

POU44112 — Political Parties

Module Information	
Module Code	<i>POU44112</i>
Module Title	<i>Political Parties</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Junior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Emanuel Coman</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026–27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>2 seminars per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	The module will focus on what parties stand for. As such, it will start with defining the meanings of the left–right spectrum in both economic and social terms while emphasising the role played by new issues (such as immigration and EU) in the articulation of the left-right continuum. Then the module will give a historical perspective of how our understanding of this left-right continuum has changed and continues to change. The final part of the module will discuss the main party families (Christian Democrats, Liberals, Conservatives, Social Democrats, Greens, the Far Right) with examples from Western democracies as well as Eastern Europe.
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module students should be able to: • Understand the meanings of the main dimensions of political conflict in modern democracies and their relationships with the social cleavages in the electorate

Module Content

	• Understand the origins of party systems in modern democracies, as well as their continuous transformations throughout time • Familiarise themselves with the main party families in Western Europe and Eastern Europe. • Identify the ways in which dimensions of political conflict in the new democracies of Eastern Europe differ from those in the older democracies, as well as the potential reasons for these differences.
Indicative Reading / Resources	

Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>Essay 30%, Exam 60%, In class presentation 10%</i>
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>
Any other information	