1. **Title of the module**

POLI3350 (PO335) - Making Sense of Politics

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

School of Politics and International Relations

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

4

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

30 credits and 15 ECTS credits.

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

Autumn

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

None

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

Undergraduate programmes offered by, and with, the School of Politics and International Relations

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

1. explain what the study of politics entails

2. describe the main aspects of political systems, including structures and institutions

3. explain how citizens tend to behave in different sorts of political systems

4. explain and evaluate key approaches to studying politics

5. investigate political questions, including identifying evidence and utilising basic statistical techniques

1. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**

1. engage critically with political phenomena, including the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methods of political debate

2. examine and evaluate different interpretations of political issues, events and solutions to problems

3. use different approaches to collect, analyse and present political information, including basic statistical techniques

4. develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement

5. be reflective and self-critical in their work

6. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module introduces students to the empirical study of the key structures, institutions, processes, outcomes and behaviour in political systems. It familiarises students with both the content and shape of political life and how academic scholars study it. But it also introduces the data, methods and techniques that allow students to study it themselves. Students learn about political life by learning how to do basic political research.

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

Peter Ferdinand, Robert Garner, Stephanie Lawson, *Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

Sandra Halperin, Oliver Heath, *Political Research: Methods and Practical Skills* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2nd ed. 2016)

Vivien Lowndes, David Marsh, Gerry Stoker (eds), *Theory and Methods in Political Science* (London: Palgrave, 4th ed. 2018)

Rod Hague, Martin Harrop, John McCormick, *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction* (London: Palgrave, 11th ed. 2019)

Andrew Gamble, *Politics: Why it matters* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Contact hours: 44

Private study: 256

Total study hours: 300

1. **Assessment methods**
   1. Main assessment methods

Online quizzes (10 x 5% = 50%)

Essay – 2500 Words (50%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% coursework reassessment

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Private Study** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Lectures | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** | **X** |  | **X** |  |  |
| Seminars & Workshops | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| On-line quizzes | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Essay | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

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

b) Learning, teaching and assessment methods

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

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The study of politics is necessarily global. Students will develop their ability to think globally and enhance their knowledge and understanding of international cultures and political systems and also consider what links and differentiates them.

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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