Module Descriptor

Title	News & Politics		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	Active
Code	JOUR10001	**SCQF Level**	10
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Business and Creative Industries**		
Module Co-ordinator	Dr Margaret Hughes		

Summary of Module

News & Politics will explore and analyse the role of the news media in politics and at how government, political institutions and political parties attempt to influence news.

The module will examine the range of political communication and how the news media provides a forum for the transmission of political news, the role of spin doctors, how political parties communicate with the electorate via the news media and social media and how far they seek to control the dissemination of political messages.

It will also look more broadly at the effect the news media has on peoples' attitudes and behaviours, with specific focus on how it affects how people vote. It will also examine the notion of the news media as gatekeepers who set the agenda for public and political debate on a range of issues.

Predominant teaching methods will be tutor-led lectures supported by tutorials and seminars as well as use of visual materials, such as film and newspapers. Students will look at a range of case studies related to election campaigns, the influence of the news media and proprietors and editors. Students will examine the content of news media artefacts to explore and discuss the dominant themes in this module.

In this module students will have the opportunity to produce a portfolio of journalistic content that explores the themes and issues covered, as well as submit an essay that focuses on theoretical perspectives.

Key themes explored in this module are: Political communication

Impact of new media on political reporting

Packaging politics and spin doctors

Media effects and influence

How news coverage effects elections and voting behaviour

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☐ Lanarkshire ☐ London ☒ Paisley	☐ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☐	Term 3	☐
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Critically evaluate and discuss the key concepts, theories and principles surrounding the influence of the news media on politics the effect of political institutions and parties on newsgathering and the presentation of news.
L2	Critically evaluate a range of information resources relevant to the study of news and politics.
L3	Produce a portfolio of journalistic content to a high professional standard that explores the interface of news and politics.
L4	
L5	

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 10** Demonstrating a critical understanding of key theories, principles and concepts of media effects. Developing a detailed knowledge and understanding of the ways in which the news media influences politics and vice versa.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 10** Undertaking content analysis of newspapers and journalistic artefacts.

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 10** Critically analysing and evaluating complex information to form own opinions supported by evidence. Critically evaluating information from a range of sources.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 10** Communicating effectively and appropriately in writing. Retrieving information from a range of sources.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 10** Working effectively independently in order to meet deadlines. Taking supervision and being able to work independently when undertaking research projects.

Prerequisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**
	Other	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
Asynchronous Class Activity	8
Independent Study	156
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

Franklin, B. (2004) Packaging Politics: Political communications in Britain's media democracy, London: Arnold, 2nd edition

Graber, D. (1998) The Politics of News and the News of Politics, Washington DC: CQ Press.

McNair, B. (2011) An Introduction to Political Communication, London: Routledge, 5th edition

Deuce, M. & McQuail, D. (2020) McQuail's Mass Communication Theory, London: Sage Publications

Oates, S (2008) Introduction to Media and Politics, London: Sage Publications

Journals: Media, Culture & Society

Journal of Political Communication

Journalism Studies

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

Attendance at all classes & seminars; engagement in group & individual in-class activities.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

In line with current legislation (Equality Act, 2010) and the UWS Equality, Diversity, and Human Rights Code, our modules are accessible and inclusive, with reasonable adjustment for different needs where appropriate.

(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Arts Media**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Arts & Media
Moderator	Elizabeth McLaughlin
External Examiner	Dr Fiona McKay
Accreditation Details	N/A

Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	1/3

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
An essay (2,500 words) that critically analyses and evaluates the range of theories studied (LOs 1 & 2) – 60% of total mark
Assessment 2
A portfolio of journalistic content (1,500 words) exploring political communication and the news media (LO3) - 40% of total mark
Assessment 3
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Essay	☒	☒	☐	☐	☐	60%	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Portfolio	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	40%	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
External examiner updated	Sept 24	M Hughes
No changes	**March 26**	M Hughes
