and to aid the learning of other students.				

MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR**Explanatory Text**

The module is assessed by one component: C1 - Coursework - 80% weighting. C2 - Participation - 20% weighting. Module Pass Mark = Grade D (40%)

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	At least 70% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
B	60-69% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
C	50-59% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
D	40-49% on weighted aggregate and at least 35% in each component
E	35-39% on weighted aggregate
F	0% - 34%
NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination

Module Requirements

Prerequisites for Module	None in addition to SCQF9 entry requirements or equivalent
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 HALPERIN, S. and HEATH, O., 2012. *Political research: methods and practical skills*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2 HEYWOOD, A., 2015. *Key concepts in politics and international relations (2nd Ed.)* London: Palgrave.
- 3 HEYWOOD, A., 2015. *Political theory: an introduction (4th Ed.)* London: Palgrave.
- 4 HOFFMAN, J. and GRAHAM, P., 2015. *Introduction to political theory (3rd Ed.)*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- 5 LEFTWICH, A., 2004. *What is politics? The activity and its study*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- 6 MCKINNON, C., 2015. *Issues in political theory (3rd Ed.)* Oxford: Oxford university Press.