

Professor David L. Fisk
Summer Session II 2015
Office Hours: 2:00-3:00 MW
Office Location: Social Sciences Building 325
Class Schedule: 11:00-1:50 TR
Class Location: Warren Lecture Hall 2110
E-mail: dfisk@ucsd.edu

POLI 120G: BRITISH POLITICS

Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the modern British political process. We will begin the course with an examination of British political institutions, examining the evolving relationship between the British monarchy and the British parliament. We will then examine the functions of the British executive, legislative, and judicial branches and the effects of devolution on the British political system. We will conclude with an examination of British foreign policy and a discussion of prospects for the British political system.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand how British political institutions are structured.
2. Analyze pressing domestic and international political issues in British politics.
3. Evaluate whether or not British politics is undergoing systemic change.
4. Improve their oral and written communication skills.

Course Assignments/Grading: The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Midterm Examination: 45%
Final Examination: 45%

Attendance and Participation: Due to the way in which themes will be presented in this course, regular attendance and participation is required. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions, which will integrate theoretical materials and lecture topics with current events. Current events analysis will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate in course discussions. You may wish to sign up for e-mail alerts from your favorite websites. The following is a list of news websites that may be of use. Please be advised that the list is not exhaustive:

New York Times Online (<http://www.nytimes.com>)
Economist Online (<http://www.economist.com>)
BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk>)
Financial Times (<http://www.ft.com>)

Midterm and Final Examinations: The topic and due dates for the midterm and the final examination will be discussed in lecture. Please be advised that both course examinations build on material discussed in lecture and course readings. **Both examinations will be 6-8 pages in length and require the submission of a hard copy in class AND an electronic submission to**

turnitin.com. We will not grade any paper for which we do not have both a hard copy and an electronic submission.

Late Assignments: Barring emergencies accompanied by valid documentation, **no late assignments will be accepted.** Unless otherwise indicated, a hard copy of each paper is required; e-mail attachments will **not typically** be accepted. Please be advised that we will not typically entertain any request to accept a late paper for which we are not made aware prior to the due date. As it is your responsibility to ensure that turnitin.com submissions occur prior to the stated deadline, we will also not entertain any late turnitin.com requests. **Please plan accordingly, because if you do not submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy to turnitin.com before stated deadlines, you will fail the course.**

Academic Integrity: While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis in a manner consistent with UCSD policies on academic integrity. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures. Please be advised that under no circumstances will credit be given for any assignment which is deemed to violate UCSD's policies on academic integrity.

Reading Schedule: Given that this is an upper division course, the reading load is extensive (although it is nothing compared to what you will see in graduate programs). As this is a summer session class, the weekly reading schedule is also greater than would be the case during the regular school year. While we recognize that students have a variety of responsibilities, we expect students to attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the course readings as you cannot succeed in this course without doing the readings. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session as course assignments will require students to show understanding of course readings. My best advice is to read for the key ideas/argument and then skim the remainder of the text. **Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at:** <http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf>.

Required Books:

Jones and Norton. Politics UK. 8th Edition. Routledge.
Heffernan et al. Developments in British Politics 9. Palgrave Macmillan.
Heppel and Seawright. Cameron and the Conservatives. Palgrave Macmillan
Diamond and Kenny. Reassessing New Labour. Wiley.

Optional Books:

Archer. First Among Equals. St. Martins

Reading Note: Where required, please read Jones and Norton chapters prior to reading the other materials for a unit. Archer is a novel, it reads easy, but is less of a priority than the material from the other books. If you would like more background into how parliament functions "behind the scenes," it is worth a read. If that is not of interest to you, you may omit it.

UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (3-7 August):

The British People and the Modern State

Jones and Norton pgs. 38-46

UNIT TWO: BRITISH POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

The Changing British Constitution and Monarchy

Jones and Norton pgs. 250-254 and CH 14

OPTIONAL: Begin Archer

The Prime Minister and Cabinet

Jones and Norton CH 18 and pgs. 390-396

Heffernan et al. CH 3

The British Parliament

Jones and Norton CH 15-17

Halisham (Elective Dictatorship)*

Week 2 (10-14 August):

Campaigns, Elections and the British Party System

Jones and Norton CH 7 and 11

Heffernan et al. CH 5 and 6

Devolution

Jones and Norton CH 12

Heffernan et al. CH 7

Optional: Finish Archer

MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

Week 3 (17-21 August):

Evaluating Constitutional Reform

Heffernan et al. CH 2

Diamond and Kenny pgs. 53-77 and 96-107

Heffel and Seawright CH 8

The British Judiciary

Jones and Norton CH 21

Diamond and Kenny pgs. 78-95

UNIT THREE: DOMESTIC ISSUES IN BRITISH POLITICS

Economic Policy

Jones and Norton CH 25

Heffernan et al. CH 13

Diamond and Kenny pgs. 108-139

Heffel and Seawright CH 5

Week 4 (24-28 August):

Social Policy

Jones and Norton CH 24

Diamond and Kenny pgs. 16-45

Heppel and Seawright CH 10

Immigration, Integration and British Politics

Jones and Norton CH 23

Heffernan et al CH 11 and 15

Heppel and Seawright CH 7

UNIT FOUR: BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY

Britain in the EU

Jones and Norton CH 27

Heffernan et al. CH 14

Heppel and Seawright CH 6

FINAL DISTRIBUTED

Week 5 (31 August-4 September):

Britain in the World

Jones and Norton CH 26

Heffernan et al. CH 16

Heppel and Seawright CH 9

FINAL EXAMINATION DUE 11:30am-2:30pm ON 5 SEPTEMBER 2015

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.