1. **Title of the module**

POLI3360 (PO336) - Politics Today

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

HSS

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**

15 (7.5)

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 course(s) of study to which the module contributes**

The module contributes to all programmes offered by and with the School of Politics and International Relations.

Available as an elective module.

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Identify and describe key problems and issues in contemporary national or international politics
3. Analyse at least one of these problems or issues drawing on current literature
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how the interests of the political actors involved in the relevant situation may shape their approach to, and perception of, the situation
5. Demonstrate an awareness of how problems and issues in international politics can be explored and analysed from different perspectives, using different methods and approaches
6. Use the analysis of at least one of these problems, and issues in order to explore and discuss solutions and policy advice evaluating possible costs and benefits
7. Account for the complexity of contemporary problems in national or international politics
8. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
9. Engage critically with political phenomena, including the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methods of political debate
10. Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information
11. Understand and apply basic principles of political analysis
12. Develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
13. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
14. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The Politics Today module enables us to engage our first year students in debates on current political issues, typically on issues that dominate our newspapers and therefore are close to the students’ own awareness and experience. However, in the introduction to the module we will also consider how such issues enter our awareness and why, and whether indeed ‘relevance’ itself is a political construct. The module will be responsive to current world affairs, and therefore the precise selection of issues to be discussed may change from year to year. After a general introduction, 2-3 issues will be presented and analysed, typically by considering historical backgrounds, key political actors, configurations of interests, possible developments and outcomes. The module endeavours to help students appreciate and conceptualise the complexities of the modern world by discussing current national and/or world issues from diverse perspectives and angles. At the beginning of the course, students will also be given the opportunity to vote on issues of interest which are not already included in the curriculum. The issue with the most votes will then be added to the curriculum, and students will be involved in preparing the issue for discussion and analysis.

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

Davis, Aeron. 2019. *Political Communication: A New Introduction for Crisis Times*. London: Polity.

Tilly, Charles and Tarrow, Sidney. 2015 *Contentious Politics*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Farkas, Johan. 2019. *Post-Truth, Fake News and Democracy*. London: Routledge.

Apart from such generic titles, the reading list for each year will depend on the ‘current issues’ selected for discussion. The discussion of the issues will make use of a range of media including e.g. background material (books), online sources, articles, newspapers.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Contact hours: 22

Private study: 128

Total: 150 hours

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

5 Moodle quizzes – 20%

Essay 2,000 words - 80%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% coursework

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| *Lecture* | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| *Seminar* | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Moodle quizzes* |  |  | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |  |  |  | **x** |
| *Essay* | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The Division 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 module will discuss current problems and issues in national, international and global politics, emphasizing the complexity and connectivity of world events and developments. It will raise awareness of the links between local and global events.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

**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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