1. **Title of the module**

SOCI7140 (SO714) People, Politics and Participation: The Public Sphere in Modern Britain

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

School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

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

Level 6

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

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

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

Autumn term (term 1) or Spring term (term 2)

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

None

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

BSc Social Sciences

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

8.1 Demonstrate detailed knowledge of the importance of a critical, social scientific approach to the public sphere in Britain.

8.2 Demonstrate an advanced conceptual understanding of the British political system and public sphere, and its development.

8.3 Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data regarding varying methods and ways in which individuals and groups shape and interact with the public sphere, drawing upon perspectives from sociology, social policy and history.

8.4 Effectively communicate key debates regarding the factors that shape involvement or non-involvement in British public and political life, drawing upon perspectives from sociology, social policy and history.

8.5 Draw upon social science techniques and theories to describe and explain the structures and processes involved in British public and political life, including utilising key disciplinary concepts to define the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge regarding central political debates.

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

9.1 Demonstrate enhanced communication skills, evidenced through their participation in group work, seminar discussions and essay writing.

9.2 Demonstrate enhanced skills in finding and using library and internet resources.

9.3 Demonstrate enhanced skills in working collaboratively in teams.

9.4 Demonstrate enhanced skills in synthesizing theories and arguments in a coherent manner.

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module explores the nature of the public sphere in Britain, how groups and individuals from all social classes engage with the state, non-governmental actors/agencies and party politics. Students will examine topics including the role of the state and NGOs, citizenship, social capital, devolution and the ‘new localism’ and the internet and politics. The major schools of thought that theoretically represent the interrelationships between politics, social structures, ideologies and culture will be explored throughout the module. Indicative topics of study include:

1. Introduction to the British political system and structure
2. The state
3. Non-state actors and agents
4. Civil society
5. Social capital
6. Citizenship
7. Devolution and the ‘new localism’
8. Web 2.0, the media and the British public sphere
9. The Big Society
10. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Crowson et al, 2009, *NGOs in Contemporary Britain: Non-State Actors in Society and Politics since 1945*. Basingstoke: Palgrave

Deakin, N., 2001, *In Search of Civil Society*. Basingstoke: Palgrave

Edwards, M., 2009, *Civil Society*. Cambridge: Polity

Faulks, K., 2000, *Citizenship*. London: Routledge

Faulks, K., 1998, *Citizenship in Modern Britain.* Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press

Halpern, D., 2005, *Social Capital*, Oxford: Polity

Bradley, K., 2009, *Poverty, Philanthropy and the State: Charities and the Working Classes in London*, 1918-1979. Manchester: Manchester University Press

Ishkanian, A., and S. Szreter, 2012, *The Big Society Debate: A New Agenda for Social Welfare*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 22

Private study hours: 128

Total study hours: 150

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

Group Presentation - 20%

Essay (3000 words) - 80%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 100% coursework

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study |  |  | X |  | X |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | X | X | X | X | X |  |  |  | X |
| Seminars | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Essay | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  | X |
| Presentation | 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**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

The discussion and application of the module topics is specifically related to a UK context. However the range of generic skills which will be developed are applicable to international contexts and the specific skills have potential international relevance.

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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) |
|  |  | September 2013 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Revised FSO Jan 2018