Module Descriptor

Title	International Politics		
Session	2026/27	**Status**	
Code	PLTC09XX	**SCQF Level**	9
Credit Points	20	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	10
School	**Education and Social Science**		
Module Co-ordinator	Hartwig Pautz		

Summary of Module

This module surveys the contemporary landscape of international politics through a series of compelling weekly case studies around key global developments, problems and challenges whilst being introduced to theoretical approaches for the study of international politics.

Students will develop an understanding of the key features and dynamics shaping relations among states and between international and supranational organisations (such as sovereignty, power, cooperation, and conflict), alongside a range of perspectives that help explain how global politics and international relations are organised, experienced, and contested.

These concepts will be explored through real-world examples such as:

- Current wars and conflicts
- The rise of China and India in a multi-polar world
- Climate and energy politics
- The politics of aid, debt and development
- Democracy and peace promotion
- Terrorism

Students will demonstrate imagination, critical judgment, and breadth and depth of understanding in their assessments by creating practical briefing materials and video explainers on their chosen case studies.

Students will be able to articulate the following UWS Graduate Attributes through their contribution to this module:

Universal - critical thinker; analytical

Work-ready – knowledgeable; digitally-literate; problem-solver; effective communicator

Successful – autonomous; imaginative

The module is also highly relevant to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the achievement of which is shaped by the issues and challenges we will be exploring during the module.

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	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the features of international politics
L2	Demonstrate specialist knowledge of at least one contemporary issue in international politics
L3	Critically analyse and evaluate problems in international politics
L4	Present academic work in suitable formats, demonstrating awareness of your audience
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 Level 9** Comprehensive knowledge of the features of international politics, including key actors, mechanisms and issues Detailed knowledge of at least one case study from contemporary international politics
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF Level 9** Application of professional skills relevant to international political analysis
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF Level 9** Critical analysis and evaluation of complex cases Conducting analysis of contested cases Exercising judgment around audience dynamics in assessment briefs

[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

Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF Level 9** Convey academic conclusions accessibly with appreciation of audience requirements Opportunity to use video technology in assessment briefs Respectful dialogue with peers in class when discussing emotive cases
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF Level 9** Demonstrate sensitivity and professionalism in classroom discussion around emotive cases Exercise some autonomy and initiative in assessment briefs

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)
Weekly tutor-led workshops	36 hours
Independent study	164 hours
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	200

Indicative Resources
The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes: As a case-study led module, relevant materials will be shared ahead of each workshop and will necessarily change each year. The following resources provide more holistic and module-wide underpinning knowledge: • Baylis *et al* (2022) The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations, Oxford University Press • Edkins *et al* (eds) (2025) Global Politics: A New Introduction, Routledge, 4th edition

- Tzifakis, N. (2012) International politics in times of change. Berlin : Springer

The following journals and websites will also be useful for any student on the module:

- International Affairs
- International Studies Quarterly
- International Feminist Journal of Politics
- Millennium: Journal of International Studies
- China Quarterly
- African Affairs
- Foreign Affairs
- Chathamhouse.org – Chatham House
- Adamtooze.substack.com – Chartbook

(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:

The university is committed to providing a supportive learning environment that actively facilitates student success. In this module, there is a high degree of student-led flexibility. You are academically engaged if you are regularly engaged with scheduled live sessions on-campus. You should also undertake work in your own time, including engaging with seminar exercises and Group Work in preparation for seminar discussion, course-related learning resources, and with timely completion and submission of assessments.

Whilst we understand that there may be times when conflicting priorities make participation challenging, for you to gain the most from this module it is recommended that you participate in all scheduled live classes and complete your self-directed learning activities in a timely manner.

It may be difficult to pass the assessment associated with this module if you are not regularly engaging with the module work and live classes. We may reach out to check how things are going and offer support if we observe that you have not been attending sessions or completing online 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.

The module content is directly relevant to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights, as the case studies examine how the achievement of these values is conditioned by international political practice.

Some of the module material could be potentially upsetting, so all students will be briefed in good time about this and engagement will be supported sensitively.

Assessment modalities are designed to enable students to identify their preferred method of engagement. The first assessment has a fully negotiated modality, and the second also

allows for flexibility over modality. Students will be supported to select and implement their chosen approach.
(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	☐ **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	Social Sciences
Moderator	Ross Campbell
External Examiner	J. Halsall
Accreditation Details	
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☒ **Yes** ☐ **No**
Changes / Version Number	

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Group presentation and jointly 1000 word co-written paper (
Assessment 2
2500 words policy briefing for the Scottish Government.
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**
Group presentation and paper	☐	☒	☐	☒	☐	30%	

Component 2

Assessment Type	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	Weighting of Assessment Element (%)	Timetabled Contact Hours
Policy briefing	☒	☒	☒	☒	☐	70%	

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
New module	March 2026	