1. **Title of the module**

POLI6880 (PO688) - Research Dissertation

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

Human and Social Sciences

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

6

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 and Spring Term

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

Restriction: The module can only be taken in Stage 3 by students in the School of Politics and International Relations (including Joint Honours). Students are only permitted to take one dissertation module i.e. students selecting POLI6880 will not be permitted to take an additional dissertation module from another School. This restriction applies to all Pol/IR students, including Joint Honours.

This module is not available to exchange students.

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

Compulsory to all Liberal Arts programmes.

Optional module to all students in the School of Politics and IR.

Not available as an elective module.

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

8.1 demonstrate systematic understanding of the academic literature relevant to their research project

8.2 construct a feasible and significant research question

8.3 locate, explain and justify the significance of their research by relating it to ongoing debates in the relevant literature

8.4 analyse and deploy the theories, concepts and methods relevant to their research projects

8.5 develop a research design to enable them to answer their central research question

8.6 be able, within the framework of the research design, to conduct research that relates to the forefront of the discipline

8.7 draw on feedback from peers and academic supervisors, exercise reflection and self-criticism

8.8 communicate the findings of their research effectively and fluently, both orally (in a conference setting) and in a substantial piece of writing (8,000-word dissertation)

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

9.1 gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and/or primary sources.

9.2 describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting information.

9.3 critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements and frame and answer questions

9.4 use empirical, conceptual and theoretical knowledge in order to devise and sustain arguments.

9.5 apply specialised methods and techniques in order to review, consolidate, extend and apply knowledge and understanding.

9.6 use communication and information technologies for the retrieval, analysis and presentation of information, including where appropriate statistical or numerical information

9.7 communicate ideas effectively and fluently in writing and orally

9.8 work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation, and time management

9.9 work collaboratively with others to achieve common goals

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

POLI6880 allows students to do independent, original research under supervision on a political science, or liberal arts topic close to their specialist interests. The dissertation module gives them the opportunity to further these interests and acquire a wide range of study and research skills in the process. All dissertation topics have to be approved by the module convenor as well as by an academic supervisor. The module takes students through the entire process of writing a dissertation (8,000 words long): from the original ‘problem’ to a suitable research ‘question’, to choosing a method, to designing the research, to conducting the research; from taking notes to drafting the dissertation, to revising and writing the dissertation, and finally to submitting the dissertation. Lectures, supervision and a conference help students along the way. The curriculum includes structured opportunities for students to discuss their research ideas with each other as well as mock panel presentations in preparation for the student conference.

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

* Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd Edition (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2008)
* Stella Cottrell, *Dissertations and Project Reports: A Step by Step Guide* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2014)
* Stella Cottrell, *The Study Skills Handbook*, 4th Edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2013)
* Bryan Greetham, *How to Write Your Undergraduate Dissertation*, 2nd Edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2014)
* Sandra Halperin and Oliver Heath, *Political Research: Methods and Practical Skills* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012)
* Martin Davies and Nathan Hughes, *Doing a Successful Research Project Using Qualitative or Quantitative Methods*, 2nd Edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave 2014)
* David Marsh and Gerry Stoker (eds.), *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, 3rd Edition (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2010)
* Dimiter Toshkov, *Research Design in Political Science* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2016)

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours 32

Private study hours 268

Total study hours 300

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

Student Conference Presentation, 15-20 minutes (15%)

Dissertation Outline, 1000 words (10%)

Dissertation, 8000 words (75%)

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* | *8.7* | *8.8* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* | *9.6* | *9.7* | *9.8* | *9.9* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  |
| Seminars | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Supervision | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  | **X** |
| Conference |  |  | **X** |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  |  |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Private Study | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Presentation | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |
| Outline | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  |  |  |  | **X** | **X** |  | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** |  |
| Dissertation | **X** | **X** | **X** | **X** | **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**

Examples of international contexts and organisations will be used where applicable to illustrate the subject content. Students will have the opportunity to develop the ability to think globally and have an understanding of international cultures through working with team members and students within their cohort, from diverse range of backgrounds.

**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.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date approved | Major/minor revision | Start date of delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 21.01.21 | Major (Module was PO679) | Sep 21 | 1,4,8, 13, 14 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |