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MODULE DESCRIPTOR

Module Title

Contemporary Issues In Politics

Reference	BS3145	Version	5
Created	April 2019	SCQF Level	SCQF 9
Approved	October 2006	SCQF Points	15
Amended	May 2019	ECTS Points	7.5

Aims of Module

To introduce students to some of the key elements of political theory and analysis, with a view to enabling students to better understand issues in contemporary public affairs as they arise.

Learning Outcomes for Module

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

- 1 Apply insights drawn from political science and political theory to the study of current affairs.
- 2 Critically evaluate a range of information sources on current affairs.
- 3 Apply some of the basic tools of political analysis.
- 4 Contribute to individual learning and the learning of others by engaging in informed discussions around relevant aspects of current affairs.

Indicative Module Content

The exact elements of political theory to be covered will be fluid in order to respond to contemporary developments in public affairs. However, it is envisaged that the following topics would be covered: what is politics; the study and analysis of political issues; political bias; the state and political authority; liberty and freedom; equality and social justice; tolerance; fundamentalism; utopia / dystopia; the market.

Module Delivery

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

Indicative Student Workload

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	33	33
Non-Contact Hours	117	117
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:	Coursework: a written assignment based around the selection and analysis of a specific current affairs issue.				

Component 2

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	20%	Outcomes Assessed:	4
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 two components, weighted as follows: C1 Coursework: 80% weighting. C2 Class Participation/Presentation: 20% weighting. The pass mark for the module is Grade D (40%).

Module Grade	Minimum Requirements to achieve Module Grade:
A	70% and above 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
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.