Syllabus

KEY ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POLITICS - 56849

Last update 14-09-2013

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 1

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Moshe Maor

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

Coordinator Office Hours: Mon. 17:00-18:00, Wed. 13:45-14:15

Teaching Staff:
Prof Moshe Maor
**Course/Module description:**

The seminar will principally focus on processes of continuity and change in British political institutions and practices from the end of World War II.

**Course/Module aims:**
- To explain the complexity of interaction among British political institutions, and between these institutions and the social and economic actors within and outside of Britain.
- To elaborate how British political parties deal with market failures, political errors and European integration processes
- To explain the delegation of authority to various realms in Britain and the social and cultural changes affecting the British sphere
- To highlight trends in British political science
- To give students the opportunity to criticize research studies examining British politics.
- To train students with regard to the investigation of primary sources in the analysis of political problems concerning the subject being studied

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**
- Analyze issues which are now at the focus of public and academic debate in modern British politics
- Critically apply the theoretical and empirical knowledge acquired in class to better understand the factors which motivate and obstruct political change in the British context, as well as the insights regarding the ways these factors operate in this arena
- Criticize research studies examining British politics

**Attendance requirements(%):**

Compulsory Attendance, except in cases of Army service or birth.

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:**
- A few introductory lectures on modern British politics
- Mid-term exam
- Student presentation
- Presentation of seminar paper

**Course/Module Content:**
- The New British Constitution
- Issue Evolution and Party Manifestos
- Dynamics of Electoral Choice
- Left, Right and Center
- The Conservative Party under David Cameron
- Euro-scepticism
- New Labor and After New Labor
- Lib-Dem
- The Extreme Right
- War on Terror
- Interest Groups, Collective Action, and Protest Behavior
- Representation
Social Integration and Cohesion
- Public Expectations and Policy Responsiveness
- Accountability and Blame
- Devolution and Strategic Opposition
- Prime-Ministerial Performance

Required Reading:
COURSE GUIDE

1. Introduction

PART A: The New British Constitution

2. The Old Constitution


3. The Human Rights Act, Devolution


4. Hung Parliament, A Reformed House of Lord?


5. The Referendum; The New Government of London; Towards a Written Constitution?


6. Mid-Term Exam

PART B: Political Institutions and Processes

7. Issue Evolution and Party Manifestos


8. Dynamics of Electoral Choice


Whiteley, P. 2012. Political Participation in Britain: The Decline and Revival of Civic

8. Left, Right and Center


9. The Conservative Party under David Cameron


10. Euro-scepticism


Lynch, P. and R. Whitaker. 2013. “Where There is Discord, Can They Bring


11. New Labor and After New Labor


12. Lib-Dem


13. The Extreme Right


14. War on Terror


15. Interest Groups, Collective Action, and Protest Behavior


16. Representation


17. Social Integration and Cohesion


18. Public Expectations and Policy Responsiveness


19. Accountability and Blame


20. Devolution and Strategic Opposition


21. Prime-Ministerial Performance


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**Additional Reading Material:**

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**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:**

- Student presentation: 20%
- Mid-term exam: pass/fail
- 5 reading reports: pass/fail
- Seminar paper: 80%

During the course, the lecturer may decide on changes in the course program based on academic considerations. This may include changes in the requirements detailed in the syllabus. If the students do not fulfill the routine requirements of the seminar (not reading, infrequent attendance at lessons, and others) the additional tasks of
reading reports and final exam will be included.