Welsh Assembly Internship
Arcadia University

WELI PSUK 342 From a 'New Jerusalem' to 'Big Society:' Postwar British Politics
Number of credits: 4

Prerequisites

This is an upper-level course. Students must have taken introductory courses in Political Science, preferably comparative politics or international relations. Students should also have a basic appreciation for the recent political history of Western Europe and a keen interest in the present-day politics of the United Kingdom.

Class Description

This course surveys modern British politics and policy since 1945—from the election of Clement Atlee to the formation of a coalition government under David Cameron. In between , the course investigates how social, economic, and cultural changes in the UK have been reflected in the type of politics and the kinds of policy created in Whitehall over the last sixty years. As such, the course begins with an in-depth investigation of British governance and institutions at the beginning of the postwar period before moving into specific discussions framing British politics during this time period.

The module features weekly lecture and seminars with intensive course readings. Students are required to complete all readings before class. Students who fail to do so will be asked to leave.

Assessment Components

Mid-term Examination: 25%
Final Examination: 25%

2,500-word Term Essay: 50%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: A+: An authoritative, full understanding of key facts demonstrating, for example, extensive originality in analysis, comprehensive understanding of methodologies with a high degree of precision. Highly independent and critical judgment is excellently structured, focused, and well-written. Extensive range of sources is used and applied highly insightfully.

A-: Thorough understanding of key concepts demonstrating insight and a good level of analysis. A comprehensive range of relevant literature/evidence is used demonstrating

independent thought and extensive reading. A clear, logical and integrated presentation.

Grade B: B+: A good understanding of all key issues and wider implications with a convincing analysis. A breadth in examples and literature/evidence is used without any major omissions and the piece is presented in a coherent and logical presentation.

B-: A good understanding of key concepts with development of analytical thought is demonstrated by a good use of relevant literature/evidence. Presentation is coherent and logical with some minor grammatical or conventional errors.

Grade C: A sound understanding of the issues is demonstrated but analytical thought is generally minimal. Appropriate material is utilized but little evidence of extended reading and possibly some omissions. Presentation is clear but minimally developed and affected by grammatical or conventional errors.

Grade D: General knowledge demonstrated but analysis is limited in depth and breadth resulting in work that is mainly descriptive. Sparse coverage of basic literature/material or a low quality of evidence is used to support claims. Adequate presentation with some unclear sections.

Grade F: Very little knowledge that lacks focus or recognizable analysis. Key issues are not identified and inappropriate literature/material is used in a disorganized or unclear presentation. Numerous spelling and grammatical errors impair an argument and structure that is, at times, unacceptably brief.

Grade conversion

Arcadia in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A+=70
A=68-69
A-=65-67

B+=60-64
B=55-59
B-=50-54

C+=47-49
C=43-46
C-=40-42

D=30-39

F=below 30

Attendance Policy

ARCADIA has a strict policy about course attendance. Illness or family emergencies may require a student's absence. Such an absence must be documented by a physician's note or by consultation with the Arcadia University London Office prior to the absence. The Office will inform the Director of the circumstances requiring the absence. The Director will have the final decision on the disposition of an absence. The absent student is always responsible for assignments missed.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Arrival at work or class more than ten minutes late or leaving the class early will be considered an absence.

Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit,** transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student's responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

Required Text(s)

Jonathan Hollowell Ed. *Britain Since 1945* (London: Blackwell, 2002) ISBN: 0631209689; Cost: To be Determined.

Michael Moran, *Politics and Government in the UK* 2nd Ed (London: Blackwell, 2011). ISBN: 0230289991; Cost: To Be Determined.

Patrick Dunleavy, Richard Heffernan, et. al Eds. *Developments in British Politics* 7th Ed (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2006). ISBN: 0333987055; Cost: To Be Determined.

All other course readings will be available on Blackboard

Session 1

Introducing Modern British Politics

- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapters 8, 12-15
- Moran, Chapters 1-3

Session 2

Political Institutions

- 'Ideology and the Liberal Tradition' in Jones and Norton Eds. *Politics UK,* 7th Ed. (London: Pearson, 2010), Pgs 59-72 [On Blackboard]
- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapter 2
- Moran, Chapters 7-10
- *Developments in British Politics,* Chapters 2,4

Session 3

Parties and Public Opinion

- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapter 3
- Harold Clarke et. al *Political Choice in Britain* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004), Chapters 1-4 [On Blackboard]
- Moran, Chapters 13-15

Session 4

Elections and the Media

- *Developments in British Politics,* Chapters 6,8
- Moran, Chapters 16-18
- Selections from John Harris, *The Last Party: Britpop, Blair, and the Demise of English Rock* (London: Harper, 2010)
- Colin Seymour-Ure, *Prime Ministers and the Media* (London: Blackwell, 2003), Chapters 1-3, 6 [On Blackboard]
  [You may also wish to consult Lance Prince, *Where Power Lies* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2011)]

Session 5

The British Welfare State

- *Developments in British Politics,* Chapters 14-16
- Howard Glennerster, *British Social Policy Since 1945* (London: Blackwell, 1996), Chapters 1-3, 7-10
- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapter 23
- Prime Minister Clement Atlee calls for a 'New Jerusalem' [Speech on Blackboard]

In-Class Midterm Exam

Session 6

Thatcherism

- Selections from **Stuart Hall**, *The* **Hard Road to Renewal**: *Thatcherism and the Crisis of the Left* (London: Verso, 1988), Pgs 21-52, 88-127 [On Blackboard]
- David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005), Chapters 1-2
- Richard Vinen, *Thatcher's Britain: The Politics and Social Upheaval of the Thatcher Era* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2009), Chapters 3-5

Session 7

Towards a More (Im)perfect Union: the UK and the EC/EU

- Moran, Chapter 3
- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapter 4
- Andrew Geddes, *The European Union and British Politics* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003), Chapters 1-5 [On Blackboard]
- Geddes, 'Getting the best of both worlds? Britain, the EU and migration policy' Issue International Affairs Vol 81, Iss 4 (July 2005), Pgs 723-740 [On Blackboard]

Session 8

New Labour, New Constitution?

- *Developments in British Politics,* Chapters 12, 13
- Moran, Chapters 22-23
- Selections from Antony Crossland, *The Future of Socialism* (1956) [On Blackboard]
- 'Social Justice' and 'Stakeholder Britain' in Tony Blair, *New Britain: My Vision of a Young Country* (London: Fourth Estate, 1996)
- Selections from Martell and Driver, *New Labour: Politics after Thatcherism* (London: Polity, 1998)

Session 9

Race and British Politics

- *Britain Since 1945*, Chapter 16
- Selections from Sam Selvon *The Lonely Londoners*, 1956. (London: Penguin, 2004). [On Blackboard]
- "Race, Class, and Agency" in Paul Gilroy *There Ain't No Black in the Union Jac The Cultural Politics of Race and Nation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), Pgs 15-43. [On Blackboard]
- John Solomos *Race and Racism in Britain* 3rd Rev Ed. (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2003), Chapters 3,4,6-7,9 [On Blackboard]

Session 10

Northern Ireland I

- Jonathan Tonge, *Northern Ireland: Conflict and Change* 2nd Ed (Longman, 2001), Chapters 1-5, 8 [On Blackboard]
- A. Lijphart 'The Northern Ireland Problem' *British Journal of Political Science* 34:2 (1975), Pgs 83-106
- *Developments in British Politics,* Chapter 10

Session 11

Northern Ireland II

- Tonge,*The New Northern Irish Politics?* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2004), Chapters 2-5, 8-10
- Ruane and Todd, *After the Good Friday Agreement* (Dublin: UCD Press, 2000), Chapters 2-3, 5

Session 12

'Do the right thing:' The end of New Labour and the rise of Modern Conservatives

- Steve Richards, 'The long-term impact of the banking crisis on British Politics' in Jones and Norton Eds. *Politics UK*, Pgs 110-125
- Selections from Richards, *Whatever It Takes: The Real Story of Gordon Brown and New Labour* (London: Fourth Estate, 2010).
- Owen Hatherley, *A Guide to the New Ruins of Great Britain* (London: Verso, 2010), Chapters 1-3.

Classroom Etiquette

Eating is not permitted in any classrooms. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular Activities

Walking tour of Whitehall (Date TBA)
Visit to Houses of Parliament (Date TBA)

Suggested Co-curricular

Students are encouraged to check Blackboard for the most up-to-date listing of lectures occurring across the Capital during the semester.