## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI5009 American 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 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

Cannot be taken with POLI6170

## 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 (Bi-diplôme)
* BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Language
* 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) in Politics and International Relations with a Year in the Asia-Pacific
* BA (Hons) Economics and Politics
* BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics
* BA (Hons) History and Politics
* BA (Hons) Sociology and Politics

Also available as an elective module and to short term credit students

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

8.1 Have a thorough knowledge of the structure of the US governmental system;

8.2 Describe and account for the operation of the US’s political institutions, including those ‘intermediate’ institutions (parties, media etc) that link citizens to their government;

8.3 Understand how the individual institutions interact and work together (or not, as the case may be);

8.4 Comprehend the relationship between government institutions and the US’s cultural and societal attributes;

8.5 Understand how the governmental structure and political culture interact to produce certain policy outcomes;

8.6 Identify and analyse some of the major political problems facing the US.

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

9.1 Engage critically with concepts, theories and methods;

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

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

9.4 Develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement;

9.5 Communicate effectively;

9.6 Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

With the world’s largest economy and most powerful armed forces, the United States bestrides the world stage. Yet, according to many critics, the US’s own political system is in crisis and turmoil, polarised on hot-button culture issues but also witnessing an attack on democracy itself by an ex-president and his loyal acolytes. Trump challenged both our notions of who could be elected to the most powerful job and our long established theories about how the US government can and should work. The US, like many other nations, faces serious public policy questions on the economy, health, energy, education, guns, crime, poverty and immigration, among others, but can its dysfunctional political system rise to the challenge? This module allows you to formulate your own answer to this and other questions by offering a comprehensive introduction to the politics and government of the United States.

## 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) but the two key texts are:

* David McKay, *American Politics and Society*, 10th edition (Blackwells, 2022)
* Gillian Peele, Bruce Cain, Jon Herbert and Andrew Wroe (eds.), *Developments in American Politics 9* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

## Contact Hours

Private Study: 128

Contact Hours: 22

Total: 150

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Exam 50%

Essay (2500 words) 50%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 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 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Lectures | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |  |  |
| Seminars | 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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Essay | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Exam | 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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 05.12.22 | New | September 2023 |  |  |
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