

**British Politics and Society**  
Govt 2405

Henry Laurence

Mon, Weds 10.05 – 11.30 am

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3 pm and Fridays 2-4 pm or by appointment.

Overview

Explores modern British politics in historical, social and cultural context. Considers the historical roots of the modern democratic state, but focuses on political developments after 1945. Analyzes the birth of the welfare state, neoliberalism, Brexit, and the contemporary political scene. Explores policy issues including health and welfare, inequality, education, cultural change, diversity, immigration policy and populism.

Requirements:

- 4 short (15 min) in-class reading quizzes 30%
- Paper 1 (5-7 pages) Due in class on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 20%
- Paper 2 (5-7 pages) Due 5.00 pm Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> 20%
- Final exam or final paper (8-10pp) 20%
- Class participation 10%

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 class discussions, quizzes, and 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 very informed discussion of current issues. *The Guardian's* Politics Weekly and Daily "In Focus" are great 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 2020**  
**Provisional Reading Schedule**

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

[ ] Square brackets [ ] = reading is recommended not required.

\* Available on Blackboard

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. If referring to a source cited by another source, give proper citation to both, saying “X cited in Y”.

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)

1/22 W	Introduction	
1/27 M	Political development	<p>* Philip Norton <i>The British Polity</i> (Longman: 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2011) Ch. 3</p> <p>* David Reynolds “Why Britain Punched above its Weight” BBC History Magazine Dec 2019, 43-47 [Or listen to interview with David Reynolds, <i>History Extra</i> podcast Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020)</p> <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>[* 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>
1/29 W	1945-1979 Consensus Politics	<p>* Marr <i>A History of Modern Britain</i> pp 61-70</p> <p>* Budge et al. Ch. 3 1931-2006</p> <p>* Oxford <i>History of Britain</i> pp 624-649</p> <p>[* Martin Pugh <i>State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain</i> (Bloomsbury, 5th Ed. 2017) pp 330-356]</p>

2/3 M	1979-1997 Thatcherism	*Oxford <i>History of Britain</i> pp 649-663 *Martin Pugh <i>State and Society: A Social and Political History of Britain</i> (Bloomsbury, 5th Ed. 2017) pp 432-461 * Garnett and Lynch (2012) Ch 3 “From Attlee to Blair” esp 53-66  [James Wood “Can You Forgive Her? How Margaret Thatcher Ruled” <i>New Yorker</i> Dec 2 2019]
2/5 W <i>Quiz 1</i>	Thatcher’s legacy	John Cassidy “The Economic Case for and against Thatcherism” <i>The New Yorker</i> April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2013 James Bell “The Thatcher Effect: What Changed and What Stayed the Same?” <i>Guardian</i> 4/12/13 “Margaret Thatcher: A Cut above the Rest” <i>Economist</i> blog 4/8/2013 [David Cameron “Tribute to Margaret Thatcher <i>Guardian</i> 4/10/13]
2/10 M	1997-2010 New Labour	* <i>Oxford History of Britain</i> 663-677 * Heffernan “Labour’s New Labour Legacy” <i>Political Science Review</i> 2011 vol. 9
2/12 W	Devolution: N Ireland and Scotland	* 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”
2/17 M	2010-2020	*Jones and Norton <i>Politics UK</i> 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 5 “Political Parties” [* Heffernan et. al # 10 Ch 4 (Webb) “The Party System”] [* Heffernan et. al. #10 Ch 5 (Kenny) “Ideological Politics”]
2/19 W	EU relations	* Jones and Norton <i>Politics UK</i> 9 <sup>th</sup> ed. Ch 7 “Euroscepticism to Brexit” *Jones and Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> Ed. Epilogue “3 Turbulent Years” [* 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 65-85]
2/24 M <i>Quiz 2</i>	Explaining Brexit	Pippa Norris and Ron Inglehart <i>Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit and Authoritarian Populism</i> (Cambridge UP, 2019) Ch 11 “Brexit” (e-book, access via library website) *Robert Preston <i>WTF?</i> (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 2017) Ch 1
2/26 W	Cultural backlash or economic grievance?	*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 <i>Guardian Long Read</i> podcast)
3/2 M	The Constitution	*Jones, Norton 9 <sup>th</sup> ed Ch 14 “Changing Constitution”

		<p>[*Moran Ch 4 “Cultures, Constitutions”]  [*Jones, Norton 9<sup>th</sup> ed Ch 15 “The Crown”]  [* Norton Ch 4 “Uncodified Constitution”]</p>
3/4 W <b>Paper 1 due</b>	The Prime Minister	<p>*Bill Jones &amp; Philip Norton <i>Politics UK</i> (Routledge, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2018) Ch 19 “The Core Executive”  [* Moran Ch 6 “The Core Executive”]</p>
3/6-3/22	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	
3/23 M	Education policy	<p>*Norton <i>The British Polity</i> Ch 1  "Education Reform: The New School Rules" <i>The Economist</i> October 11th 2014  “Coalition Education Reforms Fuelled Inequality” <i>Guardian</i> 6/30/2018</p>
3/25 W	Higher Education	<p>*Alan Rusbridger “If Oxford Shrugs” <i>Prospect Magazine</i> September 18 2018.  Sally Weale <i>et al.</i> “Oxford is Becoming Less Diverse” <i>Guardian</i> October 19<sup>th</sup> 2017  “Are Oxford and Cambridge Fostering Social Apartheid? Probably Not” <i>The Economist</i> Oct 20th 2017</p> <p>[Richard Adams and Caelainn Barr “Oxford Faces Anger over Failure to Improve Diversity” <i>Guardian</i> 5/23/18]</p>
3/30 M	Social Mobility	<p>* Goodhart Ch 7 “Achievement Society”  * Peston <i>WTF</i> Ch 2 “Death of Progress” 29-53</p>
4/1 W	Inequality	<p>TBA</p> <p>[* Heffernan et al 10 Ch 7 Cowley “Political Recruitment”]</p>
4/6 M <b>Quiz 3</b>	The Welfare State	<p>*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”</p>
4/8 W	NHS	<p>* TR Reid <i>The Healing of America</i> Ch 2 “Different Models”  * Reid Ch 7 “The UK”  <i>Guardian</i> “Is the NHS the World’s Best Health System?” 7/2/18  <i>BBC</i> “NHS ranked Number one Health system” 7/14/17  [Commonwealth Fund <i>Mirror Mirror</i> 2017]</p>
4/13 M	Austerity	<p>*Heffernan 10 Ch 11 (Mabbett) “Austerity”  <i>BBC</i> “What is universal credit, what’s the problem?” 10/11/2018  <i>BBC</i> “Poverty Causing Misery in UK” 11/16/2018”</p>
4/15 W	Future of the Welfare State	<p>Jane Gingrich and Des King “Americanising Brexit Britain’s Welfare State?” <i>Political Quarterly</i> Jan 2019</p>
4/20 M	Gender	TBA

4/22 W <b>Quiz 4</b>	LGBTQ politics	<i>Guardian</i> “The Guardian View on LGBT Rights” 7/3/2018 Kate Kellaway “When Miners and Gay Activists United” <i>Guardian</i> 8/31/2014
4/27 M	Immigration Policy	<i>The Economist</i> “Rivers of Blood” April 20th 2018 * 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 W	Racial politics	Heffernan #10 <i>Developments</i> Ch. 11 “Diversity” * Norton Ch 2 Tables 2.1 and 2.2 p 36 Maria Sobolewska and Rob Ford “British Culture Wars? Brexit and the Future Politics of Immigration and Ethnic Diversity” <i>Political Quarterly</i> Vol. 90, Issue S2 2019 Ellie Hall “20 headlines comparing Meghan Markle to Kate Middleton” <i>Buzzfeed News</i> Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> 2020
5/1 F <b>Paper 2 Due</b>		
5/4 M	Populism and national identity	*Roger Eatwell and Matthew Goodwin <i>National Populism: the Revolt against Liberal Democracy</i> (Pelican, 2018) Intro, Ch. 1, Conclusion] * Fintan O’Toole <i>Heroic Failure</i> Ch 4 “A Pint of Beer...” 95-121  [Pippa Norris and Ron Inglehart <i>Cultural Backlash: Trump, Brexit and Authoritarian Populism</i> (Cambridge UP, 2019) Chs 1, 2 (11) (e-book, access via library website)]
5/6 W	The future of UK politics	TBA
TBD	Final Exam	
Other Readings:		Tom McTague “How the Pandemic Revealed Britain’s National Illness” <i>Atlantic</i> August 12 2020.

