

Course Specification

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Produced By:	Laura Clode
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social, Historical and Political Studies		
Course Code(s):	PO005K23UV	Sandwich	4 Years
UCAS Code:	K2J8		
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Politics and Media with Sandwich Placement		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Politics and Media, having satisfactorily completed a sandwich placement Bachelor of Arts with Honours Politics and Media Bachelor of Arts Politics and Media, having satisfactorily completed a sandwich placement Bachelor of Arts Politics and Media Diploma of Higher Education Politics and Media Certificate of Higher Education Politics and Media University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	26/Sep/2016		
Last Review:	2015/6		
Course Specification valid from:	2009/0		
Course Specification valid to:	2021/2		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Dr Michael Cunningham
Head of Department:	Dr David Hussey

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

2017 Entry

- 'A' levels at grades BBC - CCC
- BTEC QCF Extended Diploma grade MMM, BTEC QCF Diploma grade DD
- Access to HE Diploma full award (Pass of 60 credits - of which a minimum of 45 credits must be at level 3 including 18 at Merit or Distinction).
- If you've got other qualifications or relevant experience, please contact [The Gateway](#) for further advice before applying.
- International student language requirements and application guidance can be found at <http://www.wlv.ac.uk/international/apply>
- Successful completion of the [International Foundation Year in Social Sciences](#) guarantees entry on to this course

Other Requirements

Students must have studied a minimum of two years post GCSE level. However, it is expected that some applicants will be mature students with work experience, who wish to further their career development. These applicants will be processed through standard procedures, which may involve an interview as part of the process. Please see <http://wlv.ac.uk/mature> for further information.

Those who do not meet the entry requirements may be offered an alternative course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

The staff in the Politics and Media teams are active researchers whose research underpins the modules which they teach. Students will be kept up-to-date in the most recent developments in the disciplines. The teaching team at Wolverhampton is comprised both of members who have considerable experience in the media industry and members who come from a more conventional academic background. Consequently, an ethos has developed in which practice is informed by theory and theory is related to concrete practices. Several of the modules which students will take in the course of their studies will involve workshops and seminars given by guest speakers drawn from both politics and the creative industries.

A placement can be undertaken anywhere; local, national or even, in some instances, international. During a placement, you will be doing similar work to a normal employee of the organisation giving you a unique insight into your chosen profession or sector, the opportunity to acquire crucial personal skills and also the opportunity to build a network of useful contacts. Many companies that employ graduates use placement programmes as a method of recruitment so you could be fast tracked into employment or onto one of their graduate schemes if you impress them.

The team at [The Workplace](#) constantly search for new placement opportunities but if you find an opportunity that interests you or you have been successful in securing one yourself, contact them for further information and support.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This course gives students the opportunity to study and evaluate the major theoretical approaches to Politics and Media and Communications and apply these to case-studies and to explore them through independent study or professional practice links in year 3. Communication is essential to any political activity and this dates at least from the importance of oration in classical Greece; however with the rise of 'spin', the globalisation of the media and the emergence of new forms the contemporary connections between these two disciplines are more significant than ever.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Sandwich)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4PO003	Introduction to British Politics	20	SEM1	Core
4MZ001	Media, Culture and Society	20	SEM1	Core
4PO002	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM2	Core
4MZ010	Media, Politics and Power	20	SEM2	Core
4MZ009	Key Concepts in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies	20	SEM2	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

4MZ018	Visual Studies	20	SEM1	
4PO005	Campaigning and Citizenship: Women in Britain and Empire 1790s-1970s	20	SEM1	

September (Sandwich)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5PO003	Contemporary Political Ideologies	20	SEM1	Core
5MZ004	Media, Communication and Ethics	20	SEM1	Core
5PO004	World Politics	20	SEM2	Core
5MZ014	Analysing Media Texts	20	SEM2	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

5PO006	Contemporary Britain	20	SEM1	
5HS012	Minorities in the Twentieth-Century United States	20	SEM1	
5FI008	Film and TV Representations: Race, Gender and Sexuality on Screen	20	SEM1	

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	
5FI003	New Wave Cinemas	20	SEM2	

September (Sandwich)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 3

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5LW022	Supervised Placement Year	40	YEAR	Core

September (Sandwich)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 4

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6PO003	Political Theory	20	SEM2	Core
6MZ005	Persuasion and Influence	20	SEM2	Core
6MZ012	Global Media/Global Culture	20	SEM1	Core

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 40 credits

6SL013	The Global World	20	SEM1	
6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	20	SEM1	
6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM1	
6MZ001	Media, Religion and Ethics	20	SEM1	

For this option group you must choose a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits

6PO004	Project (Politics)	20	SEM2	
6MZ002	Independent Study - Written Project in Media	20	SEM2	

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

- QAA Benchmark for Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies
- QAA Benchmark for Politics

Learning Outcomes:

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (CHECLO1)

"Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study"

CertHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (CHECLO2)

"Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study."

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 1 (DHECLO1)

"Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge."

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 2 (DHECLO2)

"Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context"

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 3 (DHECLO3)

"Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study"

DipHE Course Learning Outcome 4 (DHECLO4)

"Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis"

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (ORDCLO1)

Employ appropriate research methodologies within the fields of Politics and Media

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (ORDCLO2)

Analyse Media texts and Politics texts within appropriate theoretical frameworks

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (ORDCLO3)

" Appreciate the development of media, communication and cultural forms in a local, regional, national, international or global context"

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (ORDCLO4)

Understand the debate concerning the relationship between media and politics in terms of democracy and citizenship

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (ORDCLO5)

Use their understanding of these disciplines to reflect upon their roles and responsibilities as citizens

Ordinary Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (ORDCLO6)

Demonstrate a high level of digital competence

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 1 (DEGCLO1)

Employ appropriate research methodologies within the fields of Politics and Media

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 2 (DEGCLO2)

Analyse Media and Communication texts or Politics texts within appropriate theoretical frameworks

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 3 (DEGCLO3)

"Appreciate the development of media, communication and cultural forms in a local, regional, national, international or global context"

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 4 (DEGCLO4)

Understand the debate concerning the relationship between media and politics in terms of democracy and citizenship

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 5 (DEGCLO5)

Use their understanding of these disciplines to reflect upon their roles and responsibilities as citizens

Honours Degree Course Learning Outcome 6 (DEGCLO6)

Demonstrate a high level of digital competence

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4MZ001	Media, Culture and Society	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4MZ009	Key Concepts in Media, Communication and Cultural Studies	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4MZ010	Media, Politics and Power	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4MZ018	Visual Studies	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4PO002	Introduction to International Relations	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4PO003	Introduction to British Politics	CHECLO2
4PO005	Campaigning and Citizenship: Women in Britain and Empire 1790s-1970s	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
5FI003	New Wave Cinemas	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5FI008	Film and TV Representations: Race, Gender and Sexuality on Screen	DHECLO1, DHECLO2, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5HS012	Minorities in the Twentieth-Century United States	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5MZ004	Media, Communication and Ethics	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5MZ014	Analysing Media Texts	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5PO003	Contemporary Political Ideologies	DHECLO1, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5PO004	World Politics	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5PO006	Contemporary Britain	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	DHECLO2, DHECLO4
6MZ001	Media, Religion and Ethics	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5
6MZ002	Independent Study - Written Project in Media	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6MZ005	Persuasion and Influence	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO5
6MZ012	Global Media/Global Culture	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6PO003	Political Theory	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO5
6PO004	Project (Politics)	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO6
6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5, ORDCLO6
6PO008	India in a Global World	DEGCLO2, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO5
6SL013	The Global World	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO4, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO4, ORDCLO5

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

The traditional combination of lecture and seminar is accompanied and varied by other teaching and learning activities appropriate to particular modules. These include interactive lectures, individual and small group presentations, student-led seminars, small group and classroom exercises and discussions, tutorials, and engagement with electronic learning and teaching materials. Students will interact/collaborate with other undergraduates from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, addressing critical material that reflects and promotes awareness of cultural diversity. Students can also undertake a period of sustained independent study through the level six independent study/project. At all levels they are encouraged to read widely and critically, to write prolifically, and to incorporate information and communication technologies into their

learning practices.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

There is a wide range of support mechanisms in place for Politics and Media students.

The teaching teams have developed a deservedly excellent reputation for being friendly and approachable. All staff have at least two hours per week, during which they are available in their offices to see students. The times of these office hours are clearly publicised at the beginning of each semester.

The personal tutor scheme provides students with a dedicated member of staff with which they may discuss issues about their progress, throughout the course of their studies. All students, particularly at Level Four, are encouraged to see their personal tutor at least once every semester.

Module leaders are always available to discuss issues that relate to module content.

Teaching staff have been complemented consistently by both students and external examiners on the quality of their feedback to students concerning performance in assessed work. Feedback advice, whether in the form of written comments or one-to-one tutorials, is invaluable to students in helping them to improve their work.

The university is fully aware that many of our students come from non-traditional academic backgrounds. Consequently, a great deal of effort is spent on developing study skills. While study skills are embedded into all Levels they are particularly embedded into Level Four (previously Level One) modules. Time is given over in some seminar sessions on developing skills such as finding appropriate sources, referencing, writing a coherent essay, and oral presentation skills. Many of these skills are also assessed.

The team works in close co-operation with the Academic Skills Division. Students who are identified as having major problems with expressing themselves, basic grammar and so on are directed to the Academic Skills Division for advice.

Employability in the Curriculum:

A degree in Politics and Media equips students with the skills and knowledge needed to give them a competitive advantage in the graduate employment market. Skills such as the ability to communicate effectively, to work both independently and in teams, and to research and critically analyse source materials, are relevant to employment not only in the creative industries, but also more generally in the public and private sectors. Graduates in Politics and Media have taken up a wide variety of careers on leaving university, including working in radio, television, journalism, sports promotion, as well as in various management positions in retail, business and local government. Increasing numbers of graduates are now going on to postgraduate courses, and the skills and knowledge obtained on this degree are an excellent foundation for post-graduate study.

The completion of a Sandwich Year will enable you to gain valuable hands on experience in a relevant work

environment. This will not only provide additional practical subject skills but it will also develop personal transferable skills such as communication skills, problem solving skills and demonstrate competency in working with other people. This will increase your employability and assist you in gaining employment in the future.



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