## KentVision Code and title of the module

POLI9660 MA Thesis (Marburg)

## 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 7

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

60 (30 ECTS)

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

Summer vacation period (after successful completion of Stage 1)

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

POLI9640 Research Methods Training I

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

#### Compulsory to the following courses:

* MA Peace and Conflict Studies

#### Optional to the following courses:

* None

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

8.1 Have a good understanding of the issues involved in formulating a meaningful and feasible research question, as well as of the ways of dealing with these issues

8.2 Understand how to work methodically and systematically in their studies, and to adopt a critical perspective in their use of work done by other political and social scientist

8.3 Be able to apply their knowledge and skills to a research project that they have developed on their own

8.4 Be able to conduct an advanced academic research project, present the findings, and write-up in a concise and coherent manner

8.5 Have a good familiarity with learning resources in politics and international relations, including primary and secondary sources, and different forms of data and other empirical materials

8.6 Critically engage with political phenomena, including the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methods of political debate

8.7 Examine and evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events and solutions to political problems

8.8 Describe, evaluate and apply different intellectual approaches in collecting, analysing and presenting political information.

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

9.1 Work with theoretical and conceptual knowledge at the forefront of the discipline

9.2 Have developed a comprehensive and critical understanding of methods in the discipline

9.3 Analyse complex, incomplete or contradictory areas of knowledge in the discipline

9.4 Have developed a level of conceptual understanding enabling them to critically evaluate research, advanced scholarship and methodologies and to propose alternative approaches

9.5 Be reflective and self-critical in their research work

9.6 Be able to engage in academic and professional communication.

## A synopsis of the curriculum

This module builds on and applies the skills and learning outcomes attained in Stage 1 and incorporates preparatory activities and skills training to aid the successful writing of an MA thesis. This is achieved by providing students with an understanding of academic research and the ability to identify and utilise appropriate strategies and techniques in the preparation and delivery of an individual dissertation. The thesis forms a major assessed element and is on a topic that falls within the scope of the Peace and Conflict course. The overall goal is to help you move through the components of the dissertation, including the actual research as well as presenting and writing up your findings.

## 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: 587

Contact Hours: 13

Total: 600

## Assessment methods

* 1. Main assessment methods

Dissertation (14,000 words) – 100%

* 1. Reassessment methods

Like for Like

NB: a resubmitted dissertation has to be on a new topic unless there are extenuating circumstances.

## Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods 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 | 8.8 | 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** | **x** |  |
| Supervision/Drop in Sessions | **x** | **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 | 8.8 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 | 9.6 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dissertation | **x** | **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

Marburg

## Internationalisation

There are no formal international elements in this module, although most students elect to study an internationally-relevant topic as part of their dissertation, and so this forms part of their supervision and assessment. Some of the student dissertations are joint marked by Kent and staff from our overseas partner institutions.

**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) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Minor | September 2021 | 1, 6 | No |
| 14.11.22 | Minor | September 2023 | 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14 | No |