

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Cities, Politics and Democracy
Level	2
Reference No. (<i>showing level</i>)	PPO-2-212
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	Successful completion of the previous year's units.
Co-requisites	Limited to students of politics or a related social science discipline
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Hugh Atkinson
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Social and Policy Studies
Short Description	The unit focuses on urban issues both in the United Kingdom and the USA. The emphasis is on political processes and policy areas. The unit looks at the relationship between the private and public sectors in urban policy. The functioning and effectiveness of local democracy in the United Kingdom and the USA is analysed. There is also a focus on the sustainability agenda at the national, state and local level in the USA and the United Kingdom.
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide analysis of changing urban contexts and urban actors subsumed in the processes of urban redevelopment within wider political cultures • To develop students understanding of the urban situation, both historically and contemporaneously, and developments in the UK since the end of World War two. • To facilitate their knowledge and appreciation of the economic and social/political frameworks within which urban policy is formulated and the target audience(s) it addresses. • To help students focus on the relationship between the private and public sector, state and market and their respective roles in urban redevelopment in the USA and the UK • To analyse the functioning and effectiveness of local democracy in the USA and the UK • To analyse the development of the sustainability agenda at the national, state and local level in the USA and the UK • To analyse the politics of surveillance and fear in both the USA and the UK by focusing on policy instruments such as CCTV and gated communities
Learning Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and Understanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a good understanding of how the urban agenda has historically developed • have gained some conceptual awareness in appreciating the problems of key areas of public and private provision with regard to areas such as transport, urban regeneration , education and social exclusion • have gained a good understanding of the changing patterns of central local relations • have gained a good understanding of the dynamics of local democracy. <p>Intellectual Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to make informed judgments about the operation of public

	<p>policy within different political contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to conceptualise and formulate an analytical response to a complicated body of evidence • be able to analyse and evaluate competing viewpoints, • be able to identify relevant sources of evidence in empirical terms with some awareness of theoretical analysis. <p>Practical Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to make use of bibliographical support in referencing all written work from a variety of sources- from libraries to the Internet. • be able to engage in public speaking- either individually or in a group. • have the competence to word process an essay of considerable length which is clear, well written and adequately referenced. <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • researching and referencing information • time management skills. • acquisition of good communication skills both written and oral. • presentation skills.. • have the competence to word process an essay of considerable length which is clear, well written and adequately referenced.
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a sound knowledge of urban issues in society within a broad political context • introducing students to key aspects of urban policy in a local, national and international context • developing an understanding of key aspects of the sustainability agenda • developing an understanding of political processes and the relationship between the public and private sectors in an urban policy context.
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>The teaching and learning pattern will be mixed mode and will include formal and interactive lectures, seminars, workshops and the use of case studies.</p>
Indicative content	<p>Urban Policy in the United Kingdom – 1945 to 1979: The changing focus of urban policy. Urban Politics in Britain since 1979: Two Decades of Change under Thatcherism. Urban Policy in the United Kingdom – 1979 to 1997. New Labour and Urban Regeneration. Marketisation, Privatisation and Local Service Delivery- examples from the UK and the USA. Democracy and Local Politics : examples will be drawn form the UK and the USA. Urban Crime : Approaches and Solutions; examples will be drawn form the UK and the USA: CCTV and Gated Communities. Sustainable Development at the local Level: The USA and the UK.</p>
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>The course will be examined by one extended essay of between 3000 and 3500 words, worth 100% of the unit mark, from a selected list of questions which will be made available during the semester.</p>
Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i>	<p>R Atkinson and G Moon, Urban Policy in Britain, 1994 B Cullingworth, British Planning, Fifty Years of Urban and Regional Policy, 1999 D Hill, Urban Policy and Politics in Britain 2000 R Imrie and H Thomas, British Urban Policy, 1999 H Atkinson and S Wilks-Heeg, Local Government from Thatcher to Blair: the Politics of Creative Autonomy, Polity Press, 2000 G Stoker and D Wilson, British Local Government in the 21st Century, Chapters 8, 9 and 10, Palgrave 2004 Journals: Local Governance Local Government Studies Policy and Politics Political Studies Public Administration</p>

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