



MSC (ECON)
POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY
HANDBOOK 2011/2012

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Cardiff School of European Studies and the MScEcon in Politics and Public Policy. We are looking forward to working with you.

In this booklet you will find the main information you need about this Masters scheme. For further information about postgraduate teaching in the School, please see the Postgraduate General Handbook.

We hope you will enjoy your time here. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Scheme staff if you need further information.

CONTACTS

		Room	Ext.	Email
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IMPORTANT DATES FOR ATTENDANCE

Event	Date
Induction Day	Monday 26 September 2011
Meet the convenors week	Week Commencing 14 th November 2011
Semester Dates	
Autumn Semester	3 October 2011 – 29 January 2012
Christmas Recess	17 December 2011 – 8 January 2012
Examination Period	16 - 27 January 2012
Spring Semester	30 January – 15 June 2012
Easter Recess	31 March – 22 April 2012
Examination Period	14 May – 15 June 2012
Re-sit Exam Period	13 – 24 August 2012

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ASSESSMENT

All essays and research proposals for dissertations will need to be submitted via the 'Turn It In' facility on Learning Central (formerly Blackboard). This facility will allow for essays to be checked for plagiarism. For more information on the electronic submission process please consult the following link: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/euros/currentstudents/esubmission/index.html>

Submission of assessed essays

EUT060: Dissertation Preparation	23 April 2012
EUT064: Parties, Party Systems and Democracy	23 April 2012
EUT065: Public Opinion: The World Outside and the Pictures in our Heads	23 April 2012
EUT070: Global Climate Governance	23 April 2012
EUT118: Governing and Governance in France	23 April 2012
EUT117: The Policy Process in Germany	tbc
EUT119: State Crisis: Changing Governance in Italy	23 April 2012
EUT115: European Economic Governance and Policies	27 April 2012
EUT114: European Political Economy	27 April 2012

Dissertation deadlines

Full-time students	14 September 2012
Part-time students (who commenced studies in 2010)	11 January 2013
Part-time students (who commenced studies in 2011)	10 January 2014 (to be confirmed)

MODULE TIMETABLE

Autumn Semester

All modules in this semester are compulsory

Full-time students take 60 credits

EUT069 Public Policy	15 credits
EUT068 The Public, Parties and Democracy	15 credits
EUT062: Research Methods: Approaches to Knowledge	15 credits
EUT116: Governing and Policy-Making in Britain	15 credits

Part-time students take 30 credits per year

Year One:

EUT069 Public Policy	15 credits
EUT068 The Public, Parties and Democracy	15 credits

Year Two:

EUT062: Research Methods: Approaches to Knowledge	15 credits
EUT116: Governing and Policy-Making in Britain	15 credits

Spring Semester

Students take 60 credits (part-time students 30 per year)

EUT060: Dissertation Preparation (compulsory)	15 credits
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At least 30 credits from the following modules:

EUT064: Parties, Party Systems and Democracy	15 credits
EUT065 Public Opinion: The World Outside and the Pictures in our Heads	15 credits
EUT070 Global Climate Governance	15 credits

Up to 15 credits from the following modules:

EUT118: Governing and Governance in France	15 credits
EUT117: The Policy Process in Germany	15 credits
EUT119: State Crisis: Changing Governance in Italy	15 credits
EUT115: European Economic Governance and Policies	15 credits
EUT114: European Political Economy	15 credits

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Teaching

Teaching is mainly by seminar. You are expected to prepare for all sessions by doing the required reading and putting together notes to enable you to give a short presentation on the seminar topic when asked. Note that the purpose of seminars is not so much to transfer facts as to improve understanding by means of questions, discussion and debate.

You are not expected to agree with everything you are told. What you are expected to do is to raise questions when you are unsure of something, contribute your ideas to discussion, voice your objections when you disagree with something being said by staff or fellow students, and argue your case if you are not convinced by their responses. Acquiring the confidence to do this may take time if you are not used to it, but it is essential if you are to take full advantage of what we offer.

Assessment

Autumn semester

All autumn semester modules are assessed by unseen written examination in the January examination period.

Spring semester

EUT060 Dissertation Preparation: approval of your dissertation proposal, and a 2500 word literature review.

The other Spring modules are assessed by essays of not more than 2500 words.

AUTUMN SEMESTER MODULES

EUT069: PUBLIC POLICY (15 credits)

Hugh Compston (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Thursday 11.10 – 12.30 in room 1.23

This module is designed to provide you with a solid grounding in contemporary policy analysis by enabling you to become familiar with the nature of public policy, understand the main theories of how public policy is made, and apply these to contemporary problems and issues. The course covers the nature of public policy in general and economic policy in particular; political resources and political strategy; governments and administrations; business; the role of voters; advocacy coalitions; discourse coalitions; and institutionalism.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an unseen written examination in January.

EUT068 THE PUBLIC, PARTIES AND DEMOCRACY (15 credits)

Mark Donovan (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Thursday 3-5pm in room 1.23

This module is designed to provide students with an advanced understanding of contemporary developments and debate about political parties, the public and democracy. On completion of this module, students should be able to understand the main arguments about the nature of public opinion, the changing nature of political parties, the nature and significance of electoral systems and party systems, and the significance of all of these for contemporary debates about democracy.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an unseen written examination in January.

EUT116: GOVERNING AND PUBLIC POLICY IN BRITAIN (15 credits)

Peter Dorey (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Monday 3-5pm in room 0.06 (60PP)

This option commences with an examination of the historical and cultural context in which policy-making in Britain takes place. It then identifies the key agencies and institutions which are involved in the British policy process, and analyses their respective roles and responsibilities. Three discrete policy areas are then considered, namely economic policy-making and the politics of public expenditure; labour market and employment policies (including industrial relations); and social policy, with particular emphasis on social security. In addition to their intrinsic interest and significance, these three policy areas have been selected because of their close connection and interdependence with each other.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an unseen written examination in January.

EUT062: RESEARCH METHODS: APPROACHES TO KNOWLEDGE (15 credits)

Mark Donovan (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Tuesday 11.10-12 in room 0.31 Humanities Building

The aim of this module is to introduce you to different research methods and the methodological contexts within which choices about their use are made, enabling you to provide critical rationales of the research logic and method/s you later adopt and apply in the research and writing-up of your dissertation.

Syllabus content:

Methodological tool-boxes

Kuhn and Feyarabend

Philosophy of the Natural Sciences

Constructivist Philosophy of Science

The Experimental Method ("Positivist" and "constructivist" approaches)

The Case Study ("Positivist" and "constructivist" approaches)

The Comparative/Small N Method ("Positivist" and "constructivist" approaches)

The Statistical/Large-N Method ("Positivist" and "constructivist" approaches)

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by unseen written examination in January.

Introductory reading: Moses, J.W., and T.L. Knutsen (2007), *Ways of Knowing: Competing Methodologies in Social and Political Research*, Basingstoke: Palgrave.

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by an unseen written examination in January.

SPRING SEMESTER MODULES

EUT060: DISSERTATION PREPARATION (15 credits)

Hugh Compston (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Thursday 12.10-2pm in room 1.23

This module is designed to prepare you for the task of researching and writing your Masters dissertation. Topics covered include the nature of Masters dissertations, how to formulate a practical dissertation topic and research design, ethical issues, and how to write a literature review.

Teaching is by means of seminars, individual meetings, and guided reading. The assessment has two parts: approval/rejection of a dissertation topic and research design, and assessment of a literature review of not more than 2500 words.

EUT064: PARTIES, PARTY SYSTEMS & DEMOCRACY (15 credits)

Mark Donovan (Module (Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Tuesday 3.10-5pm in room 1.23

In Europe and beyond, political parties were the dominant social invention of the twentieth century, being central to the establishment both of totalitarian and authoritarian dictatorships and of multiparty democracy. By the end of the twentieth century, the longest established democracies were seen as being subject to a crisis of representation in which parties were the objects of intense criticism. This module focuses on the role and crisis of parties and party systems in multiparty democracies. On completion of this module, you should be able to understand the main arguments about the changing nature of political parties, the nature of party systems, and their significance for contemporary democracy.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

EUT065: PUBLIC OPINION: THE WORLD OUTSIDE AND THE PICTURES IN OUR HEADS (15 credits)

David Broughton (Module Co-ordinator)

Timetable information – tbc

The aim of this module is to provide students with a detailed understanding of contemporary developments and multi-dimensional debates about the nature of public opinion, how it can best be measured, and its contours and patterns, with reference to prominent issues and themes drawn from the current political agenda.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

EUT070: GLOBAL CLIMATE GOVERNANCE (15 credits)

Hugh Compston (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Friday 10-12noon OR 1.10-3pm in room 1.23

This module is designed to enable students to conduct analyses of the politics of climate change at all levels of governance, with particular reference to the political dynamics of policies designed to bring climate change under control. On its completion, students should be able to set out and evaluate the scientific arguments that underpin the belief that climate change is occurring; describe, explain and evaluate the main ways in which climate change could be mitigated as well as the main policy options for putting these in place; describe, explain and evaluate the main relevant international negotiations and agreements at EU and global levels; describe, explain, evaluate and apply relevant theories of policy making; and identify, explain and evaluate political strategies for enabling more vigorous action to be taken to bring climate change under control.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

Introductory reading: Lynas, Mark (2008), *Six Degrees*; Lovelock, James (2006), *The Revenge of Gaia*

EUT115: EUROPEAN ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES (15 credits)

Kenneth Dyson (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Tuesday 3-5pm in room 1.23

The aims of this module are to situate the Euro Area in its larger historical and comparative context, focusing on the politics of economic policy; examine key policy issues confronting the Euro Area and its member states; draw up a balance sheet of its development; and help develop the communication, presentational and group-work skills of course participants.

Teaching is by seminar, and the module is assessed by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

EUT118: GOVERNING & GOVERNANCE IN FRANCE (15 credits)

Alistair Cole (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Monday 3-5pm in room 0.06 (60PP)

This module moves from theoretical understandings of governance to more precise applications in a 'difficult' state context: that of France. Through the prism of governance, the course focuses upon institutions, ideas and

interests as drivers of, and obstacles to, political and policy change. By the end of the module, students will be able to appreciate political dynamics and policy processes in one of the European Union's leading states, France, and will have developed a good theoretical understanding of public policy and an ability to apply theoretical constructs in an empirically viable manner.

Module content:

Session 1 Governing and governance in France

Session 2 The impossible reform of the state?

Session 3 Europeanisation and multi-level governance

Session 4 Economic development

Session 5 Welfare state and education

Session 6 Ideas, institutions and interests

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

EUT117: THE POLICY PROCESS IN GERMANY (15 credits)

David Broughton (Module Co-ordinator)

Timetable info: tbc

The aim of this module is to develop in students an advanced understanding of national-level policy making in Germany. It begins by considering the context of policy making from both an historical and an institutional perspective, with particular reference to the modus operandi of German federalism and specific recent alterations to it arising from German unification and deepening EU integration. Three specific areas of policy-making are then analysed, namely the economic policy-making process, looking at the search for 'rationality' and the formalised means of interest accommodation; labour market policies, focusing on the opportunities and constraints of the German system of corporatism; and social policies and the changing nature of the German welfare state.

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

EUT119: STATE CRISIS: CHANGING GOVERNANCE IN ITALY (15 credits)

Mark Donovan (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Wednesday 9.00 – 10.50 Room: 1.23A

The aim of this module is to provide an opportunity for you to develop knowledge, understanding, analytical skills and research skills relevant to key issues in contemporary governance by the study of changing modes of governance in Italy before and after the state crisis of the early 1990s. On completion of the module, you should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features of the Italian mode of governance c. 1948-90; critically evaluate the causes, advantages and disadvantages of this mode of governance; demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature, causes and consequences of the new mode of governance; and critically evaluate the challenges and opportunities presented to Italy's elites by the new circumstances.

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

Introductory reading: Cotta and Verzichelli (2007), *Political Institutions in Italy*.

EUT114: EUROPEAN POLITICAL ECONOMY (15 credits)

Paul Furlong (Module Co-ordinator)

Teaching will take place on Monday 9-11am in room 1.23

The aim of this module is to provide an opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding, analytical skills and research skills in the main issues of contemporary European political economy, within the context of European economic and political integration. Political economy in this context means the politics of economic decision-making. The first part of the course considers the various conceptual and theoretical approaches to the study of political economy. In the second part, the main theme is the relationship of state and market in the development of the economy of the European Union, with particular reference to the contemporary British, French, German and Italian experience.

Teaching is by seminar, and assessment by an essay of not more than 2500 words.

PART II: DISSERTATION STAGE

Students who successfully complete Part 1 (120 credits) may proceed to Part 2. In Part II the course switches to individual study where you're expected to write your Dissertation, worth 60 credits.

For comprehensive information relating to the Dissertation stage, please consult the Postgraduate General Handbook 2010/11.

DISSERTATION LIBRARY

Students have access to dissertations submitted over the past two years. The dissertations are saved in the 'EUROS-POSTGRADUATES' module on Learning Central we hope this will allow you to get a better idea of the structure/content expected within a dissertation.

DISSERTATION GUIDANCE

FORMAT

The length of the dissertation, including text, tables and references/bibliography but excluding synopsis (summary) and appendices, must be less than 20,000 words. The actual word-count, excluding synopsis and appendices, should be stated on the cover. The synopsis should be not more than 250 words in length.

At the beginning of the dissertation you should include the following (single-spaced):

- Front Page: include title of dissertation, name, and degree title
- Summary of dissertation
- Declaration/Statements
- Acknowledgements
- Glossary of abbreviations used (if applicable)
- Contents Page

The body of the dissertation (introduction, chapters, conclusion) should contain the main development of the argument and be printed in 1.5 or double spacing. This should be followed by a single-spaced list of references. Tables discussed in the text should be included in the body of the dissertation. Other tables, lists of data and other background evidence should be in appendices and single-spaced. The source of material in tables must be indicated at the foot of each table.

Note that poor spelling and grammar may result in loss of marks, so use the computer spell-check and grammar-check facilities, proof-read the entire dissertation, and ask someone who is strong on spelling and grammar to read through it if this might be an issue.

You are strongly advised to keep up to date electronic records of your drafts throughout the year. Computer problems are *not* accepted as justifications for late submission.

SUBMISSION

You need to submit the following to the Postgraduate Office:

- Two temporary or hardbound copies with Declaration forms (with original signatures) included within the binding*
- One electronic copy on CD or Memory Stick. Please save this as one document and clearly label the CD or memory stick with your name, student number and course
- One copy of the Notice of submission form (not bound)*

**Declaration and Notice of Submission Forms are available electronically on Learning Central within the Dissertation folder of the 'EUROS - POSTGRADUATES' module or from the Postgraduate Office.*

For further information and assistance on your dissertation submission please see <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/regis/sfs/postgrad/taught/dis/index.html>

EXTENSION

Provided there are no special circumstances raised, it is essential to submit your dissertation by the due date. Any matters which might lead to failure to meet the submission deadline should be communicated to your Supervisor and the Postgraduate Office (on euros-pg-office@cardiff.ac.uk) as a matter of urgency at least two weeks prior to the deadline.

Extension Request Forms must be completed for any agreed late submission and returned to the Postgraduate Office along with a supporting statement from your Supervisor and any other relevant supporting documentation. (*Extension Request Forms are available electronically on Learning Central within the Dissertation folder of the 'EUROS - POSTGRADUATES' module or from the Postgraduate Office*).

BINDING

Dissertations may be hard or soft bound. Please see below for contact information of local Binding Organisations:

Abbey Bookbinders

Unit 3, Gabalfa Workshops, Clos Menter, Cardiff, CF14 3AY 02920 623290

info@abbeybookbinding.co.uk

www.bookbindersuk.com/

The Print Centre

6 Windsor Place, Cardiff, CF10 3BX 02920 665049

sales@printcentrecardiff.com

www.printcentrecardiff.com

RE-SUBMISSION

If you are required to re-submit your dissertation for examination you are only allowed to do this once, upon payment of a resubmission fee (currently £116), and not more than twelve months from the date of the official communication of the result.

A student who is allowed to re-submit a dissertation shall not be eligible for the award of the mark of Distinction, irrespective of the level of his/her performance in any re-resubmitted work.

SCHEME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

This Programme Specification is a concise summary of the main features of the MSc Econ Politics and Public Policy at Cardiff University and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module can be found in the Module Catalogues and the Postgraduate General Handbook.

AIMS

To develop advanced skills in political and policy research and analysis that can be used in students' subsequent careers and/or in further study.

OUTCOMES

Outcomes are acquired via seminars and guided study, and assessed summatively through essays, unseen examinations and the dissertation. Formative feedback is provided in seminars and by returning marked essays with comments.

- **Knowledge and Understanding**
 - demonstrate knowledge of the main approaches to understanding politics and public policy
 - demonstrate familiarity with the main features of political institutions, structures and behaviour in affluent countries such as Britain, and specialist knowledge of selected features of these political phenomena
 - demonstrate familiarity with the nature and content of public policy in affluent countries such as Britain, and specialist knowledge of selected areas of public policy
 - use theories of political causation to analyse the dynamics of change in political institutions, structures and behaviour
 - use theories of policy making to analyse the dynamics of policy change.

- **Intellectual Skills**
 - employ conceptual analysis, logic and empirical evidence to evaluate, formulate and present rigorous theoretical and empirical arguments
 - apply skills of independent research in Part Two of the programme, in the context of a substantial, systematic and original research project.

- **Practical Skills**
 - formulate realistic evaluations of developments in politics and public policy;
 - produce rigorous analyses of new information relating to politics and public policy
 - demonstrate skills of communication and reflection through participation in the seminars and presentation of written work
 - use information and communications technology for the retrieval and presentation of information
 - reflect on his or her own learning and make use of constructive feedback;
 - manage his or her own learning and development.

- **Transferable Skills**

- communicate ideas effectively and fluently
- collaborate with others and contribute to the achievement of common goals
- gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, including information and communications technology
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The programme is presented as a one year full-time or 2 year part-time Masters level programme.

The programme is presented in two stages:

Stage 1 consists of taught modules worth 120 credits.

Stage 2 consists of a Dissertation worth 60 credits.

OTHER COURSE FEATURES

- Close proximity to the main institutions of Welsh government and governance
- The opportunity for students to learn in a school which was ranked second among European Studies Departments in the Research Power Calculations of Research Fortnightly and 6th (out of 27) in the Times Higher ratings
- The involvement of research-active staff in Programme design and delivery
- The variety of modules on offer.