

Module code: MOD007344	Version: 4 Date Amended: 30/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
Ideas and Ideologies

2a. Module Leader
Michael Wilby

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

What would an ideal society look like? Do we need a notion of a state at all? In studying this module, we will be examining foundational issues of contemporary political discourse and key debates of relevance today, and you will be encouraged to build up your own idea of what an ideal society would be like. Questions discussed on the module include: the idea of a state; the nature and legitimacy of democracy; the scope and limits of liberty; the nature of rights; the morality of the free market and capitalism; structures of power and oppression, and, finally, questions regarding our duties to people in other countries, and also to the environment as a whole.

This module will equip you with an understanding of contemporary debates within political theory, encouraging you to see the global relevance and future implications of the issues being discussed. You will also develop your skills in critical analysis, the ability to select and compare sources of information, and you will work as a team to create reports and presentations. We will also support you to become confident in presenting your ideas in a professional way. As well as weekly active learning sessions, your learning is scaffolded by a set of structured tasks, readings, and podcasts available via Canvas.

6b. Outline Content

- The nature and value of the state
- The nature and value of democracy
- Liberty, Rights, and Social Justice
- Capitalism and the Free Market
- Oppression and Power, and its relation to Race, Gender, Disability and Sexuality
- Marxism and the critique of Capitalism
- Global Justice
- Environmental Justice

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of some of the key thinkers in the history of political theory.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of what key thinkers have thought about topics such as Democracy, the State, Liberty, Equality, Rights, Capitalism, and Identity
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the nature of the state, and the philosophical groundings of Liberalism, Capitalism, Socialism, Marxism and Nationalism.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Work as part of a team to produce a presentation and report to a deadline.
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Articulate clear and concise arguments about political theory, both verbally and in writing.
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Develop skills for debating and presenting issues related to contemporary political theory, its history, and its practical applications.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	33	1,2,3,5,6	3 hour weekly lecture/seminars Weeks 1-11.
Other teacher managed learning	3	1-6	Week 12 – conference presentation.
Student managed learning	264	1-6	Structured tasks in Canvas, group work tasks, reading and researching for assignments.
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1,2,3,5,6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

2,000 word essay.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1,2,3,5,6	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

2,000 word essay.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	1-5	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Report based on group presentation - 1,500 words.

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]