Welsh Assembly Internship
Arcadia University

WELI PSUK 340 Devolution in the UK: A Dis-United Kingdom?
Number of credits: 4

1998 saw the passage of legislation to establish devolution in Wales, Northern Ireland, and Scotland. Only two years later, Labor MP Tam Dalyell concluded that this would result in the "End of Britain." With this perspective in mind, this module analyzes the impact of the ongoing devolution process upon the politics and culture of the United Kingdom. After a theoretical overview of the concept of devolution, and within the context of their relationships with the Westminster Parliament, the module explores the roles of the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, and the Northern Ireland Assembly. It will consider a number of key issues:

1. What factors led to the 1998 legislation?
2. How have the Parliaments and assemblies in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland developed?
3. How effectively have they addressed public policy issues within each country?
4. What has been the impact of these Parliaments and assemblies for politics and the party system in each country?
5. How has devolution affected and been affected by the concept of national identity?
6. How does devolution in the UK relate to the European Union?
7. Should devolution be regarded as a process rather than an event?
8. What are the implications of devolution for the future of the United Kingdom?

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the module, students should be able to:

1. Identify the key conceptual principles of integration, federalism, and devolution and their application to the UK;
2. Understand the historical attempts to devolve parliaments;
3. Comprehend the different powers of each of the devolved institutions in the UK;
4. Assess the distinctive aspects of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish politics and society that have shaped devolved institutions;
5. Evaluate the impact of devolution upon public policy;
6. Understand the debates surrounding the impact of devolution on the future of the UK.

Reading

Vernon Bogdanor, *Devolution in the United Kingdom*. (Oxford University Press, 2001.) ISBN: 0192801287; Cost: To Be Determined.
Derek Birrell, *The Impact of Devolution on Social Policy.* (Policy Press, 2009.) ISBN: 184742225X; Cost: To Be Determined.
Alan Trench (Ed), *The State of the Nations 2008*: Into the Third Term of Devolution in the UK, (Imprint, 2008.) ISBN: 1845401263; Cost: To Be Determined.

Module handbook containing selected readings.