1. **Title of the module**

Research Methods Training I

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

Politics and International Relations

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

Level 7

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

20 credits (10 ECTS)

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

Twice per year, once in Autumn and once Spring

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

This module will be followed by the new dissertation module POxxx – former PO998.

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

All MA offerings by 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 role of theories and theoretical frameworks and be able to apply them to their own research.
3. Understand and reflect on the difference between description and explanation in research.
4. Understand and be able to design their own research project and to make informed choices with regards to the methods of research.
5. Identify, summarise and critically assess some of the most important approaches and methods employed in the study of politics and international relations.
6. Discuss the theoretical and methodological issues at stake in relation to both their own research and that of others.
7. Understand and be able to formulate and apply to research questions the basic principles of research design in politics and IR.
8. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
9. Work with theoretical knowledge at the forefront of their discipline.
10. Have a comprehensive understanding of methods and methodologies in their discipline
11. Undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory area of knowledge.
12. Have a level of conceptual understanding that will allow them to critically evaluate research, advanced scholarship and methodologies and argue alternative approaches
13. Be reflective and self-critical in their research work.
14. Engage in academic and professional communication orally and in writing.
15. Have independent learning ability required for continuing professional study.
16. Understand how the relationship between concepts, theories and data shape the choices researchers make about both research design and the methods that they employ.
17. Develop reasoned justifications for their choice of research design and methods.
18. Plan their research and their acquisition of specific methodological skills.
19. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module introduces the research design and methods used in the study of Politics and International Relations. The aim of the module is twofold: (1) to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to understand, compare and evaluate the design of, and methods used in, research in the field of politics and IR, and (2) to provide you with the knowledge and skills needed to design your own research project and to make informed choices with regards to the methods of research.

The module focuses on the logic behind various types of research design and the key features of different methods used in research in the field of politics and IR. It gives you the necessary tools, methods and approaches in order to succeed in your essays and your dissertation. It covers the key steps you need in order to write successful postgraduate essays and a successful MA dissertation. The lectures and workshops provide you with the tools to do so, and you will, in the parallel seminars, address a series of topics which are necessary to help you write your first term papers.

The topics which are covered include description and explanation, concept analysis and typologies, the role of theories and theoretical frameworks, delineating a topic and formulating a research question, formulating an argument, the comparative method, case studies and case selection, and historical and ethnographic research.

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

Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences*, 2005, Cambridge: MIT Press.

Stephen van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science*, Cornell: Cornell University, 1997.

Alan D. Monroe, *Essentials of Political Research. Essentials of Political Science,* Boulder, Colo: Westview Press, 2000.

Sandra Halperin and Oliver Heath, *Political Research Methods and Practical Skills*, Oxford 2017 (2nd edition).

Mark. J. Smith, *Social Science in Question*, London: Sage, 2003.

Alan Bryman, *Social Research Methods*, Oxford University Press, 2012 (4th edition).

David Marsh and Gerry Stoker, *Theory and Methods in Political Science*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010 (3rd edition).

Peter Burnham, Karin Gilland, Wyn Grant, and Zig Layton-Henry, *Research Methods in Politics*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008 (2nd edition).

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, 2008 (3rd edition).

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 22

Private study hours: 178

Total study hours: 200

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

Essay 1, 2500 words (40%)

Essay 2, 2500 words (60%)

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)***

*Add/delete lines and columns as appropriate:*

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.10 |
| **Learning/teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | **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** |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Critical literature review* | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |  | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |
| *Research draft proposal* | **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.

**If the module is part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution, please complete sections 18 and 19. If the module is not part of a programme in a Partner College or Validated Institution these sections can be deleted.**

1. **Partner College/Validated Institution**
2. **University School responsible for the programme**

**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 delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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