# Programme Specification for BA (Hons) Politics

| | **This document applies to students who commence the programme in or after September 2017** |
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| 1. | **Awarding institution/body** | University of Worcester |
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| 2. | **Teaching institution** | University of Worcester |
| 3. | **Programme accredited by** | N/A |
| 4. | **Final award or awards** | BA (Hons) |
| 5. | **Programme title** | Politics |
| 6. | **Pathways available** | Joint, Minor |
| 7. | **Mode and/or site of delivery** | University of Worcester |
| 8. | **Mode of attendance** | Full and part time, some evening attendance required |
| 9. | **UCAS Code** | Joint Honours: <br><br> History and Politics BA - VL12 BA/HPPP <br><br> Human Geography and Politics BA – 7L1L Mod/HGPPP <br><br> Journalism and Politics BA - PL52 BA/JPPP <br><br> Media & Culture and Politics BA - PL32 BA/MCSPPP <br><br> Politics and Sociology BA - LL23 BA/PPPS |
| 10. | **Subject Benchmark statement and/or professional body statement** | Politics and International Relations (2015) |
| 11. | **Date of Programme Specification preparation/ revision** | April 2017 – Reapproval <br> August 2017 - AQU amendments <br> December 2018 – Revisions to Level 6 award map. |

## 12. Educational aims of the programme

The course is an interesting and stimulating examination of political life. The Worcester course is distinctive, as it also includes political insights from History and Sociology, and is more engaging to students than any pre-conceptions about 'politics' might suggest. The course's main concern is not the mechanics of formal political procedures, but rather argument about matters of real significance to 'ordinary' citizens. In particular, it studies the broader forces ('power') which determine 'who gets what, where, when, and how' in society, and the wider social, economic and cultural contexts and impacts of political processes.

In summary, the aims of the Politics course are:
- To enable students to analyse the exercise of power within society, especially in relation to political activities and debates about 'governance', public policy, and the distribution of power and resources.
- To foster the use of explanatory and normative theory to evaluate interpretations of issues, events, values and ideas.
- To help students to apply the concepts and insights offered by the academic subject of Politics in order to interpret and evaluate a range of political phenomena and ideas.

- To draw insights from cognate academic disciplines to explore the historic, social, and cultural contexts of contemporary political phenomena.
- To provide students with a structured learning experience which combines the required breadth and progression of understanding with depth through opportunities to select modules in pursuit of coherent lines of enquiry.
- To develop in students cognitive, affective, personal and practical capacities as a sound basis for continued learning in their subsequent careers and for participation in the society/communities to which they belong.

**13. Intended learning outcomes and learning, teaching and assessment methods**

| Knowledge and Understanding | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **LO no.** | On successful completion of the named award, students will be able to: | **Module Code/s** | **Award** |
| 1. | Interpret contemporary and historical political issues within the UK and elsewhere. | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| 2. | Demonstrate knowledge of a wide range of political issues and events, ranging from early historical to contemporary, and across British, European and world contexts. | POLP2101; HIST2103; HIST2118; POLP3101; POLP3002; GEOG3131; HIST3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| 3. | Reflect critically on the nature of Politics, its relevance to broader society, theoretical approaches and the contested nature of the discipline. | POLP2101; SOCG2109; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours |
| 4. | Analyse and think critically about political and policy-making processes, bringing academic insights to bear on questions of public concern. | GEOG2131; SOCG2105; POLP3103; SOCG3104 | BA Honours |

| Cognitive and Intellectual skills | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Show positive and responsible attitudes to study and research, the ability to respond to guidance by tutors and learning processes involving 'active learning' and 'learner autonomy', and thus a commitment to operate as an effective independent learner. | POLP2101; POLP2105; POLP3101; POLP3002; | BA Honours; |
| 6. | Approach topics in depth, synthesising and developing learning from different sources, including material derived from taught modules. | POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |

| 7. | Communicate findings in a lucid and economic form, verbally and in writing, through a range of written assignments, seen and unseen tests, assessed seminar presentations, oral contributions in seminar, and independent study. | POLP2101; SOCG2109; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103; MECS3008 | BA Honours |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. | Respond positively to feedback and defend personal opinions; | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours |

| **Skills and capabilities related to employability** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Acquire employability related research skills by locating material from a variety of sources (including academic books and journals, the internet and news media, and real-life observation), and synthesise these into a coherent argument. | POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| 10. | Show self-reliance and independence of judgment. | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; |
| 11. | Demonstrate planning and time management skills through preparing work to meet predetermined deadlines. | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| 12. | Demonstrate career-relevant teamwork skills by showing a willingness to cooperate with and exchange views with students from diverse backgrounds in a constructive and open-minded context. | POLP2101; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |

| **Transferable/key skills** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Evaluate evidence and argument, making use of appropriate academic approaches, concepts and tools. | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| 14. | Apply learning from the course to develop themselves as people, including planning their future careers and other forms of participation in the wider community. | POLP2101; POLP2105; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours |
| 15. | Demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, responsibility and independence. | POLP2101; POLP3101; POLP3002; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |

| 16. | Tolerate and value the views and opinions of others. | POLP2101; POLP3103 | BA Honours; Non-Honours |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |

**Learning outcomes and combined subject degrees (joint, major and minor pathways):**

- **Joint Pathway**
  Students following a joint pathway will have met the majority of the learning outcomes for the subject, although the range of knowledge and discipline specific understanding in terms of options or specialisms will be more restricted than for a single or major Honours student.

- **Minor Pathway**
  Students following a minor pathway will have met some of the learning outcomes for the subject (as indicated by the modules studied), and will have focused the development of their knowledge, understanding and subject specific skills in particular aspects of the discipline.

**Learning, teaching and assessment**

The learning, teaching and assessment methods used on the course include the following features:

- **Stimulating source material:** The taught modules usually include some conventional lectures, to stimulate and motivate students and to guide them through subsequent general reading. However, the source material in modules is not confined to lectures, but includes structured and general reading, and in some modules video case studies, guest speakers, visits, observation or interviews.
- **Active learning:** The skills of analysis and evaluation are developed not by passive absorption of ideas, but by interactive strategies to ensure that students engage with the material - e.g. seminar discussions and team presentations, and sometimes other methods such as role-play. As well as cognitive skills, these also develop other important qualities such as inter-personal and communicative skills.
- **Blended learning:** Although all modules have class-based sessions, on-line learning is an important element of most of them. All modules have a Blackboard page, which students can use not only to access information, but also to interact with each other and with the tutor in collaborative learning. They can also access electronically an increasing range of library sources including an extensive range of journal articles.

14. **Assessment strategy**

- **Assessment process:** For each module they undertake, students receive a module outline detailing the assessment requirements: this lists the assessment criteria against which their work will be judged. The grade awarded is based on UW's standard grade descriptors.
- **Variety of assessments:** The assessments are designed not only to test students' learning, but also to be a vital part of the learning experience, and a range of assessment tasks and styles is used because the course's modules aim to develop a wide variety of skills. Students are assessed predominantly through individual written assignments, including not only the conventional forms of essay and seminar paper, but also other written forms (for example, briefing-papers). Students also experience assessment through such methods as oral presentations.

- **Tests and examinations:** Most modules in the course have forms of assessment other than tests or examinations. The Team strongly believes that this is justified: the other assessment methods have been selected to be rigorous enough to meet the main objectives claimed for test and exams, while testing a variety of skills which tests and exams cannot.
  - However, test or examination - type assessments form part of a small number of modules: these have a useful role in assessing certain kinds of material and also provide students with experience of having to perform under pressure and they are one way of verifying that students can show appropriate skills without relying on having texts to hand.
- **Formative assessment:** In line with the University's assessment policy, in all modules in the course there is one or more opportunity for students to try out their ideas and get some feedback on them, prior to submitting their assessment. This is done in various ways, including feedback on seminar presentations or discussions, and in tutorials. In some modules, students formally submit part of their assignment in draft.
- **Prevention of plagiarism:** Assignments on many of the modules have been designed so that there is reduced possibility of students plagiarising, either from fellow students or from the internet. Tutors also check rigorously for plagiarism. Some use of in-class tests (or exams) and/or tutor involvement at draft stage referred to above further add to the precautions against plagiarism.

## 15.    Programme structures and requirements

The course is available to take as a full-time or part-time course. Students may combine their study of Politics with another subject in Joint or Major/Minor combination.

**Award map**

| Course Title: Politics | Year of entry: 2017-18 onwards |
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**Level 4**

| Module Code | Module Title | Credits (Number) | Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O)) Joint Hons | Pre-requisites (Code of Module required) | Co-requisites/exclusions and other notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| POLP1101 | Democracy: Past, Present and Future | 30 | M | None | Excluded combinations SOCG1105 (POLP1001, POLP1002, SOCG1007) |
| GEOG1122 | Unequal World | 15 | O | None | Excluded combinations (GEOG1024) |
| HIST1104 | Ideology and Conflict in Europe Since 1789 | 30 | O | None | None |
| HIST1106 | Nineteenth Century Britain: Politics and Society | 15 | O | None | None |
| SOCG1106 | Welfare for All? the story of a dream | 15 | O | None | None |
| LANG1002 | Improving English Usage and Style in Academic Writing | 15 | O | None | None |
| LANG1210 | French Stage 1 | 15 | O | None | None |
| LANG1230 | German Stage 1 | 15 | O | None | None |
| LANG1250 | Spanish Stage 1 | 15 | O | None | None |

**Joint Honours Requirements at Level 4**

Joint Honours students must take 60 credits from the table above to include POLP1101 (30 Credits).

Joint Honours students may take only one LANG coded module.

| Level 5 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **Credits (Number)** | **Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))** | | **Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)** | **Co-requisites/exclusions and other notes** |
| | | | JH | Min | | |
| POLP2101 | Pathways in Politics | 30 | M | M | None | Excluded combination (POLP2001) |
| POLP2105 | Politics Work Project | 15 | O | O | None | Excluded combinations: SOCG2110 (POLP2058, SOCG2058) |
| GEOG2131 | Geographies of Development | 15 | O | O | None | Excluded combination (GEOG2026) |
| HIST2103 | Twentieth-Century USA | 30 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST2108 | Twentieth-Century Britain | 30 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST2110 | British Women's History, 1900-2000 | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST2117 | Modern Japan, 1854-1951 | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST2118 | Politics, Religion and Society in Ireland, 1690-1848 | 15 | O | O | None | Excluded combination HIST2102 |
| JOUR2006 | Reporting Politics I | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| SOCG2105 | Campaign Power - People, Pressure Groups and Social Debates | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| SOCG2109 | 'Race' and Ethnicity in Contemporary Britain | 15 | O | O | None | None |

**Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 5**

Students following Joint Honours pathways can adjust their studies at level 5 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see the table at the end of this section.

**Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 5**

Joint pathway students must take at least 45 credits and no more than 75 credits from the table above to include POLP2101 (30 credits).

**Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 5**

Minor Pathway students must take at least 30 credits and no more than 60 credits from the table above to include POLP2101 (30 credits).

| Level 6 | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|-------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| **Module Code** | **Module Title** | **Credits (Number)** | **Status (Mandatory (M) or Optional (O))** | | **Pre-requisites (Code of Module required)** | **Co-requisites/ exclusions and other notes** |
| | | | JH | Min | | |
| POLP3101 | Politics Independent Project | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| POLP3103 | Politics: Westminster, Power, and International Relations | 15 | M | M | None | None |
| POLP3001/2 | Independent Study | 30 | O | N/A | None | None |
| POLP3105 | The History and Politics of Anglo-Jewry, 1858-1945 | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| GEOG3131 | Political Geography | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST3109 | Nazi Germany, 1933-45 | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| HIST3120 | British Imperialism *c.* 1784-1972 | 30 | O | O | None | None |
| JOUR3004 | Reporting Politics II | 15 | O | O | JOUR2006 | None |
| MECS3008 | War, Democracy and the Media | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| MECS3013 | Green Media | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| SOCG3110 | 'Race', Ethnicity and Education | 15 | O | O | None | None |
| SOCG3114 | Capitalism and Globalisation | 15 | O | O | None | None |

**Joint, Major and Minor Honours Requirements at Level 6**
Students following pathways in two subjects can adjust their studies at level 6 to take more modules in one subject or can maintain an equally balanced programme of modules in each subject. The precise award title (Joint Hons or Major/Minor Hons) depends on the total number of credit achieved in each subject at levels 5 and 6 – for further information see table at the end of this section.

**Joint Pathway Requirements at Level 6**

Joint pathway students must take 45, 60 or 75 credits (to make at least 105 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject, and no more than 135 credits over levels 5 and 6 in the subject), from the table above to include POLP3103 (15 credits) and at least one module from POLP3101, POLP3105, POLP3001/2 or JOIN3001/2.

An Independent Study is a requirement for this subject. Joint pathway students may choose, therefore, to take POLP3001/2 (30 credit Independent Study in Politics) or JOIN3001/2 (a 30 credit Independent Study covering both joint subjects).

**Minor Pathway Requirements at Level 6**

Minor pathway students must take either 30 or 45 credits from the table above to include POLP3103 (15 credits).

**Credit requirements for awards involving two subjects**

In determining whether an award derived from two subjects is Joint Honours (subject 1 **and** subject 2) or Major/Minor Honours (subject 1 **with** subject 2) credits taken in each subject at levels 5 and 6 will count as follows:

| Subject 1 | Subject 2 | Award |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 120 | 120 | Joint Hons |
| 135 | 105 | Joint Hons |
| 150 | 90 | Major/minor Hons |
| 165 | 75 | Major/minor Hons |
| 180 | 60 | Major/minor Hons |

16. **QAA and professional academic standards and quality**

Although Politics is not a single honours course, we have taken care to ensure that it meets the relevant parts of the current QAA honours degree benchmark statement for [Politics and International Relations (2015)](#). The course handbook indicates how the points in it are addressed in the course. The award is located at level 6 of the Framework for higher education qualifications (FHEQ).

17. **Support for students**

The Politics Course Team is committed to ensuring that all students are given consideration and support throughout their time at the University of Worcester.

Students' transition into university life is assisted by an initial short, one week induction programme which, through a range of activities, introduces students to their course, the staff who will be teaching them, and the Institute. Students are, for example, invited to attend the IHCA Freshers' Party in Welcome Week.

During this initial Welcome Week, and in the first Worcester Week, students are involved in a range of activities which support them in developing an understanding of the expectations of their course, undergraduate study and the University's systems and services. They have talks or tours, for example, which introduce them to the Hive (i.e. the University's library), and IT facilities, Media Services, the Careers and the Counselling Service.

Students are also provided with a brief induction into their second and third year in the mandatory modules POLP2101 and POLP3103.

In addition, the Institute for Humanities and Creative Arts monitors attendance closely in the first year and provides support for students through the First Year Tutor system. This comprises dedicated members of staff who are available every day for drop-in sessions during the semester between 12:00 & 14:00 and provide on-line support all year round, replying to e-mails within 24 hours.

All students are allocated a Personal Academic Tutor, who will advise them on issues related to their course throughout their study at the University and who monitors their progress. Personal Academic Tutor sessions take two forms: one-to-one sessions where notes are taken and stored on SOLE, and group sessions in the mandatory modules where general points and issues relating to the course are dealt with. Students are invited to meet their Personal Academic Tutor twice a semester. In the event of extended absence of a student from Level 4 classes, the Personal Academic Tutor will be alerted and contact them directly to offer support.

Staff teaching students on modules support students through one-to-one and small group tutorials, and provide students with clear indications of times they will be available to see students; they do this either via notices on their office door, or via email or in module outlines.

Students are further supported through a range of on-line support, for example via email or Skype tutorials. All modules are supported through the virtual learning environment, Blackboard, and Course information is available via Blackboard too.

Furthermore, the Course Team liaises with a range of centrally provided support services to ensure that students access all appropriate channels of support, for example:
- The Disability and Dyslexia Service within Student Services offers specialist support on a one to one basis.
- Writing support from the Royal Literary Fund Writer in Residence.

- Writing support, for international and EU students, from the Language Centre.
- The Students' Union, which is an independent charity devoted to the educational interests and welfare of all students studying at the University, represents student views within the University.

Further information can be found on the Student Services website:
*http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/index.htm*
*http://www.worcester.ac.uk/student-services/disability-and-dyslexia.htm*

### 18.    Admissions

**Admissions policy**
The admissions policy for Politics seeks to be inclusive, and the course is committed to widening participation to include all groups in society. The course has a track record of recruiting an exceptionally high proportion of students with some form of declared disability.

**Entry requirements**
The normal minimum entry requirement for undergraduate degree courses is the possession of 4 GCSEs (Grade C/4 or above) and a minimum of 2 A Levels (or equivalent Level 3 qualifications).

The current UCAS Tariff requirements for entry to this course are published in the prospectus and on the UW website https://www.worc.ac.uk/journey/a-z-of-courses.html.

See Admissions Policy for other acceptable qualifications.

**Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) requirements**
Students choosing to study the optional Work Placement module may be required to be subject to relevant enhanced disclosure (DBS) requirements.

**Recognition of Prior Learning**
Details of acceptable level 3 qualifications, policy in relation to mature students or applicants with few or no formal qualifications can be found in the prospectus or on the University webpages.  Information on eligibility for recognition of prior learning for the purposes of entry or advanced standing is also available from the University webpages or from the Registry Admissions Office (01905 855111).

Further information on Recognition of Prior Learning can be found at
http://www.worcester.ac.uk/registryservices/941.htm

**Admissions procedures**
Full-time applicants apply through UCAS (see Section 9 above for list of codes).
Part-time applicants apply directly to University of Worcester (UW)
Applicants may be invited to interview to explore any aspect of their application that may require further clarification.

**Admissions/selection criteria**
The UCAS application form is used to ensure that the applicant has sufficient academic qualifications, motivation and experience to be able to engage with the course.

### 19.    Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

The Politics Course Team is committed to a combination of formal and informal methods of Quality Assurance and Enhancement and operates within robust University and IHCA quality mechanisms.

The Course Team draws upon a range of evidence to reflect upon the quality and standards of the teaching and learning and to write an Annual Evaluation Report (AER). These include:
- External Examiner's reports
- statistical indicators of student progression and achievement
- a range of indicators of student satisfaction including the NSS.

Reflection upon this material enables the Course Team to produce an action plan for future enhancements to the course and student experience.

In writing the AER, the Course Team benefits of from utilising feedback gathered from students throughout the academic year on their levels of satisfaction with the study experience and the extent to which their learning needs are being met. The mechanisms used for this include the following:
- **Course Representatives** - Students elect representatives for each year of the course. Their role is to gather students' opinions about the learning experience and the learning resources available and feed these back to course staff, and to the External Examiner. The course representatives are members of the Course Management Committee and as such have a proactive and significant role in the development of the course.
- **Course Management Committee** - The committee comprises student representatives, course tutors and Information and Learning Services staff from the University of Worcester. Meetings take place once each semester (usually in week 10). An agenda is issued in advance so that representatives can canvass opinion. The records of the meetings are kept and will feed into the annual monitoring process, so that students' views are fed through to the University of Worcester Academic Board.
- **Module evaluation** - At any point during the module students have the opportunity to feed back to module tutors, and all modules undertake informal mid-module evaluations. At the end of a module students are asked to complete the University of Worcester module evaluation form. This feedback is anonymous and is intended to give the tutors insight into how to make improvements in the future to that module. The forms are electronically scanned to calibrate student responses and the statistical data, student comments and the module results are all drawn upon by the module leader in writing their module report. These reports are read by the Chair of the Institute of Humanities and Creative Arts (IHCA) Quality Committee and course leaders and are also made available to students on the module. Module evaluation results and reports are discussed at the IHCA Quality Committee, Course Management Committee, and in Course / Subject Annual Evaluation Reports.
- **External Examiner** visits aim to include time where students can provide feedback to the External Examiner.

The Politics team benefits from the culture of engagement about how to enhance teaching and learning within IHCA. The Course Leader sits on the Institute Learning and Teaching Committee; discussions here and within Course Management Team meetings and at Institute away days explore ways of enhancing the student experience.

The Course Team participates in a range of course, IHCA, University, and external activities aimed at enhancing the quality and standards of student learning; these include:
- the University Learning and Teaching Conferences, and staff development workshops provided by Educational Development Unit.

- Undertaking a Postgraduate Teaching Certificate course, or gaining an HEA Fellowship
- IHCA training for sessional (hourly-paid) lecturers
- Peer Supported Review of Teaching scheme
- Attendance and participation at academic conferences and HEA events
- An active research culture including seminars, symposiums and conferences held at the University.

## 20. Regulation of assessment

**The course operates under the University's <u>Taught Courses Regulatory Framework</u>**

### Requirements to pass modules
- Modules are assessed using a variety of assessment activities which are detailed in the module specifications.
- The minimum pass mark is D- for each module.
- Students are required to submit all items of assessment in order to pass a module, and in some modules, a pass mark in each item of assessment may be required.
- Full details of the assessment requirements for a module, including the assessment criteria, are published in the module outline.

### Submission of assessment items
- Students who submit course work late but within 5 days of the due date will have work marked, but the grade will be capped at D- unless an application for mitigating circumstances is accepted.
- Students who submit work later than 5 days but within 14 days of the due date will not have work marked unless they have submitted a valid claim of mitigating circumstances.
- For full details of submission regulations please see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

### Retrieval of failure
- Students are entitled to resit failed assessment items for any module that is awarded a fail grade.
- Reassessment items that are passed are capped at D-.
- If a student is unsuccessful in the reassessment, they have the right to retake the module (or, in some circumstances, take an alternative module); the module grade for a re-taken module is capped at D-.

### Requirements for Progression
- Students at Level 4 may be permitted to progress to Level 5 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 4.
- Students at Level 5 may be permitted to progress to Level 6 when they have passed at least 90 credits at Level 5.
- A student who fails 90 credits or more due to non-submission will be required to withdraw from the University.
- Students who pass less than 90 credits but have submitted all items of assessment will be required to retake modules.

**Requirements for Awards**

| Award | Requirement |
|---|---|
| Certificate of Higher Education Cert HE [Cert HE Politics (Joint)] | In order to be eligible for the exit award of Certificate in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 120 credits in total including the mandatory modules for level 4 of the award as specified on the award map. |
| Diploma of Higher Education DipHE [DipHE Politics (Joint) | In order to be eligible for the exit award of Diploma in Higher Education in the named subject/area of study, a student must have passed at least 240 credits in total including the mandatory modules for level 4 and level 5 of the award as specified on the award map. |
| Degree (non-honours) | Passed a minimum of 300 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 60 credits at Level 6, including the mandatory modules for Level 5 and Level 6 of the award (not the Independent Study module) as specified on the award map. |
| Degree with honours | Passed a minimum of 360 credits with at least 90 credits at Level 5 or higher and a minimum of 120 credits at Level 6, as specified on the award map. |

**Classification**

The honours classification will be determined by whichever of the following two methods results in the higher classification:

- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 60 credits attained at Level 5 and the best grades from 120 credits at Level 6. Level 5 and Level 6 grades count equally in the profile.
- Classification determined on the profile of the best grades from 120 credits attained at Level 6 only.

For further information on honours degree classification, see the Taught Courses Regulatory Framework.

21. **Indicators of quality and standards**

**External evaluation:**

The work on POLP-coded modules is regularly favourably reviewed by the course's External Examiner. In response to NSS 2015 89% of Politics students expressed overall satisfaction with the course.

The course has had an excellent record of student progression (averaging over 90%) in recent years. Since 2012, the proportion of Politics students achieving upper second and first class degrees has been excellent, ranging from 76-83%.

**Staff:** The Politics staff have a good record of research and publishing in areas related to contemporary or historical politics, policy, public services, or theory. The quality of much of this work has been recognised in successive research assessment exercises. Research seminars regularly feature papers related to Politics by researchers both from within UW and outside it, and these are advertised openly to all staff and students. Several staff have recent or current experience of supervising PhD research students on related topics.

The course was the subject of a successful Periodic Review in 2016.

## 22. Graduate destinations, employability and links with employers

### Graduate destinations
Politics graduates from Worcester have progressed in recent years to a diverse range of careers. A growing number of graduates have embarked on postgraduate study. Of the most recent cohort of Politics graduates who responded to the UW graduate destination survey all were in employment.

National data shows that the career potential for graduates from Politics course is good. In addition to the transferable skills, employers in all sectors value students who have an understanding of complex political and cultural issues in continually changing environments, especially in jobs that involve working in or with public authorities. Graduates from the course are, therefore, particularly suited for employment in areas such as 'management', 'public affairs' or 'public services' or in areas, such as the media, where a knowledge of current affairs is desirable. Some relevant career destinations are shown below:

- Public services e.g. teaching (schools or colleges), police, probation, housing, civil service, local government and planning.
- Pressure groups, voluntary organisations, charities, community work and consultancy.
- Media, journalism, publishing, librarianship, advice work, research.
- Business e.g. self-employment, management, personnel, administration and marketing/public relations.
- Further study in politics, or subjects such as journalism, social policy and law.

### Student employability
It is a guiding principle of the course to design the programme systematically to enable students to develop a range of key transferable skills to support their employability. Skills in research, critical analysis, verbal and written communication, independent thinking and teamwork are especially emphasised in learning and teaching and assessment strategies and in module learning outcomes.

Careers advice is provided throughout students' period of study. The importance of career planning is emphasised in Personal Academic Tutorials and in relevant Worcester Weeks events. The university Careers Service and Students' Union also provide further specialist guidance.
Students have the opportunity to take a Work Placement module at Level 5. Students are also informed of relevant paid and voluntary work opportunities. Through voluntary work and the Work Experience module students thus have the opportunity to acquire invaluable experience of the workplace with a range of relevant local organizations.

### Links with employers
The University of Worcester Politics team and the other subject teams, which contribute to this course, have links with a range of employers and public bodies (such as local councils and media organisations) in the immediate locality and in the West Midlands region.

**Please note:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.  More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in associated course documentation e.g. course handbooks, module outlines and module specifications.