האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POLITICS - 56815

Last update 11-10-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: political science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof Moshe Maor

Coordinator Email: msmaor@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday 7:30-8:30, Wednesday 13:15-14:15

Teaching Staff:

Prof Moshe Maor

Course/Module description:

The seminar explores the ways in which changing societal and party dynamics, ideological approaches, discourses, and governance patterns have impacted on the priorities, policies and governing style of successive UK governments. The seminar encourages students to rely on a wide range of primary documents, including parliamentary papers and government reports. It aims to provide candidates with the ability to retrieve and analyze official information and other primary documents and to place them in historical and political context.

Course/Module aims:

The seminar aims to provide a critical and thorough understanding of contemporary British government, politics and policies.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

• Understand and analyze the most significant debates in British politics
• Understand and analyze the academic literature and the different methodological approaches to the subject,
• Form his or her own interpretations of political processes in Britain, and refine his or her skills of thinking rigorously and critically about the usefulness of analytical frameworks designed to explain changes and continuity in British politics.

Attendance requirements(%):

Attendance Policy and Academic Integrity: Attendance is critical for success in this course. Any student with 3 or more unexcused absences (excused absences are for military reserve duty or illness certified by a doctor's note and approved by the student administration) will not be eligible to submit the seminar paper.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, discussion in class, students' presentation and discussion

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction

2. The Old Constitution

3. The Human Rights Act

4. Devolution

5. Hung Parliament

6. A Reformed House of Lord?

7. The Referendum

8. The New Government of London

9. Toward a Popular Constitutional State

10. Exam

PART B: Political Institutions and Processes

11. Issue Evolution and Party Manifestos

12. Dynamics of Electoral Choice

13. Left, Right and Center

14. The Conservative Party under David Cameron

15. Euro-scepticism

16. New Labor and After New Labor

17. Lib-Dem

18. The Extreme Right

19. War on Terror

20. Interest Groups, Collective Action, and Protest Behavior

21. Representation

22. Social Integration and Cohesion

23. Public Expectations and Policy Responsiveness

24. Accountability and Blame

25. Devolution and Strategic Opposition

26. Prime-Ministerial Performance

Required Reading:
COURSE GUIDE

1. Introduction

PART A: The New British Constitution

2. The Old Constitution

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 3-52

3. The Human Rights Act

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 53-88

4. Devolution

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 89-120

5. Hung Parliament

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 121-144

6. A Reformed House of Lord?

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 145-172

7. The Referendum

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 173-196

8. The New Government of London

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 197-214

9. Toward a Popular Constitutional State

Bogdanor, V. 2009. The New British Constitution, Portland, OR: Hart, 215-234; 271-310.

Russell, M. 2011. “Constitutional Politics”, In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 8-28.

10. Exam

PART B: Political Institutions and Processes

11. Issue Evolution and Party Manifestos

Stevens, D. 2013. “Issue Evolution in Britain: The Debate on European Union Integration, 1964-2010”, European Journal of Political Research 52: 536-557.

Allen, N. and K. Mirwaldt. 2010. “Democracy-Speak: Party Manifestos and Democratic Values in Britain, France and Germany”, West European Politics 33(4): 870-893.

John, P. and W. Jennings. 2010. “Punctuations and Turning Points in British Politics: The Policy Agenda on the Queen’s Speech, 1940-2005”, British Journal of Political Science 40: 561-586.

12. Dynamics of Electoral Choice

Sanders, D. et al. 2011. “Downs, Stokes and the Dynamics of Electoral Choice”, British Journal of Political Science 41: 287-314.

Dancygier, R. and E.N. Saunders. 2006. “A New Electorate? Comparing Preferences and Partisanship between Immigrants and Natives”, American Journal of Political Science 50(4): 962-981.

Denver, D. 2011. “Elections and Voting”, In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 70-90.

Whiteley, P. 2012. Political Participation in Britain: The Decline and Revival of Civic Culture, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Introduction & Concluding chapters.

13. Left, Right and Center

Bartle, J. 2010. “The Moving Center: Preferences for Government Activity in Britain, 1950-2005”, British Journal of Political Science 41: 259-285.

Keman, H. 2010. “Third Ways and Social Democracy: The Right Way to Go?” British Journal of Political Science 41: 671-680.

Hakhverdian, A. 2010. “Political Representation and its Mechanisms: A Dynamic Left-

Right Approach for the United Kingdom, 1976-2006", British Journal of Political Science 40: 835-856.

Adam, J. and S. Merrill. 2006. 2006. "Why Small, Centrist Third Parties Motivate Policy Divergence by Major Parties", American Political Science Review 100(3): 403-417.

14. The Conservative Party under David Cameron

Buckler, S. and D. Dolowitz. 2012. "Ideology Matters: Party Competition, Ideological Positioning and the Case of the Conservative Party under David Cameron", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 14: 576-594.

Pautz, H. 2013. "The Think Tanks behind "Cameronism", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 362-377.

Heppell, T. 2013. "Cameron and Liberal Conservatism: Attitudes within the Parliamentary Conservative Party and Conservative Ministers", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 340-361.

15. Euro-scepticism

Lubbers, M. and P. Scheepers. 2005. "Political versus Instrumental Euro-scepticism", European Union Politics 6(2): 223-242.

Lynch, P. and R. Whitaker. 2013. "Where There is Discord, Can They Bring Harmony? Managing Inter-party Dissent on European Integration in the Conservative Party", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 317-339.

Daddow, O. 2013. "Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and the Eurosceptic Tradition in Britain", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 210-227.

McElroy, G. and K. Benoit. 2010. "Party Policy and Group Affiliation in the European Parliament", British Journal of Political Science 40: 377-398.

16. New Labor and After New Labor

Gamble, A. 2012. "Inside New Labor", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 14: 492-502.

Finlayson, A. 2013. "From Blue to Green and Everything in Between: Ideational Change and Left Political Economy after New Labor", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 70-88.

Hay, C. 2013. "Treating the Symptoms Not the Condition: Crisis Definition, Deficit

Reduction and the Search for a New British Growth Model", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 23-37.

Coats, D. 2013. Labor after New Labor: Escaping the Debt", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 38-52.

17. Lib-Dem

Evans, E. and E. Sanderson-Nash. 2011. "From Sandals to Suits: Professionalization, Coalition and the Liberal Democrats", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 13: 459-473.

Cutts, D. 2012. "Yet Another False Dawn? An Examination of the Liberal Democrats' Performance in the 2010 General Election", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 14: 96-114.

18. The Extreme Right

Stoker, G. 2011. "Anti-Politics in Britain", In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 153-173.

John, P. and H. Margetts. 2009. "The Latent Support for the Extreme Right in British Politics", West European Politics 32(3): 496-513.

Macklin, G. 2013. "Transnational Networking on the Far Right: The Case of Britain and Germany", West European Politics 36(1): 176-198.

19. War on Terror

Kettell, S. 2013. "Dilemmas of Discourse: Legitimizing Britain's War on Terror", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 263-279.

Heath-Kelly, C. 2013. "Counter-Terrorism and the Counterfactual: Producing the "Radicalization" Discourse and the UK PREVENT Strategy", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 15: 394-415.

Miller, W.L. 2011. "Religion, Risk and Legal Culture: Balancing Human Rights against a 'War on Terror"", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 13: 514-533.

MacDonald, M.N., D. Hunter and J.P. O'Regan. 2013. "Citizenship, Community, and Counter-Terrorism: UK Security Discourse, 2001-2011", Journal of Language and Politics (in press). Available on-line at: http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk/54268/

20. Interest Groups, Collective Action, and Protest Behavior

Statham, P. and A. Geddes. 2006. “Elites and the “Organized Public”: Who Drives British Immigration Politics and in which Direction?” West European Politics 29(2): 248-269.

Dalton, R. et al. 2009. “The Individual-Institutional Nexus of Protest Behavior”, British Journal of Political Science 40: 51-73.

Heffernan, R. 2011. “Pressure Group Politics”, In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 174-195.

21. Representation

Campbell, R. 2009. “Do Women Need Women Representatives?”, British Journal of Political Science 40: 171-194.

Sobolewska, M. 2013. “Party Strategies and the Descriptive Representation of Ethnic Minorities: The 2010 British General Election”, West European Politics 36(3): 615-633.

22. Social Integration and Cohesion

Mason, A. 2010. “Integration, Cohesion and National Identity: Theoretical Reflections on Recent British Policy”, British Journal of Political Science 40: 857-874.

Campbell, R. 2011. “The Politics of Diversity”, In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 196-214.

23. Public Expectations and Policy Responsiveness

Jennings, W. 2009. “The Public Thermostat, Political Responsiveness and Error-Correction: Border Control and Asylum in Britain, 1994-2007”, British Journal of Political Science 39: 847-870.

Jennings, W. and P. John. 2009. “The Dynamics of Political Attention: Public Opinion and the Queen’s Speech in the United Kingdom”, American Journal of Political Science 53(4): 838-854.

Flinders, M. and A. Kelso. 2011. “Mind the Gap: Political Analysis, Public Expectations and the Parliamentary Decline Thesis”, British Journal of Politics and International Relations 13: 249-268.

The LSE GV314 Group. 2012. “Research Note: Groups and the Limited Pluralism of

the Set-Piece Consultation", British Journal of Politics and International Relations 14: 175-186.

24. Accountability and Blame

Vivyan, N. and M. Wagner. 2012. "Do Voters Reward Rebellion? The Electoral Accountability of MPs in Britain", European Journal of Political Research 51: 235-264.

Sulitzeanu-Kenan, R. 2010. "Reflection in the Shadow of Blame: When Do Politicians Appoint Commissions of Inquiry?", British Journal of Political Science 40: 613-634.

King, A. and N. Allen. 2010. ""Off with their Heads": British Prime Ministers and the Power to Dismiss", British Journal of Political Science 40: 249-278.

25. Devolution and Strategic Opposition

Dewan, T. and A. Spirling. 2011. "Strategic Opposition and Government Cohesion in Westminster Democracies", American Political Science Review 105(2): 337-358.

Scully, R. and Wyn Jones, R. 2011. Territorial Politics in the Post-Devolution United Kingdom", In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 113-129.

Gormley-Heenan, C. 2011. "Power Sharing in Northern Ireland", In: Cowley, P., C. Hay and R. Heffernan (eds.) Developments in British Politics 9, Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 130-151.

26. Prime-Ministerial Performance

Bannister, M, and R. Heffernan. 2012. "Cameron as Prime Minister: The Intra Executive Politics of Britain's Coalition Government", Parliamentary Affairs 65 (4): 778-801.

Dowding, K. 2013. "The Prime Ministerialization of the British Prime Minister", Parliamentary Affairs, 66 (3): 617-635.

Dowding, K. 2013. "Prime-Ministerial Power Institutional and Personal Factors", In: Strangio, P., P. 't Hart, and J. Walter (eds.) Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 57-78.

Heppell, T. 2013. "Prime Ministers and their Parties in the United Kingdom", In: Strangio, P., P. 't Hart, and J. Walter (eds.) Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 129-150.

Theakston, K. 2013. “Evaluating Prime-Ministerial Performance: The British Experience”, In: Strangio, P., P. ‘t Hart, and J. Walter (eds.) Understanding Prime-Ministerial Performance: Comparative Perspectives, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 221-241.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 20 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Requirements include active participation in discussions; a formative exam intended as an exercise to have a better understanding of the institutional context of British politics; and a seminar paper. The formative exam will be based on Vernon Bogdanor’s (2009) The New British Constitution. Students will be required to answer two questions in 1.5 hours.
Grade Components:

- Exam)last class of first term; P/F)
- Presentation in Class (20%)
- 6 reading report (second term; P/F)
- Presentation of seminar paper
- Seminar Paper (80%)