

POU44644 — Forecasting Politics

Module Information	
Module Code	POU44644
Module Title	<i>Forecasting Politics</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Thomas Chadeaux</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 ECTS</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 2</i>
Contact Hours	<i>2 lectures per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>This module examines the forecasting of political change — elections, armed conflicts, coups, and mass mobilisation. We ask what can and cannot be known in advance, and why the difference matters. Students learn to distinguish between structural conditions (often foreseeable) and triggering moments (often not), and apply methods including poll aggregation, time-series smoothing, risk indicators, and classification trees to real political cases. Alongside the technical work, the module draws on political science and forecasting research to examine why structural warnings so often go unheeded. A short description of the module.</i>
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to develop students' capacity to reason carefully about uncertainty and predictability in political life; to equip them with practical analytical tools for assessing structural risk across elections, conflicts, coups, and protest waves; and to cultivate habits of evidential honesty — distinguishing what analysis can legitimately claim from where it reaches its limits. A secondary aim is to connect these technical skills to the political science of why early warnings fail to produce action.
Learning Outcomes	1. Identify what can and cannot be known in advance about political events

Module Content

	2. Apply quantitative tools to assess political risk and interpret the output honestly 3. Communicate findings clearly to non-specialist audiences
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Assessment

Assessment Components	<i>Assignment 40%, Exam 60%</i>
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Additional Information

Prerequisites	<i>POU33011 (Research methods) or equivalent</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>