

Module Details	
Module Title	Politics and The State
Module Code	PES4019-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 4

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	11
Seminars	22
Directed Study	167

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims
<p>This module aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Equip you with an understanding of core theories and concepts relevant to the study of politics. 2. Equip you with an understanding of the concepts of the state (e.g. effective, fragile, shadow, developmental, competition). It challenges the notion of the Western liberal state as the default or ideal, pointing to the range of ways in which states exercise power in different contexts. 3. Encourage you to reflect on the connections between this module and the subjects introduced in the other core modules in semester one. 4. Introduce you to the analysis of complex ideas at first year university level through group discussion oral presentations and a written assignment.

Outline Syllabus
<p>The syllabus will begin with an introduction to key theories and concepts such as liberalism and neo-liberalism; and key concepts such as power, authority, governance and violence. You will be introduced to debates specific to the functioning of the state, for example debates over the "hollow" state, the "competition" state, the "fragile" state, the "developmental" state and the "failed" state. You will then be supported to develop a case study of your own in which you apply these to gain a deeper understanding of the operations of particular states in different parts of the world. You will be encouraged to consider not only how states function but how that functioning is contested and constrained. The module will conclude by considering the contemporary challenges facing liberalism and democracy.</p>

Learning Outcomes	
Outcome Number	Description
01	Explain, compare and apply key threshold concepts, theories and approaches relevant to the study of politics.
02	Distinguish a range of research designs and methods used in Political Science and Development Studies and more broadly across the sciences, social sciences and humanities.
03	Formulate and evaluate clear arguments, using knowledge of the different components of argumentation and showing an understanding of scholarly rigour.
04	Gather, manage and interpret evidence, data and information from valid and appropriate sources, both primary and secondary, in relation to a given case study.
05	Use relevant concepts and theories to investigate issues in discipline-related case studies, to develop insights and perspectives.
06	Produce planned, properly referenced and well-structured written arguments with clear introductions, appropriate use of academic concepts, an effective summary of academic debates in the discipline, and showing awareness of the differences between important theoretical approaches.
07	Generate clear, concise and coherent writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
08	Design and manage a learning project showing ability to clarify objectives, prioritise tasks, meet deadlines and reflect critically on outcomes.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
<p>The classes for the module will contain different types of activities including: lectures, discussion sessions, and group work. These learning activities can take place either in the classroom and/or online.</p> <p>The aim of the assessment strategy is to promote and review the progressive achievement of learning outcomes. This is achieved through the following:</p> <p>a) various activities to prepare for work in class and/or online , with formative assessment where appropriate (such as producing a mini-presentation on your case study);</p> <p>b) activities undertaken outside class which test pass/fail threshold achievement, and which cumulatively build towards summative tasks;</p> <p>c) summative assessment will consist of a case study of a state (2,800-3,000 words).</p>

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay on the functioning of the state in a country of student choice (2800-3000 wrds)	100%
Formative	Coursework	Portfolio of tasks	N/A
Formative	Presentation	Presentation	N/A

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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