## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI9640 Research Methods Training I

## 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 7

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

20 credits (10 ECTS)

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

Autumn and Spring

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

This module will be followed by POLI9990 Research Methods 2, and then the thesis module POLI9650.

For MA Peace and Conflict Studies students, this module will be followed by POLI9660

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

#### Compulsory to the following courses:

* All MA courses in the School of Politics and International Relations

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

8.1 Understand the role of theories and theoretical frameworks and be able to apply them to their own research.

8.2 Understand and reflect on the difference between description and explanation in research.

8.3 Understand and be able to design their own research project and to make informed choices with regards to the methods of research.

8.4 Identify, summarise and critically assess some of the most important approaches and methods employed in the study of politics and international relations.

8.5 Discuss the theoretical and methodological issues at stake in relation to both their own research and that of others.

8.6 Understand and be able to formulate and apply to research questions the basic principles of research design in politics and IR.

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

9.1 Work with theoretical knowledge at the forefront of their discipline.

9.2 Have a comprehensive understanding of methods and methodologies in their discipline

9.3 Undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory area of knowledge.

9.4 Have a level of conceptual understanding that will allow them to critically evaluate research, advanced scholarship and methodologies and argue alternative approaches

9.5 Be reflective and self-critical in their research work

9.6 Engage in academic and professional communication via a variety of methods

9.7 Have independent learning ability required for continuing professional study

9.8 Understand how the relationship between concepts, theories and data shape the choices researchers make about both research design and the methods that they employ

9.9 Develop reasoned justifications for their choice of research design and methods

9.10 Plan their research and their acquisition of specific methodological skills.

## 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.

## 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: 178

Contact Hours: 22

Total: 200

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Critical Literature Review, 2500 words (40%)

Research Proposal, 2500 words (60%)

* 1. Reassessment methods

100% coursework

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods 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 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 | 9.7 | 9.8 | 9.9 | 9.10 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| 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** |

**Module learning outcomes against assessment methods:**

| 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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Critical Literature Review | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Research Proposal | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **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

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**

**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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.11.22 | Minor | September 2023 | 6, 7, 9, 13, 14 | No |