

British Politics and Society
Govt 2405

Henry Laurence

Mon, Weds 10.00 – 11.25 am, Pickering Room (Hubbard Hall)
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays 2-4 pm or by appointment.

Overview

Explores modern British politics in historical, social and cultural context. Considers the historical formation of the United Kingdom and the development of the modern democratic state, but focuses on political developments after 1945. Analyzes party politics, the Welfare State, Thatcherism, and the contemporary political scene. Explores policy issues including health and welfare, inequality, education, diversity, immigration policy and the media.

Requirements:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Midterm (approx. week 5) | 20% |
| • Paper 1 (5-7 pages) Due by Spring Break | 20% |
| • Paper 2 (5-7 pages) Due approx Week 12 | 20% |
| • Final exam or Final paper | 25% |
| • Class participation/pop quizzes | 15% |

NB These weightings are approximate. Every element must be completed satisfactorily: failure in any one may lead to failure in the class.

Current Events: you will be tested on UK current events in pop quizzes and the scheduled exams. Follow these events in at least one reliable UK source e.g. the *BBC*, *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Economist*, *Independent*, *Times* and *Daily Telegraph*

Podcasts: David Runciman's Talking Politics podcast is best for informed discussion of current issues. Radio 4's *Friday Night Comedy* (*The News Quiz* and *The Now Show*) are entertaining and highly recommended for current events.

PAPER POLICIES

Double-space. Use regular margins (Word default is 1 ¼ inch) and a normal font. (Times 12 point preferred).

Quotations longer than 3 lines should be indented and single-spaced. (“Normal Indent” in Word’s Format/Style menu)

Include PAGE-NUMBERS and DATE and a WORD COUNT.

PROOF-READ. Do NOT just run spell-checker, which often misses basic errors, eg it’s vs. its. Handwritten corrections are welcome.

Include a BIBLIOGRAPHY of all and only the sources you have cited. (Start on a new page. Alphabetize by Author’s last name)

Going over page/word count limits is fine unless there is an explicit maximum length.

Papers must be submitted in HARD COPY and STAPLED

CITATIONS and ACADEMIC HONESTY

Citations have two main purposes. (1) To acknowledge and give appropriate credit for other people’s work or ideas. (2) To allow your reader to locate (and if necessary consult) your sources

When you use information or ideas that came from someone or somewhere else, you must therefore acknowledge the source appropriately. Deliberate attempts to pass off someone else’s work as your own will result in automatic failure of the course and referral to the Judicial Board.

You may use any recognized citation format as long as you are consistent. If in doubt, please use the Chicago Manual of Style ‘Notes and Bibliography’ format. Quick guides, online and in pdf format, are available on the library website (Citing Sources/Chicago Quick Guide).

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR PAPER GRADE:

What I expect from a B range paper:

Makes a clear and compelling argument that directly answers the assigned question (where appropriate). Weighs all the available evidence in coming to the conclusion, and uses the best evidence in support of that conclusion. Carefully considers the strongest objections or alternative arguments, and demonstrates why the author's argument/interpretation is superior. Defines key terms appropriately. Avoids logical errors in argumentation or errors of fact. Writing style is clear, concise, and error-free.

A range: Typically demonstrates innovative or fresh thinking rather than a straight recapitulation of the arguments of others. Usually draws on evidence or material beyond the assigned readings if appropriate. Alternatively, the paper may do a particularly good job of drawing fresh connections between past and current material.

C range: falls short of some of the standards for a B paper, but it must:

- (1) make a clear argument;
- (2) demonstrate familiarity with the readings;
- (3) be grammatically correct
- (4) be free from factual errors
- (5) follow ALL the rules listed in "Paper Policies" and citation guidelines.

Papers which fail on one or more of these basic standards will be in the D or F range.

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE:

A Does all the reading and typically comes to class armed with thorough understanding, lively responses and further questions. Contributes intelligently; listens to and then responds to others. Proactive in initiating and sustaining illuminating discussion. Demonstrates excellent knowledge of current events.

B Does all the reading, contributes regularly. Scores well on tests.

C Does most of the reading, comes regularly to class, and says something, but usually only if called upon. Average test scores

D Comes to class but doesn't usually have much to say about the reading or the discussion.

F Misses classes; and is unable to demonstrate familiarity with readings. Almost never says anything unless asked directly.

British Politics 2018

Provisional Reading Schedule

These readings may be changed according to events. Please listen for class announcements.

Square brackets [] indicated that the reading is [recommended] not required.

Full citations for some of the readings on blackboard are given below, and also the first time the reading is listed. Please refer to it when citing. If citing a chapter from an edited volume, please refer to the author of the chapter, NOT simply the editor(s) of the anthology.

Ian Budge, David McKay, John Bartle and Ken Newton *The New British Politics* (Harlow: Pearson, 4th edition, 2007)

Mark Garnett and Philip Lynch *Exploring British Politics* (Pearson, 3rd edition 2012)

Richard Heffernan, Colin May, Meg Russell and Philip Cowley (eds) *Developments in British Politics 10* (Palgrave, 10th edition, 2016)

Bill Jones & Philip Norton *Politics UK* (Routledge, 8th edition, 2014)

Michael Moran *Politics and Governance in the UK* (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2nd edition 2011)

Philip Norton *The British Polity* (Longman: 5th edition, 2011)

1/22	Introduction	No Reading
1/24	Political development	<p>* Michael Moran <i>Politics and Governance in the UK</i> (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2nd edition 2011) Ch 2 “Britain: A Capitalist Democracy”</p> <p>* Ian Budge, David McKay, John Bartle and Ken Newton <i>The New British Politics</i> (Harlow: Pearson, 4th edition, 2007) Chapter 2 “1688-1931”</p> <p>[* Philip Norton <i>The British Polity</i> (Longman: 5th edition, 2011) Chs 1&3]</p>
1/29	1945-1951 Clement Attlee and the Welfare State	<p>* Budge et al. Ch. 3 1931-2006</p> <p>* Marr <i>A History of Modern Britain</i> pp 61-70</p> <p>* Martin Pugh <i>State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain</i> (Bloomsbury, 5th Ed. 2017) pp 330-357</p>
1/31	1979-1997 Thatcherism, neoliberalism Falklands War	<p>* Garnett and Lynch (2012) Ch 3 “From Attlee to Blair”</p> <p>* Martin Pugh <i>State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain</i> (Bloomsbury, 5th Ed. 2017) pp 433-461</p> <p>John Cassidy The Case for and against Thatcherism <i>The New Yorker</i> https://www.newyorker.com/news/john-cassidy/the-economic-case-for-and-against-thatcherism</p> <p>David Cameron <i>The Guardian</i> 10th April 2013 https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2013/apr/10/margaret-thatcher-tributes-david-cameron-speech</p> <p>[* Marr <i>History of Modern Britain</i> “The British Revolution” 381-474]</p>

2/5	1997-2010 New Labour; Iraq; 2008 crash	Heffernan et. al. 10 Ch 4 (Webb) "The Party System 1970-2015" 57-80
2/7	2010-2018 Coalitions	TBA
2/12	The Constitution	*Moran Ch 4 "Cultures, Constitutions" * Norton Ch 4 "Uncodified Constitution" [*Moran Ch 10 Scotland and Wales] [*Heffernan et. al. 10 Ch 13 (Jeffrey) "The UK after Scottish Referendum"]
2/14	Brexit and its implications	* Moran <i>Politics and Governance</i> Ch 5 Europeanizing British Politics pp 65-85 Heffernan et. al. 10 Ch 14 (Geddes) "Britain Beyond the EU" pp 264-287
2/19	Catch-up and Review	
2/21	Midterm	
2/26	The Prime Minister: Executive power	* Moran Ch 6 "The Core Executive" *Heffernan et al. 9 (2011) Ch 3 (Richards) "Changing Patterns of Executive Governance" [*Bill Jones & Philip Norton <i>Politics UK</i> (Routledge, 8 th edition, 2014) Ch 18 "The Core Executive"]
2/28	Parliament and Elections	* Moran Ch 9 Parliament *Mark Garnett and Philip Lynch <i>Exploring British Politics</i> (Pearson, 3 rd edition 2012) Ch 17 "Elections"
3/5	Political Parties	* Jones and Norton Ch 5 ("Political ideas: major parties);
3/7	Political parties	* Heffernan et. al. 10 Ch 5 (Kenny) "Ideological Politics") *Jones and Norton Ch 6 "Political ideas: themes and fringes"
	SPRING BREAK	
3/26	Northern Ireland	* Michael Moran <i>Politics and Governance in the UK</i> (Palgrave, 2nd ed. 2011) Ch 11 Northern Ireland pp. 197-211
3/28	Northern Ireland	* Heffernan et al. 9 Ch 9 Powersharing in Northern Ireland [*Keefe Where the bodies are buried" <i>The New Yorker</i> March 16 2015]
4/2	Education and social mobility	DVD/Documentary "21 Up" Lee Elliot Major "Attainment Gaps between Deprived and Advantaged Schools" Education Review vo. 22 no. 1 2009

4/4	Political Elites	Heffernan et al 10 Ch 7 Cowley Political Recruitment Irena Barker "Obsessed with Oxbridge" The Times Educational Supplement June 29 2012
4/9	The Welfare State	*Jones and Norton Ch 24 (Dodds) "Social Policy"
4/11	Future of the welfare state?	*Heffernan 10 Ch 11 (Mabbett) "Austerity"
4/16	Healthcare Policy	* TR Reid <i>The Healing of America</i> Ch 7 NHS [*Reid Ch 2 "Different Models"] [*Tuohy "The Establishment of the Welfare State in Health"]
4/18	NHS performance	* Ingleby et al. How does the NHS Measure Up? (LSE research online 2012)
4/23	Diversity	*Developments in British Politics, Ch. 11 (Heffernan et al) "Diversity" [* Norton Ch 2 Tables 2.1 and 2.2 p 36]
4/25	Immigration Policy	* Heffernan 10 Ch 12 Sobolewska and Ford "The Politics of Immigration" pp 221-242
4/30	Media and Politics	Heffernan et al. 12 Changing Media Environment
5/2	Economic Policy	TBA
5/7	Security Policy	Heffernan et al Security and Surveillance
5/9	Foreign Policy	TBA