

Z40041

18 19

**Politics and Public Policy Erasmus
(one semester)**

Module Descriptors

Level 5 Modules

BLEX2006 - Political Thought

Leader: Stephen David Pa

Handbook Descriptor

20 credits

The module is intended to provide students with an insight into the main theories and methods relevant to investigations in contemporary politics. The first part of the course is concerned with the history of political thought, and is intended to facilitate an appreciation of different perspectives on subjects such as legitimacy, rights, authority, power and democracy. The second part of the course will examine the variety of methods available to students when conducting research in politics. It will allow students an insight into the advantages of identifying different methods at the practical issues that arise in applying them.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

The word limit is 3000.

Assessment Rationale

1. Essay (1 topic chosen from list in module handbook of 3,000 words in length)

Reassessment Requirements

1. Essay (1 topic chosen from list of topics in the module handbook of 3,000 words in length)

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Have an understanding of the historical development of political theory.
- 2 - 2 Develop an insight into the political ideas informing political practices.
- 3 - 3 Have gained an insight into the conflicting views concerning the nature of politics.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

This module is designed to provide students with an introduction to the European Union and the role that the EU play in the wider world. This module introduces students to the history, institutional development and policy-making environment that is characteristic of the EU, and highlights the challenges that confront the EU in the globalised economy. Attention will be paid to the tension that exists between the continuing presence of national positions of member states and the emergence of common EU positions. Students will consider a wide variety of case studies to examine the role that the EU plays in the international community as well as the pressures that are exerted upon the EU. Students will participate in a simulation exercise and will have the opportunity to take part in a field trip to EU institutions in Brussels as part of #DMU Global.

Assessment Components

Essay 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

The word limit is 3000.

Assessment Rationale

Essay:

- Evidence of thoughtful engagement with the issues and theoretical positions explored in the course;
- Evidence of independent critical thinking;
- The ability to structure and sustain an argument;
- Clarity and fluency of expression;
- Correct and consistent citation practice;

Reassessment Requirements

Essay: Resubmit essay of 3,000 words.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Demonstrate an understanding of the history of European integration
- 2 - 2 Recognise the role of the various EU institutions and the member states in shaping the course of European integration
- 3 - 3 Explain the theories relevant to the study of the EU.
- 4 - 4 Apply their resulting analytical expertise to write and comment with authority on the subject of European integration.
- 5 - 5 Develop skills in finding, using and evaluating a variety of information sources.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

The module begins by locating the value and nature of theory. It explores the role of key individual thinkers in establishing and challenging the development of 'paradigms' or broad perspectives in International Relations. In such way, the influences of social sciences and humanities subjects are also identified in the growth of the subject called International Relations. The module then addresses the historical evolution of International Relations theory. It offers examination of the origins of International Relations as a specific academic subject after World War One. The legalis and normative character of the early phase of the discipline will be contrasted with the self-styled 'realism' of International Relations scholars after World War Two. The subsequent diversity of theories will be analysed incorporating inter alia the remaining inputs from normative/idealist perspectives; liberal multilateralism and neorealism. The radical challenge to these positions suggested by structuralist/world economy writings is examined before the module turns to approaches that are difficult to locate within the established paradigms of international theory. These approaches will include nationalism, globalisation, feminism and postmodernism.

Assessment Components

Viva 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment type used is the viva voce examination. This is to reinforce students skills of analysis and marshalling of arguments.

Reassessment Requirements

Students who fail the module can be reassessed by agreeing a new question with the tutor

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Have a keener appreciation of what constitutes the academic discipline of International Relations.
- 2 - 2 Be accomplished in understanding and interrogating the major paradigms of International Relations theory
- 3 - 3 Be familiar with the contemporary diversity of theoretical positions within International Relations, which has challenged the privileged position of the major paradigms.
- 4 - 4 Be able to converse at the level of theory.
- 5 - 5 Have increased analytical and factual competencies, together with improved personal transferable skills in line with University policy.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

The learning objectives of this module are:

- § To appreciate how the US has evolved from its revolutionary birth to the world's only superpower
- § To understand how the major institutions of US government function
- § To appreciate the political and social issues in contemporary America
- § To gain some understanding of America's role within the wider world

The module will begin with an examination of the institutions of US government and politics. The birth of the nation, including the Constitutional framework and the resulting separation of powers arrangement will be dealt with. The first semester will cover the different branches of government - Congress, the Presidency, presidential selection and the Judiciary. The remaining first term lectures will focus on political parties and the party system, interest groups and federalism.

The second term will cover elections, voting behaviour, a brief look at foreign policy and will then focus on domestic issues for the remaining weeks. Topics such as race, ethnicity, gender, civil rights, gun control and abortion will be examined.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

Group Presentation (and 1000 word individual write-up of presentation finding).

Reassessment Requirements

For the seminar presentation, students must submit a 2000 word piece based on the topics in the handbook.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 To appreciate how the US has evolved from its revolutionary birth to the world's only superpower.
- 2 - 2 To understand how the major formal and informal institutions of US government function.
- 3 - 3 To appreciate the political and social issues facing contemporary America.
- 4 - 4 To understand America's role within the wider world.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

The relationship between government and business is important both for the development and delivery of public policy and for the successful operation of businesses in Britain. This module examines the nature of the relationship and the interactions between government and business in Britain set within a wider European and Global context. Topics to be considered include: role of politics, markets and regulation, Globalisation, European business policy, business, the environment and sustainable development, Social responsibility and corporate governance, power of business, promotion of business competitiveness, e-business and e-government, rise of regulatory state, and the regulation of business activity. These and other topics will be developed through lectures, videos, case studies and interactive classes involving student presentations, groups and individual exercises. This module is designed for those students who are interested in how public policy is shaped by business needs and interests and those business students who want to understand the wider political and policy context within which business operates.

Assessment Criteria:

The Literature review is designed to test the ability of students to read and analyse a specific piece of academic literature. The essay will provide the opportunity for students to undertake research, reading and discussion of designated topic in greater depth. The exam enables students to review and integrate the material covered during the module.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change.

Assessment Components

Essay 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

The Literature review is designed to test the ability of students to read and analyse a specific piece of academic, topical or official literature, and to compare it to other works in the area.

Reassessment Requirements

Failed students will be reassessed in the failed components only, but with a new piece of assessment.

Where the first assignment on a module is completed yet fails to achieve a mark of 40% then that assignment can be resubmitted without loss of a formal reassessment attempt. The maximum mark that can be achieved for a resubmission is 40%. Please note: Students MUST have attempted the assignment in order to benefit from in-course recovery.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Identify and examine critically the nature, mechanisms and dynamics of government business relations in Britain,
- 2 - 2 Understand how this relationship has been shaped by European and Global developments, by changing ideas about the role of the state, markets and governance and by growing environmental concerns and technological innovations,
- 3 - 3 Utilise a range of approaches and concepts to analyse current issues and developments relating to the government business interface,
- 4 - 4 Survey the published literature and identify, assess and retrieve information from a variety of public and private sector publications and electronic sources,
- 5 - 5 Present information and conclusions that evaluate specific concepts, issues, developments and case studies of government business relations in written and/or oral form to a prescribed format and deadline.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

This module provides an introduction to the history, composition and political economy of globalisation. This module examines:

1. the historical, political and economic processes that have led to globalisation
2. the financial deregulation that facilitated the globalisation process
3. globalising elements in the functions of multinational corporations, states, markets, ideology and culture
4. contemporary events and developments in the international and national spheres relevant to the globalisation process.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

Students will undertake a 20 minute viva voce examination on a topic relevant to the module to be agreed with the tutor (to be assessed by two members of staff).

This will allow students to employ their ideas and research and express them in their own words. It will also provide an opportunity to identify any areas of difficulty with the subject.

Reassessment Requirements

Re-assessment in failed components through re-taking full component.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Appreciate the historical, political and economic processes that have led to globalisation
- 2 - 2 Be aware of the financial deregulation that facilitated the globalisation process
- 3 - 3 Be able to recognise globalising elements in the functions of multinational corporations, states, markets, ideology and culture
- 4 - 4 Be able to link contemporary events and developments in the international and national spheres to the globalisation process.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Level 6 Modules

BLEX3012 - American Presidency

Leader: Clodagh Harrington

Handbook Descriptor

20 credits

The learning objectives of the module will be

1. To analyse the nature and power of the modern US presidency.
2. To consider the distinction between power and leadership, i.e. the formal definition of the role in relation to the political skills of an individual operating within a system of divided government.
3. To understand the role and significance of the electoral process.
4. To encourage students to apply the material used in the study of the individual presidents to an understanding of the institution as a whole.

Initially, the course will focus on the institution of the presidency, including its constitutional origins and institutional power. Beginning with Richard E. Neustadt's theory of presidential power, the course will unfold by examining presidential role and reputation and the prestige that comes with this. Issues of leadership and character will be analysed, looking at what expectations of the presidency and presidents themselves exist. Congressional Quarterly's presidential success ratings will be used, along with public opinion polls to illustrate how greatness is measured and perceived. The president as Chief Executive, Chief Legislator, Commander-in-Chief, Chief Diplomat, Manager of Prosperity and Party Leader will be examined in individual lectures.

The significance of the electoral process will be outlined, covering campaign finance and the elections themselves. Following on from this will be the emergence of the post-war imperial presidency and the related problems of power. The presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt will be the first to be examined individually and this will lead to the end of the autumn term. The Spring Term will focus on the trajectory from the imperial era to the post-imperial years of Gerald Ford and others to the resurgent presidency of George W. Bush. Criteria for analysing individuals will include personality traits, significant achievements and failures, relationship with the media and other actors, and relative historical greatness.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

1. Portfolio (on individual president, including log books tasks, seminar topic to be presented in class and 1000 word critique of a primary source document directly relating to the above).

Reassessment Requirements

Portfolio re-submission will be a 1500 word critique on a specific aspect of the student's chosen president. Details to be discussed with the module tutor before proceeding.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Identify and explain the principle concepts involved in the study of presidential power and the modern presidency.
- 2 - 2 Consider the distinction between power and leadership, i.e. the formal definition of the role in relation to the political skills of an individual operating within a system of divided government.
- 3 - 3 Evaluate presidential performance in relation to selected issues.
- 4 - 4 Evaluate presidential goals and the quality of presidential leadership in pursuing these goals.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

The course opens with a theoretical exploration of security. This establishes the philosophy of the whole module: the security is a relative, relational and psychological concept. The position of realist writers is assessed and compared analysts from other traditions in international relations. Security is addressed as a multi-dimensional concept, requiring a loosening of the traditionally exclusive hold of military concerns. Security is considered as a human need operating at varying levels of analysis - global, international, regional, national, societal and individual - with each having a set of specific concerns. The module identifies and examines the relative underdevelopment of academic thinking about security in comparison to the related concepts of power, order and peace. The early section also demonstrates the interdependency between academic analysis and the perspectives of policymakers. It is contended that full academic rigour can be sustained whilst providing forms of knowledge that are policy-relevant.

The module considers selected aspects of the contemporary security agenda. It examines inter alia arms control; rogue states; proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD); terrorism; conflict resolution; security institutions. It moves with a section on non-military threats to international security before the simulation exercise.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment mix is designed to enable the student to demonstrate their understanding of contemporary security issues and theories.

Reassessment Requirements

Students can choose to sit a second viva voce examination on a new topic.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Understand the theoretical dimensions of international security and be able to integrate security within the major paradigms of International Relations theory.
- 2 - 2 Be able to use a range of hard copy and electronic source materials to support research.
- 3 - 3 Have an appreciation of the various challenges to contemporary international security.
- 4 - 4 Have demonstrated a fuller appreciation of selected aspects of contemporary security issues.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

This module is designed to provide an advanced understanding of the politics of nationalism. In doing so the module provides both a theoretical perspective relating to nationalism as well as a broader understanding of the roots of nationalism. The module looks at a number of key issues relating to the development of nationalism, identifying particular thinkers and approaches, while also positioning the politics of nationalism in a contemporary context.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

The 2000 word essay is a negotiated study project. The student agrees in advance with the module tutor, the theme and title of the essay. This allows the student to study in depth and specialise in an area of the module of particular interest to them.

Reassessment Requirements

Essay: For fail through non-submission, the student must negotiate a theme and title with the module tutor. For an academic fail, the student may submit an essay with the same theme and/or title as the first submission. However the student must demonstrate in the piece that they have consulted with the module tutor on ways to improve on their previous attempt.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Identify the parameters of nationalism and ethnic conflict.
- 2 - 2 Consider nationalism in the face of increasing globalisation.
- 3 - 3 Establish the impact of nationalism and ethnic conflict globally, nationally and locally.
- 4 - 4 Develop and test theories of nationalism and ethnic conflict with relation to a specific case study.
- 5 - 5 Engage in rigorous thinking, coherent communication, independent research, logical reasoning and critical analysis.
- 6 - 6 Express themselves clearly orally and in writing.
- 7 - 7 Demonstrate ability to sift, select, organise and synthesise quantities of source material.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

20 credits

The module draws upon contemporary social and political theory in order to contrast and compare different conceptions of the political. Initially the module will investigate the assumption that political issues are best understood in terms of moral or ethical positions. The initial focus will involve contrasting the different understandings of the relationship between politics and morality in the works of Aristotle and Kant. The module will then consider more recent thinkers whose work can be identified as developing these perspectives. Initially the focus will entail a critical investigation of the political theory of John Rawls, including the criticisms of Rawls that have been developed from communitarian perspectives. The module will then investigate Habermas's work on discourse ethics, contrasting Rawls and Habermas through examining their debate. One of the main issues here involves how agreement can be reached on political issues and arrangements.

The module will then consider the divergent position that political issues are better understood in terms of power. The main focus will initially be on the ideas of Machiavelli, followed by an investigation into relevant aspects of Nietzsche's thought. Nietzsche's potential influence on Weber's ideas will be considered through addressing Weber's conception of the relationship between power and politics. The module will then investigate the ideas of Schmitt and Foucault on the relationship between power and politics. One of the main focuses of the investigations here will be questions concerning whether agreement on political issues and arrangements is either possible or desirable. Given this, the module will consider the implications of different understandings of the political for political institutions and practices.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.***Assessment Rationale**

Essay (One essay from the list in the module handbook of 3,000 words).

Reassessment Requirements

Essay to be retaken.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Critically evaluate different perspectives concerning the nature of the political.
- 2 - 2 Be able to communicate an understanding as to how different perspectives on the nature of the political can enable an appreciation of different aspects of contemporary political practices.
- 3 - 3 Enable students to compare and contrast different theoretical perspectives.
- 4 - 4 Allow students to appreciate how different views of the political inform differing policy prescriptions and recommendations.
- 5 - 5 Gain an appreciation on both the possibility and desirability of political matters being resolved through consensus and agreement.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

20 credits

This module is about the ways in which environmental concerns are managed through the political system and the processes of public policy making. It examines the distinctive characteristics of environmental problems as policy issues and considers the strengths and weaknesses of the different policy instruments, techniques and criteria that are used as tools for managing the environment and implementing environmental policies. It also considers the role of scientific and political knowledge and expertise in the assessment of environmental risks.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.**The word limit is 2000.***Assessment Rationale**

The assessment will be a 2000 word essay. The essay will give students an opportunity in the early part of the module to explore and discuss different theoretical approaches and concepts relating the political dimensions of the management of the environment.

Reassessment Requirements

Students will normally be required to undertake work related to the component in which the deficiency occurred. For the essay, this will involve researching and writing an essay on a new topic chosen from the essay lists contained within the module handbook.

Where the first assignment on a module is completed yet fails to achieve a mark of 40% then that assignment can be resubmitted without loss of a formal reassessment attempt. The maximum mark that can be achieved for a resubmission is 40%. Please note: Students MUST have attempted the assignment in order to benefit from in-course recovery.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Analyse the processes through which environmental issues and problems are managed and in particular, strengths and weaknesses of the different market, economic and regulatory instruments, techniques and criteria used to implement environmental policies
- 2 - 2 Understand the political, public policy, scientific and technical contexts, dimensions and constraints to managing the environment
- 3 - 3 Utilise and apply different concepts, instruments and techniques studied to research and analyse specific cases of environmental problems
- 4 - 4 Survey published literature and documentation, retrieve information from a variety of written, oral and electronic sources and present conclusions in a concise and logical manner to a prescribed format and deadline

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

This module is about the ways in which understandings of democracy are associated with the globalisation process through following approaches on politics, development and international political economy. It examines the different understandings that are given to these two concepts through the analysis of policy instruments and mechanisms in which state and non-state actors interrelate, with a particular focus on the Latin American and African contexts. It also considers the role of practitioner knowledge and expertise in building the linkages between democracy and globalisation.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 -

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

Assessment Rationale

The campaign report will encourage students to meet in a small study group of 2-3 students to critically discuss the literature related to the module's topics and reflect on questions and problems discussed during seminars. This allows students to connect theoretical concepts and case studies, discuss and review the readings as well as apply their creativity through a business plan that aims to implement an (anti) globalisation campaign of their choice.

Reassessment Requirements

Students will normally be required to undertake work related to the component in which the deficiency occurred. For the group campaign report, students will be required to re-submit an individual and original brief of 1000 words (+/- 10%) on a topic, with a focus on a case study, related to globalisation and democracy.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - 1 Demonstrate an appreciation of the key historical, economic, political and financial developments that have led to the emergence of the turn of the century phenomenon that has been called globalisation.
- 2 - 2 Understand the political, public policy and practitioner contexts and dimensions to the meaning of globalisation and democracy through the functions of states, corporations, ideology and culture.
- 3 - 3 Understand how the state and non-state actors interact within the processes of globalisation and democracy.
- 4 - 4 Link contemporary events and development in the international and national spheres to the democracy and globalisation processes, with special reference to Latin America and Africa.
- 5 - 5 Survey published literature and documentation, retrieve information from a variety of written, oral and electronic sources and present conclusions in a concise and logical manner to a prescribed format and deadline.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change