

**British Politics and Society**  
Govt 2405

Henry Laurence

Mon, Weds 10.05 – 11.30 am Adams 406

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:

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|---|-----|
| • Midterm (approx. week 4)                | 15% |
| • 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 (8-10pp)      | 25% |
| • Class participation/pop quizzes         | 20% |

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. *The Guardian's* Politics Weekly and Daily "In Focus" are good resources. 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 2019**  
**Provisional Reading Schedule**

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

*Square brackets [] = 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, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007)

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

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

Bill Jones, Philip Norton and Oliver Daddow (eds) *Politics UK* (Routledge, 9th edition, 2018)

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

Philip Norton *The British Polity* (Longman: 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011)

1/23 W	Introduction	No Reading
1/28 M	Political development	<p>* Ian Budge, David McKay, John Bartle and Ken Newton <i>The New British Politics</i> (Harlow: Pearson, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007) Chapter 2 “1688-1931”</p> <p>* Philip Norton <i>The British Polity</i> (Longman: 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011) Chs 1&amp;3</p> <p>[* Michael Moran <i>Politics and Governance in the UK</i> (Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2011) Ch 2 “Britain: A Capitalist Democracy”]</p>
1/30 W	1945-1979 Consensus Politics and the Welfare State	<p>* Budge et al. Ch. 3 1931-2006</p> <p>* Martin Pugh <i>State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain</i> (Bloomsbury, 5th Ed. 2017) pp 330-356</p> <p>[* Oxford History of Britain pp 624-649]</p> <p>[* Marr <i>A History of Modern Britain</i> pp 61-70]</p>
2/4 M	1979-1997 Thatcherism, & Neoliberalism	<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 432-461</p> <p>[* Oxford History of Britain pp 649-663]</p> <p>[* Marr <i>History of Britain</i> “The British Revolution” 381-474]</p> <p>[John Cassidy The Case for and against Thatcherism <i>The New Yorker</i>]</p>

		[David Cameron tribute to Margaret Thatcher <i>The Guardian</i> 10th April 2013]
2/5 Tues	<i>Special session Kresge 7.30-9.00 pm</i>	BREXIT EXPLAINED
2/6 W	1997-2010 New Labour to Brexit	* <i>Oxford History of Britain</i> 663-677 * Heffernan “Labour’s New Labour Legacy” <i>Political Science Review</i> 2011 vol. 9
2/11 M	2010-2017 Coalitions	* Heffernan et. al # 10 Ch 4 (Webb) “The Party System” * Heffernan et. al. #10 Ch 5 (Kenny) “Ideological Politics” * Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Epilogue “3 Turbulent Years”  [Vernon Bogdanor “2017 Election of the Trojan Horses” <i>Political Quarterly</i> 88.3 Sept 2017]
2/13 W	Brexit	* Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed. Ch 7 “Euroscepticism to Brexit” * Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed. Ch 28 “Britain and the EU”  [* Moran <i>Politics and Governance</i> Ch 5 Europeanizing British Politics pp 65-85] [*Heffernan etc #10 Ch 14 (Geddes) “Britain Beyond EU” 264-287]
2/18 M	Catch-up and review	
2/20 W	<b>Midterm</b>	
2/25 M	The Constitution	* Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 14 “Changing Constitution” * Moran Ch 4 “Cultures, Constitutions”  [* Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 15 “The Crown”] [* Norton Ch 4 “Uncodified Constitution”]
2/27 W	The Prime Minister & Executive power	* Moran Ch 6 “The Core Executive” * Bill Jones & Philip Norton <i>Politics UK</i> (Routledge, 9 <sup>th</sup> edition, 2018) Ch 19 “The Core Executive”  [* Heffernan et al. 9 (2011) Ch 3 (Richards) “Changing Patterns of Executive Governance”]
3/4 M	Parliament and Elections	* Moran Ch 9 Parliament * Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 8 Elections * Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed. Ch 5 “Political ideas: major parties
3/6 W	Devolution and N. Ireland	* Michael Moran <i>Politics and Governance in the UK</i> (Palgrave, 2nd ed. 2011) Ch 11 Northern Ireland pp. 197-211 * Moran Ch 10 Scotland and Wales  [* Heffernan #10 Ch 13 (Jeffrey) “The UK after Scottish Referendum”] [* Heffernan # 9 Ch 9 Powersharing in Northern Ireland]

3/12-3/24	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
3/25 M	Populism and identity I	*David Goodhart <i>The Road to Somewhere: The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics</i> (London: Hurst & Co., 2017) Ch 1&2 (1-18, 19-47,) Fintan O'Toole "The Paranoid Fantasy Behind Brexit" <i>Guardian</i> 'Long Read' (16/11/2018) or Long Read podcast <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2018/nov/23/the-paranoid-fantasy-behind-brex-it-podcast">https://www.theguardian.com/news/audio/2018/nov/23/the-paranoid-fantasy-behind-brex-it-podcast</a>
3/27 W	Populism and identity II	*Robert Preston <i>WTF?</i> (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2017) Chs 1 and 2 (pp 1-53)
4/1 M	Social Class and social mobility	* Goodhart Ch 7 Achievement Society * Heffernan et al 10 Ch 7 Cowley Political Recruitment
4/3 W	Elitism and the "Oxbridge" question	Irena Barker "Obsessed with Oxbridge" The Times Educational Supplement June 29 2012
4/8 M	The Welfare State	*Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 25 (Dodds) "Social Policy" *Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed "Towards a More Equal Society"
4/10 W	Austerity	*Heffernan 10 Ch 11 (Mabbett) "Austerity"
4/15 M	Healthcare Policy	*Reid Ch 2 "Different Models" * TR Reid <i>The Healing of America</i> Ch 7 NHS
4/17 W	NHS	* Ingleby et al. How does the NHS Measure Up? (LSE research online 2012)
4/22 M	Diversity	* Heffernan #10 <i>Developments</i> Ch. 11 "Diversity" * Norton Ch 2 Tables 2.1 and 2.2 p 36
4/24 W	Immigration Policy	* Heffernan #10 Ch 12 Sobolewska and Ford "The Politics of Immigration" pp 221-242 * Goodhart <i>Road to Somewhere</i> Ch. 5 "A Foreign Country"
4/29 M	Media and Politics	* Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 9 "Mass Media" * Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed "Fake News"  [* Heffernan et al. # 10 Ch 12 "Changing Media Environment"]
5/1 W	The BBC	TBA
5/6 M	Security Policy	Heffernan et al # 10 Security and Surveillance
5/8 W	Catchup and Review	No reading
TBD	Final Exam	

