

Course Specification

Published Date:	15-Aug-2017
Produced By:	Haiden Novis
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social, Historical and Political Studies		
Course Code(s):	PO005J01UV	Full-time	3 Years
	PO005J31UV	Part-Time	6 Years
Course Title:	BA (Hons) Politics and Media		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Politics and Media 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:	17/May/2017		
Last Review:	2016/7		
Course Specification valid from:	2015/6		
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.

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:

HE FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND (HEFCE)

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
2017/8	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2017/8	EU	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2017/8	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£11475.00
2017/8	H	Part Time	£2835.00
2017/8	EU	Part Time	£2835.00
2017/8	Overseas	Part Time	£5738.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-Time)

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

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

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

4GK006	Success in Higher Education	20	SEM1	Core Option
4PO005	Campaigning and Citizenship: Women in Britain and its Empire from 1800 to 1950	20	SEM1	Core Option
4WL002	Basic Language	20	SEM1	Core Option
4WL003	Elementary Language	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

4PO006	Contemporary Capitalism	20	SEM2	Core Option
4HU002	Popular Culture	20	SEM2	Core Option
4SL011	Volunteering in the Community	20	SEM2	Core Option
4WL002	Basic Language	20	SEM2	Core Option
4WL003	Elementary Language	20	SEM2	Core Option
4GK006	Success in Higher Education	20	SEM2	Core Option

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

Group 05 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5PO006	Contemporary Britain	20	SEM1	Core Option
5HU001	The Enlightenment	20	SEM1	Core Option
5WL001	Basic Language	20	SEM1	Core Option
5WL002	Elementary Language	20	SEM1	Core Option

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5MZ021	Popular Media Forms	20	SEM2	Core Option
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	Core Option
5PO005	Europe United? European Politics, Societies, Cultures	20	SEM2	Core Option

5WL001	Basic Language	20	SEM2	Core Option
5WL002	Elementary Language	20	SEM2	Core Option
6MZ012	Global Media/Global Culture	20	SEM1	Core
6PO003	Political Theory	20	SEM2	Core
6MZ005	Persuasion and Influence	20	SEM2	Core

Group 02 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

6PO004	Project (Politics)	20		Core Option
6MZ002	Independent Study - Written Project: Media, Communications, Cultural Studies, Broadcast Journalism and Public Relations	20		Core Option
6MZ006	Work Placement	20		Core Option
6HS013	Work Placement in the Community	20		Core Option

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 40

6PO001	Democracy and Terrorism: Conflict Resolution in Northern Ireland	20	SEM1	Core Option
6SL013	The Global World	20	SEM1	Core Option
6MZ019	Media Activism	20	SEM1	Core Option
6PO005	Security and Integration in the New Europe	20	SEM1	Core Option
6WL001	Intermediate/Advanced Language	20	SEM1	Core Option

Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20

6WL001	Intermediate/Advanced Language	20	SEM2	Core Option
6PO002	The Politics of the Middle East	20	SEM2	Core Option
6MZ016	Media, Consumerism and the Body	20	SEM2	Core Option

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
4GK010	Contemporary Capitalism	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4HU002	Popular Culture	CHECLO1, CHECLO2

Module Title	Course Learning Outcomes
4MZ001 Media, Culture and Society	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4MZ010 Media, Politics and Power	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4PO002 Introduction to International Relations	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4PO003 Introduction to British Politics	CHECLO2
4PO005 Campaigning and Citizenship: Women in Britain and its Empire from 1800 to 1950	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4PO006 Contemporary Capitalism	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4SL011 Volunteering in the Community	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4WL002 Basic Language	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
4WL003 Elementary Language	CHECLO1, CHECLO2
5HU001 The Enlightenment	DHECLO1, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5MZ004 Media, Communication and Ethics	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5MZ014 Analysing Media Texts	DHECLO1, DHECLO2
5MZ021 Popular Media Forms	DHECLO1, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5PO003 Contemporary Political Ideologies	DHECLO1, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5PO004 World Politics	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5PO005 Europe United? European Politics, Societies, Cultures	DHECLO1, DHECLO3, DHECLO4
5PO006 Contemporary Britain	DHECLO1, DHECLO4
5SL008 Volunteering in Action	DHECLO2, DHECLO4
6MZ002 Independent Study - Written Project: Media, Communications, Cultural Studies, Broadcast Journalism and Public Relations	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6MZ005 Persuasion and Influence	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO5
6MZ006 Work Placement	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO6
6MZ012 Global Media/Global Culture	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO4, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO4
6MZ016 Media, Consumerism and the Body	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO3, DEGCLO5, DEGCLO6, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO3, ORDCLO5, ORDCLO6
6PO001 Democracy and Terrorism: Conflict Resolution in Northern Ireland	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO5
6PO002 The Politics of the Middle East	DEGCLO1, DEGCLO2, DEGCLO5, ORDCLO1, ORDCLO2, ORDCLO5
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
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.

Learning and Teaching Methods:

This data indicates the proportion of time in each year of study that students can expect to engage in the following activities (expressed as a percentage for each level).

Level	Teaching	Independent	Placement
4	24	76	0
5	24	76	0
6	17	83	0

Assessment Methods:

This data indicates the proportion of summative assessment in each year of study that will derive from the following: (expressed as a percentage for each level).

Level	Written Exams	Practical Exams	Coursework
4	15	0	85
5	18	13	68
6	23	7	70

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.



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