1. **Title of the module**

POLI6870 (PO687) - Political Research and Analysis

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)**

Level 5

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

30 credits (15 ECTS)

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

Autumn

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

Pre-requisite: POLI3350 Making Sense of Politics

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

The module contributes to all 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:**
2. understand the importance of quantitative research methods for the cumulative growth of knowledge in the political and social sciences;
3. understand the basic logic of the empirical research process,
4. explain key methodological and statistical concepts relevant to quantitative data analysis,
5. critically evaluate arguments supported by quantitative work,
6. select and evaluate statistical tests appropriate to explore basic research questions in the fields of politics and international relations,
7. demonstrate a basic ability toenter, code, manipulate, and examine data sets with specialist statistical software,
8. formulate and test simple hypotheses using bivariate and multivariate designs.
9. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
10. engage critically with political phenomena, including the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methods of political debate
11. examine and evaluate different interpretations of political issues, events and solutions to problems
12. describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information
13. develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
14. use information and communication technology for bibliographical searches, data acquisition, data analysis and presentation
15. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
16. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

The module provides an introduction to the use of quantitative methods in the political sciences for students from a variety of educational backgrounds (including those with very limited knowledge of mathematical terminology and notation). The module aims to enable students to read, interpret, and critically assess arguments drawing on quantitative methods in our subject. Students will be introduced to the logic of empirical research in the social sciences, to basic concepts and techniques of descriptive uni-, bi-, and multi-variate data analysis as well as to uni-, bi-, and multi-variate inferential statistics. Students will be able to apply their statistical skills to data sets commonly found in policy and academic work.

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

Fogarty, Brian J. *Quantitative Social Science Data with R: An Introduction* (Thousand Oaks, London: Sage, 2019)

Pollock, Philip H. *The Essentials of Political Analysis* (Thousand Oaks: CQ Press/Sage, 5th ed. 2016)

Fischetti, Tony. *Data Analysis with R: A Comprehensive Guide to Manipulating, Analyzing, and Visualizing Data in R* (Birmingham: Packt Publishing, 2nd ed. 2018)

Cotton, Richard. *Learning R* (Cambridge et al: O’Reilly, 2013)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 44

Private study hours: 256

Total study hours: 300

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

Weekly Assignments x 10 (50%)

Project, 3,000 words (50%)

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)***

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| **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* | *9.5* | *9.6* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |
| Seminars and PC sessions | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Private study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly Assignments |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** |  |  |  | **x** | **x** |
| Project | **x** | **x** | **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**

Students will be introduced to principles and methods of quantitative analysis in political science using data describing national, international and global phenomena, thus highlighting the global dimension of modern politics.

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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 the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 23/09/15 |  | Sept 2015 |  |  |
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