1. **Title of the module**

POLI3260 (PO326) - Introduction to Political Science

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)**

Level 4

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

15 credits (7.5 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**

Politics BA;

Politics and International Relations BA;

Politics and International Relations with a Language BA;

Politics and International Relations with a year in North America BA;

Politics and International Relations with a year in Continental Europe BA;

Politics and International Relations with a year in China/Hong Kong BA;

Politics and International Relations with a year in Japan BA;

Politics and International Relations with a year in the Asia-Pacific BA;

Politics and International Relations with Quantitative Research BA;

War and Conflict BA;

Politics and Law BA;

History and Politics BA

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. understand the different approaches used in the study of Politics
3. understand the basic logic of the research process
4. be familiar with several themes central to political research
5. have improved their ability to identify and use evidence, including basic statistical techniques
6. choose among a wide range of approaches to develop their own methods to explore substantive research questions in the fields of politics and international relations
7. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
8. engage critically with political phenomena, including the vocabulary, concepts, theories and methods of political debate
9. examine and evaluate different interpretations of political issues, events and solutions to problems
10. describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information, including basic statistical techniques
11. develop reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
12. 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
13. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
14. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This core module introduces students to the wide range of different methodologies commonly employed in political science. This includes the scientific method and both traditional and newer forms of research. Students will also be introduced to some of the fields of inquiry that dominate the study of politics, including public choice, social movements, political behaviour, economic development and democracy. The module integrates these two main components to create both an awareness of the breadth of political science and its approaches, ultimately providing students with the foundation for further study in political science.

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

* Halperin, Sandra and Oliver Heath. 2012. Political Research: Methods and Practical Skills. New York: Oxford University Press.
* Blastland, Michael and Andrew Dilnot. 2007. The Tiger That Isn’t: Seeing through a world of numbers. Profile Books.
* King, Gary. Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research. Princeton University Press.
* Marsh, David and Gerry Stoker.1995. Theory and Methods in Political Science Palgrave Macmillan.
* Moses, Jonathon and Torbjørn Knutsen. 2007. Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research: Competing Methodologies and Methods in Social and Political Research, Palgrave Macmillan.

1. **Learning and teaching methods**

Total contact hours: 27

Private study hours: 123

Total study hours: 150

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

* Moodle Quizzes x5 (4% each, 20% overall)
* Research Report 1, 1000 words (32%)
* Research Report 2, 2000 words (48%)

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* | *9.1* | *9.2* | *9.3* | *9.4* | *9.5* | *9.6* |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lectures | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |  |
| Seminars and Research Workshops |  |  |  | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |  |
| Private study | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Online Quizzes | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** | **x** |
| Research Reports | **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**

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 from diverse cultures.

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**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 the delivery of revised version | Section revised | Impacts PLOs (Q6&7 cover sheet) |
| 29/09/14 |  | Sept 2014 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

Revised FSO Jan 2018