

Short Form Unit Details

Unit Title	Introduction to Politics and Society
Level	1
Reference No. (showing level)	PPO-1-103
Credit Value	15 CAT points
Student Study Hours	Contact hours: 40 Student managed learning hours: 110
Pre-requisite learning	None
Co-requisites	None
Excluded combinations	None
Unit co-ordinator	Dr Lisa Pine
Faculty/Department	Arts and Human Sciences / Social and Policy Studies
Short Description	The unit provides an introduction to the study of politics and society through an examination of key concepts and approaches to the subject. Examples are drawn from a range of states in order to assist students to understand British politics and society within a wider context. The unit also develops academic literacy and higher education skills through a series of weekly workshops.
Aims	To provide an introduction to contemporary politics and society within a broad social, economic and historical context. To introduce students to some of the key concepts and theories of politics. To examine changes and continuity in modern politics and society within a broader historical and international context. To examine some of the key functions and issues raised by the modern state. To develop written and oral communication skills. To develop analytical skills. To help students read, understand and interpret information from social science texts and tables. To help students with academic literacy.
Learning Outcomes	Knowledge and Understanding: At the end of the unit, students should have acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an appreciation of the main concepts and theoretical perspectives in politics a sound knowledge of contemporary British politics and society an awareness of the complexity of the political world. Intellectual Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation and discussion of information from social science texts and tables Ability to summarise key points and arguments from a text. Practical Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to read and comprehend social science texts and tables Ability to write coherent essays. Transferable Skills: At the end of the unit, students should have acquired: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good communication skills, both oral and written the ability to work co-operatively in a small group and to work on their own the capacity to work to and meet deadlines

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the ability to present material in a clear and coherent manner.
Employability	<p>This unit prepares students for employability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing a sound knowledge of contemporary British politics and society within a broad social, historic and economic context introducing students to key concepts in the context of national and international politics enabling students to relate to and interact effectively with individuals and groups.
Teaching and learning pattern	<p>Students will receive a 1 hour lecture each week. This will be followed by a 2 hour workshop session each week with one of the unit tutors. These workshop sessions will be used both to discuss the lecture topic and relevant readings and to introduce students to higher education skills and help students to improve their academic literacy. Private study should be used for directed reading and coursework preparation. Students should also endeavour to follow contemporary developments and issues in the quality press and other media and internet sources.</p>
Indicative content	<p>Key concepts - power, authority, legitimacy; the state; ideologies; democracy; citizenship; nations and nationalism; European integration; politics and the economy; globalisation.</p>
Assessment <i>Elements & weightings</i>	<p>The assessment of this course will be based on three pieces of coursework. There is no written examination for this unit. The coursework deadlines will be spaced over the course of the semester and weighted as follows: (1) 500 words (20%); (2) 1000 words (30%); (3) 1500 words (50%).</p>
Indicative Sources <i>(Reading lists)</i>	<p>A. Heywood, <u>Politics</u> 3rd edition (Palgrave, 2007) B. Jones et al, <u>Politics UK</u> 4th edition (Longman, 2001) B. Coxall, L. Robins and R. Leach <u>Contemporary British Politics</u> 4th edition (Palgrave, 2003) J. McAuley, <u>An Introduction to Politics, State and Society</u> (Sage, 2003) S. Cotrell, <u>The Study Skills Handbook</u> (1999) P. Crème and M. Lea, <u>Writing at University: A Guide for Students</u> (1997)</p>