1. **Title of the module**

Law and Political Theory, LAWS5780 (LW578)

1. **School or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module**

Kent Law School

1. **The level of the module (e.g. Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)**

Level 6

1. **The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents**

30 credits (15 ECTS Credits)

1. **Which term(s) the module is to be taught in (or other teaching pattern)**

Autumn and Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules**

None

1. **The programmes of study to which the module contributes**

LLB in Law and available as option to all Social Sciences students

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of the significance of political theory in attending to contemporary juridical and political problems;
   2. Demonstrate an appreciation of juridical and philosophical ideas about sovereignty and how these shape the relationship between law and the subject;
   3. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge and understanding of the distinctions between the ideas of state, civil society, sovereign/subject and human/animal;
   4. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the origins of the aforementioned ideas in modernity/post-modernity and their significance for resolving contemporary juridical problems;
   5. Demonstrate detailed knowledge and understanding of the history of political and philosophical ideas in relation to the concept of ‘sovereignty’;
   6. Demonstrate critical understanding of the relationship between political theory and theories which underpin ‘the law’;
   7. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of modern theories of power and authority and their relation to societies in transition (post-racist, post-conflict societies).
2. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
   1. Critically analyse complex contemporary juridical problems;
   2. Demonstrate sophisticated and complex theoretical arguments gained through reading and understanding;
   3. Demonstrate independent research and draw on different sources to produce an analysis of juridical and political problems;
   4. Formulate research questions and independently identify contemporary issues that can be examined through political theory.
3. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module is designed to provide an understanding of the interrelationship between political theory and law in modernity. Drawing upon political theory it explores ideas of law, power, resistance, community, sovereignty and the subject. The objective is to build a solid understanding of political theory in relation to these key concepts, and then use this understanding to examine contemporary political and juridical questions such as those of democracy and citizenship; multiculturalism, bio-politics, secularism, terrorism, post-colonialism and contemporary formations of Empire. In so doing, the module seeks to equip students with the necessary intellectual tools for deploying insights from political theory and philosophy to the study of law.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Agamben, G, Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life, Trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1998).

Foucault, M, “Society Must Be Defended”, Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-1976.

Hardt, M and Negri, A, Empire (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000).

Hobbes, T, Leviathan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991).

Membe, A. “Necropolitics” *Public Culture*, 15/1 2003, pp. 11-40

Schmitt, C, The Concept of the Political, Trans. George Schwab. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total Study Hours: 300

Contact Hours: 40

Private Study Hours: 260

1. **Assessment methods.**

13.1 Main assessment methods

The module will be assessed by 100% coursework consisting of:

* Essay, 4500 words (40%);
* Individual oral presentation (20%);
* Reflective Piece, 3000 words (30%);
* Seminar participation (10%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

The module will be reassessed by a reassessment instrument of an essay for 100%. The reassessment will test all of the learning outcomes as indicated by the equivalent essay in the mapping in section 14 below.

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning / teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Combined Lecture/seminar |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  |
| Private Study |  | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** | Specify word length, duration, individual or group work (as appropriate) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay (40%) | 4500 words | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Oral presentation (20%) | Individual | X |  |  |  |  | X |  | X | X |  | X |
| Reflective piece (30%) | 3000 words | X |  |  |  | X | X |  |  | X |  | X |
| Seminar participation (10%) | Individual | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the module is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

The inclusive practices in the guidance (see Annex B Appendix A) have been considered in order to support all students in the following areas:

**a) Accessible resources and curriculum**

1. Electronic resources that meet minimum accessibility standards will be provided to support the use of assistive technologies.

2. Module outlines will be made accessible before the module starts.

3. Prioritised reading will be specified by the convenor sufficiently in advance to accommodate the provision of alternative formats and support those with a slow reading speed.

4. Lecture/seminar slides/outlines will be made available in electronic format in advance to allow all students to prepare (particularly students with notetaking difficulties).

5. Lecture capture will be used to assist notetaking. Lectures will be recorded as and when they are delivered. The convenor will notify students when lectures are due to take place. Lectures will be made available to students via this Moodle module shortly after the lecture.

**b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

The inclusive practices in the guidance (Annex B Appendix A, section b (1) and (2)) have all been considered in order to support all students in their assessments on this module.

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered:**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The module makes extensive use of readings by European authors and the module’s primary focus (especially in the second term) is on European political and juridical thought.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**Revision record – all revisions must be recorded in the grid and full details of the change retained in the appropriate committee records.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6 & 7 cover sheet) |
| 13/12/16 | Minor | September 2017 | 13,15,17 | No |
| 11/06/18 | Minor | September 2018 | 8,9,11,12,13,14,17 | No |