## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI6870 Political Research and Analysis

## 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

30 credits (15 ECTS)

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

Combined Autumn and Spring

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

None

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

***Compulsory 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

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

8.1 Understand the importance of quantitative and qualitative research methods for the cumulative growth of knowledge in the political and social sciences

8.2 Understand the basic logic of the empirical research process

8.3 Be familiar with key methodological and statistical concepts relevant to quantitative and qualitative data analysis

8.4 Have improved their ability to critically evaluate arguments supported by quantitative and qualitative work

8.5 Select and evaluate methodological approaches appropriate to explore substantive research questions in the fields of politics and international relations

8.6 Have developed a basic ability to enter, code, manipulate, and examine data sets with R

8.7 Formulate and test simple hypotheses using both a quantitative (bivariate and multivariate designs), and understand interpretive and normative approaches in qualitative research.

## 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 Plan reasoned arguments, and understand what relevant information is needed to exercise critical judgement

9.3 Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting information

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

9.5 Use information and communication technology for bibliographical searches, data acquisition, data analysis and presentation.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

Research methods are – together with theoretical frameworks and empirical material – one of the three main pillars of the study of politics and international relations. Politics and international relations are methodologically very diverse and apply a number of different approaches that can be summarised under the quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The module provides a basic introduction to the use of these methods for students from a variety of educational backgrounds (no statistical knowledge is necessary). The module aims to enable students to read, interpret and critically assess arguments and data drawing on quantitative and qualitative methods in political science and international relations. Students will be introduced to the logic of empirical research in the social sciences, to basic concepts and techniques of descriptive and inferential uni-, bi- and multivariate statistics, as well as qualitative comparative studies and interpretive approaches. Students will be able to apply their methods skills to empirical evidence commonly found in policy and academic work.

## 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: 256

Contact Hours: 44

Total: 300

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

3 Moodle quizzes (3x5%) 15%

Presentation 15%

Quantitative Project (2,000 words) 35%

Qualitative Project (2,000 words) 35%

13.2 Reassessment methods

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** | **8.7** | **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** |
| **Lecture** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |  |
| **Seminar** | **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 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MCQ test** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Presentation** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Quantitative Project** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Qualitative Project** | **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

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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 23.09.2015 |  | September 2015 |  |  |
| 05.12.22 | Major | September 2023 | 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 |  |