

Government 90a	CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POLITICS
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CGIS N307 495-2184

Fall 2005

Thursdays 2-4

The seminar surveys modern British politics and policy. Fifty years ago British government was seen as a model of efficiency. Then for a time its troubled economy and domestic unrest dominated the news. Next came a renaissance. Then all was doom and gloom again. After that, soon-to-be Prime Minister Blair, never one to exaggerate, promised “The biggest programme of change to democracy ever proposed.”

Less than twenty years ago the Labour Party was given up for dead. Now there is New Labour, set to govern for more than a decade! How did all this come about? How real and permanent are the changes? We look at changing social structures and political institutions, Britain's internal wars, national and international relationships, and domestic political economy.

The course is designed to make students familiar with the contemporary political scene in Britain and able to discuss current issues there without feeling as though they got off the boat yesterday (even if they did!). Students thinking of spending some time in Britain doing research or those who are simply interested in Britain as a case for comparison with the US and other countries will find the seminar valuable. We juggle breadth and depth, building up some historical context for each issue while also attending to contemporary debates in order to end up with a feeling for how the country works, politically, culturally, socially. Readings, including a few photocopies of articles, are on reserve at Lamont and Hilles. Many sessions include supplementary readings from current (electronic) periodicals and other electronic sources. Copies of assigned readings marked "*" are on order at the Coop.

The seminar meets weekly. Students are expected to have covered assigned readings in advance. Whether a reading is essential for discussion, important for a paper, or optional is indicated below. Each week some discussion questions are provided. Each student will be responsible for preparing brief (six-pages-**maximum**) written answers to **one** of these questions not less than five times during the semester. The discussion questions will be posted at the course Website. The papers must be in not later than 6 pm the Wednesday before the seminar. Nearly all papers now come in as attachments to email.

September 22nd	Course Introduction
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The first meeting of the course will take place on Thursday, September 22nd at 2pm. This session will provide an introduction to the course, look at the question Why Study Britain?, and introduce the past half century of events, parties, personalities, and institutional changes. There are no discussion questions, and no written assignment for this week.

September 29th**British Politics: Where it's been**

- * Jonathan Hollowell (ed.) *Britain Since 1945*, Chs. 8, 12-15. (*essential*)
 - * Michael Moran, *Politics and Governance in the UK*, Chs. 1-3 (*essential*)
 - * Patrick Dunleavy et al. (eds.), *Developments in British Politics 7*, Ch. 1, 5
- Optional: Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, 4th ed. Chs. 1-3

October 6th**Political Institutions**

- * Hollowell *Britain Since 1945*, Ch. 2
 - * Moran, *Politics and Governance* Chs. 5, 7-10 (*essential*)
 - * Patrick Dunleavy et al. (eds.), *Developments in British Politics 7*, Chs. 2,4 (*essential*)
- Walter Bagehot, *The English Constitution*, Chs. 1, 7 (*essential*)
- Optional: Norton, *The British Polity*, 4th ed. Chs. 7, 8, 12-14

October 13th**Parties and Public Opinion**

- * Hollowell *Britain Since 1945*, Ch. 3
 - * Harold Clarke et al., *Political Choice in Britain*, Chs. 1-4 (5, 6 optional) (*essential*)
 - * Moran, *Politics and Governance* Chs. 13-15 (*essential*)
 - * Dunleavy, *Developments 7*, Chs. 7
- Dunleavy, *Voices of the People*, pp. 12-24, 40-57
- Optional: Norton, *The British Polity*, 4th ed. Chs. 5, 6

October 20th**Elections and the Media**

- * Dunleavy, *Developments 7*, Chs. 6, 8
 - * Hollowell, Ch. 11
 - * Moran, *Politics and Governance* Chs. 16-18 (*essential*)
 - * Colin Seymour-Ure, *Prime Ministers and the Media*, Backwell Chs. 1-3, 6, 7. (*essential*)
- Pippa Norris, *Britain Votes 2001*, pp. 102-136 (*essential*)
- Optional: Cockerell, Hennessey, Walker, *Sources Close to the Prime Minister*, Chs. 2-4

October 27th**Britain and the EC/EU**

- * Andrew Geddes, *The European Union and British Politics* Chs. 1-7 (*essential*)
- * Moran, *Politics and Governance* Ch. 6 (*essential*)
- * Dunleavy, *Developments 7*, Ch. 3
- * Hollowell, *Britain Since 1945*, Ch. 4

Danny Nicol, *EC Membership and the Judicialisation of British Politics*, chs 1, 9 (*essential*)
 Robert Hazell (ed.), *Constitutional Futures*, ch. 5
Optional: * Norton, *British Polity*, Ch. 9
 Philip Norton, *New Directions in British Politics*, Chs. 6, 7
 Nicol, *EC Membership*, chs 7-8.

November 2nd	New Labour, New Constitution?
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The Constitution Unit, [Monitor](#), last year or two (*essential*)
 * Dunleavy, *Developments* 7, Chs. 2 (*reprise*), 12, 13
 * Moran, *Politics and Governance* Chs. 22-23
 Antony Crosland, *The Future of Socialism*, Ch. 5 “The Meaning of Socialism” (*essential*)
 Tony Blair, *New Britain: My Vision*, Chs. 14 “Social Justice”, 34-36 “Stakeholder Britain” (*essential*)
Optional: S. Driver and L. Martell, *Blair’s Britain*, Chs 3,7, Afterword
 or *New Labour: Politics after Thatcherism*, esp. Chs. 1,4
 Gerald Taylor, *Impact of New Labour*, esp. Chs. 2-4

November 10th	The British Welfare State
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* Dunleavy, *Developments* 7, Chs. 14-16 (*essential*)
 * Howard Glennerster, *British Social Policy Since 1945*, 2nd ed., Chs. 1-3, 7-10 (*essential*)
 * Hollowell, *Britain Since 1945*, Ch. 23
 Paul Pierson, *Dismantling the Welfare State*, Cambridge, Ch. 6
Optional: Samuel Beer, *Britain Against Itself*, Norton, 1982, chs. 3.
 J. Greenaway, *Deciding Factors in British Politics*, Chs. 4, 8

November 17th	Race and British Politics
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* John Solomos, *Race and Racism in Britain*, 3rd ed. Chs. 3, 4, 6, 7, 9 (*essential*)
 Blackstone et al., *Race Relations in Britain: A Developing Agenda* Chs. 4, 8 (*essential*)
 Mike Phillips, *Windrush: The Irresistible Rise of Multiracial Britain*, Chs. 25-27
 * Norton, *British Polity*, Ch. 14
 * Hollowell, Ch. 16
 Panikos Panayi, *The Impact of Immigration in Post-War Britain* (Manchester), Chs. 1, 4
Optional: Z. Layton-Henry, *The Politics of Immigration*, Blackwell Chs 1, 2, 4, 6, 8
 Shamit Sagar, *Race and British Electoral Politics*, Chs. 3, 8-10

December 1st	Northern Ireland, Part I: Background
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* Jonathan Tonge, *A New Northern Irish Politics?* Chs. 1 (*essential*)

Jonathan Tonge, *Northern Ireland: Conflict and Change* 2nd ed., (Longman pb), chs 1-5, 8
 * Dunleavy, *Developments* 7, Ch. 10 (summary of *Conflict and Change*, above) (*essential*)
 R.F. Foster, *Modern Ireland 1600-1972*, Penguin, Ch. 9, esp. Pt. II, pp. 203-211. (*essential*)
 A. Lijphart, "The Northern Ireland Problem." *British J. of Political Science* 1975, 83-106.
 Arthur Aughey and Duncan Morrow, *Northern Ireland Politics*, Longman, pp. 3-28.

Optional: R. Rose, *Governing without Consensus*, Beacon, 1971, Chapters 3, 4
 Sabine Wichert, *Northern Ireland since 1945*
 John Whyte, *Interpreting Northern Ireland* (Oxford pb), Part I
 Joseph Ruane and J. Todd, *Dynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland* Chs. 1-7

December 8th Northern Ireland, Part II: Here and now

* Tonge, *New Northern Irish Politics* chs. 2-5, 8-10 (*essential*)
 Ruane and Todd, *After the Good Friday Agreement* (UCD pb), Chs. 2, 3, 5 (*essential*)
 John McGarry, *Northern Ireland and the Divided World*, Chs. 8-12
 Taylor, *Impact of New Labour*, Ch. 15

Optional: Rose, *Governing without Consensus*, Chapters 5-7
 Whyte, *Interpreting Northern Ireland* Parts II-III
 Ruane and Todd, *Dynamics of Conflict*, Chs. 8-11

December 15th Foreign & Defence Policy: the Road to Iraq

* Peter Riddell, *Hug Them Close: Blair, Clinton, Bush and the 'Special Relationship'*, 2004 edition, Chs. 1-3, 7-11 (*essential*)
 Lawrence Freedman, *The Politics of British Defence* (St, Martins), Chs. 5-10
 * Dunleavy, *Developments* 7, Ch. 17
 Sir Robin Renwick, *Fighting with Allies*, Random House, Chs. 36-37
 Greenaway, *Deciding Factors in British Politics*, Chs. 5, 9
Optional: P. Byrd, *British Defense Policy*, Chs. 1, 3
 John Darwin, *The End of the British Empire*, Chs. 2-4

Date to be announced

Tea Break at the Inn

Readings and questions (and cakes and sweets) to be chosen by you.