

PO206-30 Politics in the United Kingdom

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Mitya Pearson

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This is a module about politics and power in the United Kingdom. It has perhaps never been more important, or exciting, to deepen our understanding of politics in the UK. Recent years have seen upheaval among the political parties, Britain's departure from the European Union, threats to the integrity of the UK itself, big changes in the UK's media landscape, and a series of major ongoing public policy challenges. This module takes a systematic approach to understand these developments, combining both historical and comparative lenses to illuminate contemporary UK politics.

Module aims

The first aim of this module is to provide you with an understanding of politics in the UK. The intention is to move beyond journalistic or narrowly descriptive accounts of politics in the UK towards an understanding of political processes which involves evaluation and explanation. You will be expected to familiarise yourself with some necessary elements of institutional and historical fact but, what is more important, you will be expected to acquire the skill necessary to evaluate rival explanatory accounts. The essence of success in the module is to be measured by your awareness of rival accounts and your ability to judge between them. Secondly, you will develop a

level of understanding of comparative politics, including an appreciation of the methodology of comparison and its usefulness in understanding politics in a single state.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

This module will help you to make sense of the fascinating recent, and ongoing, developments in the UK by deepening your understanding of British politics. The course is roughly divided into four mini-sections, covering:

- British political history, 1945-2010. [Weeks 1-5]
- Politics from below: public opinion and politics outside Westminster. [Weeks 7-10]
- Key factors, processes and institutions shaping policymaking in the UK. [Weeks 11-15]
- Policy case studies: a deep-dive into some specific policy areas and the politics surrounding them. [Weeks 17-20]

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Show a familiarity with the constitutional apparatus of UK politics.
- Show an awareness of academic research on, and rival interpretations of, politics in the UK.
- Show an ability to examine the politics of the UK within a comparative context.
- Show a deep understanding of the historical context surrounding contemporary academic and political debates about British politics.
- Show an ability to use empirical evidence and case studies to build arguments about British politics; this includes relating concrete examples to key ideas, frameworks and concepts in the academic literature.
- Show a deep understanding of specific public policy challenges and debates within the UK in areas such as immigration, climate change and the economy.
- Show an ability to analyse and explain aspects of UK politics.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

- Understanding of the political system of the United Kingdom.
- Understanding of political research.
- Understanding of comparative research.
- Producing article reviews.
- Producing policy briefs.

Transferable skills

The module provides students with opportunities to acquire or develop the following key skills:

- Communication skills, including both written and oral presentation skills.
 - Lateral thinking skills.
 - Skills in the distillation and application of complex information and ideas.
 - Critical thinking.
 - Analytical skills.
 - Independent research skills.
 - Problem solving.
 - Time management.
 - Information technology.
 - Skills in academic practice.
 - Awareness of, and sensitivity to, diversity.
 - Decision making.
 - Assessing and managing information.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	264 hours (88%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Students should be engaging in significant private study in this module across two terms, this includes two core readings every week in preparation for seminars, and the study for three varied assessments.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
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Assessment component

1000 word article review	20%		Yes (extension)
A review of one of the recommended readings for weeks 1-10.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

2000 word word essay	40%		Yes (extension)
2000-word essay on one of the topics from weeks 1-14.			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

2000 word policy brief	40%		Yes (extension)
A policy brief on one of the topics from weeks 11-20.			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

PAIS feedback form and verbal feedback.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics

This module is Optional for:

- UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
 - Year 2 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
 - Year 2 of LM1D Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 2 of UPOA-M102 Undergraduate Global Politics (with Integrated Year Abroad at Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 2 of VM11 History and Politics
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
 - Year 2 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- Year 2 of UIPA-L2L8 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 2 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law
 - Year 2 of V7MW Politics, Philosophy and Law