## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI6006 The Public in 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 6

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

15 (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 to short-term credit students

## The intended subject specific learning outcomes.

## On successfully completing the module students will be able to:

8.1 Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the requirements on citizens for the effective operation of modern democratic systems.

8.2 Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the ways in which individuals process information and the implications of these for the effective role of citizens within the political system.

8.3 Show an ability to identify conditions in which individual information processing might be subject to shortcomings, and in which improvements in this processing might be induced.

8.4 Demonstrate a critical understanding of the different ways in which individual and collective attitudes within a society are measured.

8.5 Design a methodologically rigorous approach to the measurement of public opinion on policy or social issues.

## 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 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

In democratic systems, citizens are the ultimate source of political authority. Yet citizens’ place in modern democracies raises two key questions. First, how equipped are citizens to play their key democratic role? Second, how do we know what citizens want from politics and politicians? This course explores these two issues. It examines the nature and role of public opinion, focusing on how biases in individual information processing, and the provision of misinformation and disinformation, can impede individuals’ citizenship role. In today’s world of social media and fake news, can individuals form views and judgements in a way that contributes to the effective functioning of the democratic system? The course also examines the principal ways in which citizens’ views and judgements are identified. How are individual attitudes appraised, and what approaches and practices are best suited for measuring what the public wants of politics? Overall, this module enables students to explore how public attitudes are measured and some of the principal challenges to the role of citizens in modern democratic systems. The module enhances students’ conceptual and empirical capacities, and develops their skills and abilities for a range of careers, particularly those involving the measurement of citizen, public or consumer opinion.

## 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

Policy brief (1,500 words) (40%)\*

Methodology outline (2,500 words) (60%)\*

*\*this element is pass compulsory and must be passed to achieved the learning outcomes of the module*

13.2 Reassessment methods

Like for like

## 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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Private Study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Lecture/seminars | **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 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Policy brief | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Data gathering proposal |  |  |  | **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 | New | September 2023 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |