



Module Descriptor

Title	Introduction To Comparative Politics		
Session	2025/26	Status	
Code	PLTC08007	SCQF Level	8
Credit Points	20	ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)	10
School	Education and Social Sciences		
Module Co-ordinator	A McKeever		

Summary of Module

This module provides students with analytical and practical understanding of comparative politics. It introduces students to the basic rules of doing comparative political research. The course is structured into four parts. The first part explores the nature of comparative politics and what theories and methods can we use to compare countries, policies, institutions, actors, etc. The second part examines the key features of democracies and authoritarian states. Third part focuses on the role of different actors in modern states, including political parties and social movements. It also explores how citizens participate in politics, what are different forms of political participation and why some citizens engage more than others. The final part addresses the concept of multi-level governance and how it co-exists with state sovereignty and focuses on salient political issues such as right-wing populism, exploring its rise in Europe and beyond.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus¹	Hybrid²	Online³	Work -Based Learning⁴
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Campuses for Module Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Ayr <input type="checkbox"/> Dumfries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lanarkshire <input type="checkbox"/> London <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paisley	<input type="checkbox"/> Online / Distance Learning <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)	

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

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 2 – Term 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Term 3 – Term 1	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes	
L1	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different concepts, theories and issues in comparative politics.
L2	Use comparative method to develop logical arguments and explanations both in social scientific work and in global and political events.
L3	Employ data literacies in selecting library and electronic resources during assessment preparation.
L4	Explain historical and contemporary issues of politics from a political science perspective.
L5	NA

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 8 Develop a theoretical and applied awareness of theories and concepts in comparative politics.
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	SCQF 8 Present and evaluate information, ideas and arguments central to the study of comparative politics.
Generic Cognitive skills	SCQF 8 Develop and improve key academic competencies such as essay writing and argument evaluation.
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	SCQF 8 Develop acquaintance with the use of digital platforms for accessing learning materials, module information and guidance.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	SCQF 8 Demonstrate ability to work and communicate effectively with peers through group work during seminars.

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	Student Learning Hours
During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	(Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)
Lecture / Core Content Delivery	24
Asynchronous Class Activity	48
Independent Study	116
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	12
n/a	
n/a	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
<p>The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:</p> <p>Caramani.D. (2023) Comparative Politics, 6th edition. Oxford. Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2016) Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction Ninth Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan</p> <p>Newton, K. And Van Deeth, J.W. (2021) Foundations of Comparative Politics: Democracies of the Modern World. Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>(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)</p>

Attendance and Engagement Requirements
<p>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.</p> <p>For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:</p> <p>All full-time students (part-time and distant learning students should check with their programme leader for any queries) are required to attend all scheduled classes and participate with all delivered elements of the module as part of their engagement with their programme of study. Consideration will be given to students who have protection under the appropriate equality law. Please refer to UWS Regulations, Chapter 1, 1.64 – 1.67, available at the following link: http://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/rightsand-regulations/regulatory-framework</p>

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](#).

(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	Social Sciences
Overall Assessment Results	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass / Fail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graded
Module Eligible for Compensation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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	UG Social Sciences
Moderator	A van der Zwet
External Examiner	J Halsall
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)

Assessment 1

Assessment 1 - essay (1500 words 50%)

Assessment 2

Assessment 2 - Case study (2000 words, 50%)

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Case Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50	

Component 3							
Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Combined total for all components						100%	hours

Change Control

What	When	Who
Added to new template	11-03-25	A McKeever