1. **Title of the module**

POLI7020 (PO702) Qualitative Methods in Politics and International Relations

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

School of Politics and International Relations

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

7

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

20 credits (10 ECTS)

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

Autumn or spring

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

None.

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

The module is compulsory for students on the ‘research methods’ pathway of one of the School of Politics and International Relations’ MA programmes or on the School’s PhD programme. The module is optional for other masters’ level students across the university.

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

8.1 Identify and critically analyse different epistemological approaches used within politics/international relations .

8.2 Identify and evaluate the strengths/weaknesses of qualitative methods commonly used in politics/international relations, and to evaluate their role and qualities in comparison to other methodologies.

8.3 Understand at a detailed level the principal techniques of qualitative data collection and analysis in politics/international relations, know when it is appropriate to use them and be able to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

8.4 Critically evaluate qualitative analyses they encounter in the subject literature.

8.5 Deploy a range of qualitative techniques effectively.

8.6 Present their research results in a form acceptable for publication.

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

9.1: Work with theoretical knowledge at the forefront of their discipline

9.2: Have a comprehensive and applied understanding of qualitative methods and methodologies

9.3: Undertake analysis of complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge

9.4: Identify and solve complex problems in qualitative research.

9.5: Be reflective and self-critical in their research work including demonstrating awareness of advantages and challenges of research choices made

9.6: Engage in oral and written academic and professional communication with others, demonstrating a high level of skill in analysing and presenting scholarly information in the appropriate form

9.7: Demonstrate independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

1. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module covers various methods of collecting, analysing and interpreting qualitative data used in politics and international relations research. The aim of the module is for students to gain familiarity with a range of qualitative research techniques and to grasp the challenges of gathering and understanding data and producing new knowledge through qualitative research. Students will be taught about a number of methods including document analysis, interviewing, ethnography, discourse and narrative analysis. Students will have the opportunity to gain practical research experience in interviewing and document analysis and learn how to approach the analysis of data collected in these ways in the context of politics/IR projects.

1. **Reading list (Indicative list, current at time of publication. Reading lists will be published annually)**

Bleiker, R. (2018) Visual Global Politics. Routledge

Bryman, A. (2004) Social Research Methods, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hesse-Bibber, S. N. & Leavy, P. (2010, 2nd edition) The Practice of Qualitative Research, London: Sage.

Hollway, W. and Jefferson, T. (2000) Doing Qualitative Research Differently, London: Sage.

Klotz, A & Prakash, D. (eds) (2008) Qualitative Methods in International Relations: A Pluralist Guide. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Kvale, S. (1996) Interviews: An Introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing. Thousand Oaks, CA et al.: Sage

Mason, J. (2002, 2nd edition) Qualitative Researching, London: Sage.

Rose, G. (2014, 4th edition) Visual Methodologies: An Introduction to the Interpretation of Visual Materials.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

The module will be delivered through formal in-class teaching and personal study. An indication of the breakdown between these elements is:

Total contact hours: 22

Private study hours: 178

Total study hours: 200

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

Document Analysis, 2,500 words (50%)

Interviewing, 2,500 words (50%)

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment Instrument: 100% coursework

1. ***Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section12) and methods of assessment (section 13)***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | 9.7 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lectures/seminars** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Private Study** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Assignment 1 | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Assignment 2 | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **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**

Canterbury

1. **Internationalisation**

The module is designed to take into account the international nature of the research in the subject of politics and international relations, and incorporates texts with a broad range of international authors. The module will draw on expertise within the School of Politics and International Relations, which is international in its academic staff. Furthermore, the School typically attracts an international student body at the Masters level, and staff are experienced in teaching and supporting international students.

**FACULTIES SUPPORT OFFICE USE ONLY**

**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 delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
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