1. **Title of the module**

JOUR6040 (JN604) British Public Affairs

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

Law, Society and Social Justice: Centre for Journalism

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

Level 6

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 and Spring

1. **Prerequisite and co-requisite modules and/or module restrictions**

None

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

Year in Journalism – compulsory module

1. **The intended subject specific learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
2. Show detailed understanding of the basic principles of the British constitution, the functions of Britain’s national political institutions and their role in delivering accountable and representative outcomes
3. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the electoral process, comparative electoral systems and the key issues facing electoral participation in a modern democracy
4. Show familiarity with how a range of approaches can be used to investigate how British political systems work, and with what success, and have some understanding of comparative systems
5. Demonstrate a detailed understanding of the structure and financing of public services including the National Health Service and social services
6. **The intended generic learning outcomes.  
   On successfully completing the module students will be able to:**
7. Gather, organise and deploy information in order to formulate arguments cogently and confidently
8. Work confidently with abstract ideas and argue from competing perspectives
9. Comprehensively implement research and writing skills in individual written work
10. Exercise independent learning skills and organise study in an efficient and professional manner
11. **A synopsis of the curriculum**

This module prepares journalists to hold power to account by developing a thorough understanding of the British political system, focusing on recent political and constitutional developments. It will investigate topics such as the roles of Parliament, the Prime Minister and Cabinet, regional authorities, political parties, and the electoral system. It will assess key issues facing democratic government and institutions within the UK, analysing for example the role of Europe, the challenges posed by devolution, the Treasury and the National Health Service. There will also be discussion of contemporary political behaviour, including the issue of political participation. This module prepares students to sit the National Council for the Training of Journalists’ (NCTJ) professional exam in public affairs.

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

Morrison, J (2013), Essential Public Affairs for Journalists, 3rd edn, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Leach, R, Coxall, B and Robins, L (2011), British Politics, 2nd edn, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke

Jones, B and Norton, P (2010), Politics UK, 7th edn, Pearson, Harlow

Moran, M (2011), Politics and Governance in the UK, 2nd edn, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke

Judge, D (2005), Political Institutions in the United Kingdom, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Kavanagh, D, et al (2006), British Politics, 5th edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford

Peele, G (2004), Governing the UK. British Politics in the 21st Century, 4th edn, Blackwell, Oxford

Jones, B (2010), Dictionary of British Politics, 2nd edn, Manchester University Press, Manchester

1. **Contact hours**

Total Contact Hours: 48

Private Study Hours: 102

Total Study Hours: 150

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

In-course test, (45 mins.) – 50%

In-course test, (45 mins.) – 50%

13.2 Reassessment methods

Reassessment instrument: 100% coursework

1. **Map of module learning outcomes (sections 8 & 9) to learning and teaching methods (section 12) and methods of assessment (section 13)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module learning outcome** | 8.1 | 8.2 | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.5 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.3 | 9.4 |
| **Learning/ teaching method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Private Study | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Lecture | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |  |
| Seminar | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Assessment method** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In-class test 1 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| In-class test 2 | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

1. **Inclusive module design**

The School/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

1. **Campus(es) or centre(s) where module will be delivered**

Medway

1. **Internationalisation**

The module focuses on the British political system to prepare students to sit professional exams set by the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) and to enable them to find employment as journalists in the UK. The module does not presume a familiarity with national or regional structures of government in the UK to ensure it is accessible to international students. Discussions of alternative systems of representative democracy and government structures will be used in class to illustrate the benefits and shortcomings of the UK model, and students will be encouraged to discuss their own experiences from a diverse range of backgrounds.

**DIVISIONAL 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) |
| EPA | Major | September 2021 | 9,13,14 | No |
|  |  |  |  |  |