

POU44663 — Politics Across the Lifespan

Module Information	
Module Code	POU446633
Module Title	<i>Politics Across the Lifespan</i>
Department	<i>Political Science</i>
Year Group	<i>Senior Sophister</i>
Module Personnel	<i>Joseph B. Phillips</i>
Academic Year	<i>2026-27</i>
Credit Weighting	<i>5 credits</i>
Semester	<i>Semester 1</i>
Contact Hours	<i>1.5 hours per week</i>

Module Content	
Module Description	<i>How do individuals' political views come about? How do some people come to be more engaged in politics than others? Do people really become more conservative as they get older, or are people generally incapable of changing their minds? All of these questions reflect the fact that we are all born into a world with ongoing political divides and debates. Each one of us is shaped by this world, and in turn, our understandings of politics come to shape the future. In this module, we will consider various theories of how political attitudes form and change, how our experiences shape us, and whether those experiences even matter.</i>
Module Learning Aims	<i>This module will provide students with theoretical frameworks used to predict how political attitudes and behaviours form and change (or remain stable) over the lifespan.</i>
Learning Outcomes	<i>Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</i> <i>- Understand competing theories of political attitude formation and change</i> <i>- Apply theories of political attitude formation to particular political attitudes and behaviours</i>

Module Content	
	- <i>Compare and critically evaluate theories of political attitude formation</i> - <i>Identify gaps in the research agenda and potential opportunities for scholarly contribution</i>
Indicative Reading / Resources	<i>Recommended Background Reading Includes:</i> <i>Jennings, M. K., & Niemi, R. (1981). Generations and Politics: A Panel Study of Young Adults and Their Parents. Princeton University Press.</i> <i>Rouse, S. M., & Ross, A. D. (2018). The Politics of Millennials: Political Beliefs and Policy Preferences of America's Most Diverse Generation. University of Michigan Press.</i> <i>Much of our discussion will be around historic and contemporary journal articles.</i>

Assessment	
Assessment Components	<i>Participation 5%</i> <i>Recorded Research Presentation 35%</i> <i>Research Paper 60%</i>

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	<i>None</i>
Co-requisites	<i>None</i>