## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI3350 Making Sense of Politics

## Division and School/Department or partner institution which will be responsible for management of the module

Division of Human and Social Sciences, School of Politics and International Relations

## The level of the module (Level 4, Level 5, Level 6 or Level 7)

Level 4

## The number of credits and the ECTS value which the module represents

30 credits (15 ECTS)

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

Combined Autumn and Spring

## Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or any module restrictions

None

## The course(s) of study to which the module contributes

Compulsory to the following courses:

* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Placement Year
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Foundation Year
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Year in North America
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Year in Continental Europe
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Quantitative Research
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Quantitative Research With a Placement Year
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Language
* BA (Hons) Economics and Politics
* BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics
* BA (Hons) History and Politics
* BA (Hons) Sociology and Politics
* LLB (Hons) Law and Politics

Also available as an elective module

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

* 1. Understand what the study of politics is
  2. Understand the main aspects of political systems, including structures and institutions
  3. Understand how citizens behave in different sorts of political systems
  4. Understand different approaches to studying politics

8.5 Demonstrate the skills to investigate political questions, including identifying evidence and utilising basic statistical techniques.

## 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. Describe and evaluate different approaches involved in collecting, analysing, and presenting political information
  4. Develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
  5. Reflect on and manage their own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback from peers and staff to enhance their performance and personal skills
  6. Use information and communication technology for bibliographical searches, data acquisition, data analysis and presentation
  7. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module introduces students to the empirical study of the key structures, institutions, processes, outcomes and behaviours in political systems. It familiarises students with both the content and shape of political life and how academic scholars study it. 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. Students will be able to apply their methods skills to empirical evidence commonly found in policy and academic work.

## Reading list

The University is committed to ensuring that core reading materials are in accessible electronic format in line with the Kent Inclusive Practices.

The most up to date reading list for each module can be found on the university's [reading list pages](https://kent.rl.talis.com/index.html).

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 256

Contact Hours: 44

Total: 300

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

6 Moodle quizzes (6 x 5%) 30%

Constitutional report (1500 words) 35%

Critical reflection (1500 words) 35%

13.2 Reassessment methods

100% coursework

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)

**Module learning outcomes against learning and teaching methods:**

| **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 | 9.7 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |
| **Lecture** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |
| **Seminar** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| **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 | 9.7 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **6 Moodle quizzes** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| **Constitutional Report** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Critical Reflection** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |

## 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

## Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered

Canterbury

## Internationalisation

The course considers perspectives from, and draws on studies conducted in, a range of non-UK countries, and so locates the core themes within a wider international perspective.

**DIVISIONAL USE ONLY**

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

| **Date approved** | **New/Major/Minor revision** | **Start date of delivery of (revised) version** | **Section revised (if applicable)** | **Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 17.11.22 | Major | September 2023 | 7, 8, 13, 14 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |