

Politics and the State

Module Code:	PES4019-B
Academic Year:	2019-20
Credit Rating:	20
School:	School of Social Sciences
Subject Area:	Peace Studies
FHEQ Level:	FHEQ Level 4

Pre-requisites:

Co-requisites:

Contact Hours

Type	Hours
Lectures	11
Seminar	22
Directed Study	167

Availability Periods

Occurrence	Location/Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1 (Sep - Jan)

Module Aims

This module aims to:

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

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.

Module Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to...

- 1 Explain, compare and apply key threshold concepts, theories and approaches relevant to the study of politics.
- 2 Distinguish a range of research designs and methods used in Political Studies and Development Studies and more broadly across the sciences, social sciences and humanities.
- 3 Formulate and evaluate clear arguments, using knowledge of the different components of argumentation and showing an understanding of scholarly rigour.
- 4 Gather, manage and interpret evidence, data and information from valid and appropriate sources, both primary and secondary, in relation to a given case study.
- 5 Use relevant concepts and theories to investigate issues in discipline-related case studies, to develop insights and perspectives.
- 6 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.
- 7 Generate clear, concise and coherent writing in which style, scope and depth are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- 8 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

The classes for the module will contain different types of activities including: lectures, discussion sessions, and group work.

The aim of the assessment strategy is to promote and review the progressive achievement of learning outcomes. This is achieved through the following:

- a) various activities to prepare for work in class, with formative assessment where

appropriate (such as producing a mini-presentation on your case study);

b) activities undertaken outside class which test pass/fail threshold achievement, and which cumulatively build towards summative tasks;

c) summative assessment will consist of a case study of a state (2,800-3,000 words).

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting	Final Assess'
Formative	Presentation	Presentation	10 minutes	%	No
Summative	Coursework	Essay on the functioning of the state in a country of your choice	2800-3000 words	100%	Yes
Formative	Coursework	Portfolio of short tasks		%	No

Legacy Code (if applicable)

Reading List

To view Reading List, please go to [rebus:list](#).