## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI5008 Democracy Under Threat

## 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 5

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

15 credits (7.5 ECTS)

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

Autumn or Spring

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

None

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

***Optional to the following courses:***

* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (Bidiplôme)
* 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 Continental Europe or North America
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Language
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Year in Asia-Pacific
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Quantitative Research
* BA (Hons) Economics and Politics
* BA (Hons) History and Politics
* BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics
* BA (Hons) Sociology and Politics
* LLB (Hons) Law and Politics

Also available as an elective module and for short term credit students.

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

8.1 Understand the nature of democracy as a political regime

8.2 Understand how democracy has been studied in political science

8.3 Assess the competing theories that seek to account for the emergence and endurance of democracy

8.4 Understand the consequences of democracy for political outcomes

8.5 Identify current threats to democracy and their causes

8.6 Understand how threats to democracy could be countered

8.7 Appreciate some of the normative questions raised by democracy.

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

9.1 Gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources

9.2 Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems

9.3 Develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement

9.4 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

9.5 The ability to communicate effectively and fluently organise information clearly and coherently; use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

What is democracy? How can it be measured? Is populism a threat to democracy? Is democracy likely to survive? The module addresses these questions by first exploring the nature of democracy as a form of government and reviewing the way it has been conceptualised and measured across countries and over time. We will subsequently review how and why some countries have become democratic while other have not and what factors can explain variation between countries. We will then assess to what extent democracy is under threat, the nature of threats such as populism, their roots, and how they could be countered. We will conclude by discussing some of the key normative questions raised by democracy and trying to predict its likely trajectory in the foreseeable future. In a nutshell, the module offers an analysis of the past, present, and future of democracy and its significance in contemporary politics.

## 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: 128

Contact Hours: 22

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

2 short-answer tests – 20% each

Examination (2 hrs) – 60%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% examination

## 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 | 8.6 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Seminars | **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 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Tests | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Examination | **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 module covers democracy from a comparative perspective across place and time so internationalisation is embedded throughout.

**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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.12.22 | New | September 2023 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |