



**Boston University** International Programs  
London

**Boston University British Programmes**  
**Issues in Contemporary Politics**  
**CAS PO 358 (*Elective B*)**  
**Spring 2011**

**Instructor Information**

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B. Day and Time	Mondays, 1.15-5.15pm
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F. Office hours	By appointment

**Course Objectives**

This course aims to examine some of the most important and controversial issues in contemporary politics. It will focus on the origins of these issues and will analyse the diverse methodological and theoretical positions taken in explaining and understanding them. It will also draw on empirical illustration of the various issues from the international terrain. Furthermore, it will inform you of the main agents and actors involved in contemporary events and we will discuss the range of possible futures.

The choice of topics is somewhat eclectic but it is designed to discuss issues of contemporary importance. Despite the diversity of topics, the course is designed to enable you to achieve a critical understanding of different approaches to the study of politics and ethics together with knowledge of, and sensitivity to, the complexity and diversity of politics in different societies. In some cases there will be talks by specialist guest lecturers. The main approach to teaching will combine political and ethical theories with contemporary empirical illustration.

On successful completion of the course you should be able to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of some of the vocabulary of politics and the languages of political debate and confrontation. You should be able to analyse critically a range of theories, concepts, and methods employed in the discipline and evidence judged by these perspectives. You should, in addition, be able to engage in an informed assessment and criticism of these positions. Above all, you should be able to adopt an independent, critical and reflective approach to some important political and moral issues confronting contemporary societies.

## Topics Covered

February 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Justifying War: Recent and Current Conflict.</b>
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Nature of Terrorism and Dealing with It.</b>
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Northern Ireland: From Terrorism to Peace? (Dr Paul Cousins)</b>
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Immigration and the <i>Multiculturalism</i> Debate</b>
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b><i>Generation Jihad?</i> Muslim Youth in Britain (Guest Speaker).</b>
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Fascism, Nazism and the Extreme Right Today</b>
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Secrecy and Security in Britain (Dr. Paul Cousins)</b>
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Economic Crises of Capitalism 1929 and Now: Markets and Ethics.</b>
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The Politics of Ethical Controversies: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Contingency class date: Wednesday April 20<sup>th</sup>.</b> Students are obliged to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.</li></ul>
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Final Examination: Two Hours.</b> Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the student newsletter two weeks before.

## Assessment

1. A 1500-2000-word paper counting 50% of the final grade. The paper can be handed in at the final examination (April 21<sup>st</sup>) or earlier if you so choose. The paper needs to be firmly based in the extensive academic literature available in the library and credit will be given for illustration, where relevant, from contemporary events as illustrated in media coverage during your study in London. Please reference all sources and run the title of your paper by me.
2. A two hour final examination counting 50% of the final grade. You are required to answer two questions from a wide choice of topics. Please do not answer a question on the same topic as for your paper.

**Poor attendance** without a valid reason will result in a pro-rata reduction of the final grade.

## Methodology

There will be lectures and specialist talks by expert guest lecturers and a theatre trip. You will be encouraged to participate in interactive discussions during lectures. In most lectures detailed handouts will be distributed so that more time can be devoted to listening and discussing and less to writing.

## Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/files/images/ACADEMICHANDBOOKSP11.pdf>

## Required Reading

Given the eclectic nature of the course there is no prescribed text. However, you are required to read in some depth from the recommended reading list. The B.U. library carries copies, and in some cases multiple copies, of all texts listed. In addition, you are encouraged to seek out and purchase new and up-to-date works that you may come across, following guidance from your lecturers. You are all expected to be on top of current events and you really must purchase and read a “serious” **British newspaper and/or weekly magazine** from which you should keep a folder of cuttings, where relevant, on all the topics covered in the course. Please bear in mind that web-sites, whilst informative, are no substitute for sustained arguments found in academic books. It may be that you have covered some of this material previously and students have been known to submit old papers. This is called auto-plagiarism. You are expected **not** to do this. One measure of you working appropriately will be the references you use.

## Bibliography

### **War and Terrorism**

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| T. Rockmore                   | The Philosophical Challenge of September 11 <sup>th</sup>                          |
| J. Sterba (ed)                | Terrorism and International Justice  |
| M. Reichberg (ed)             | The Ethics of War  |
| J. Seybolt                    | Humanitarian Military Intervention   |
| J. McMahan                    | Killing in War   |
| T. Garton-Ash                 | Free World.  |
| J. Schell                     | The Unconquerable World  |
| F.Halliday                    | The World at 2000  |
| B.White, et al (eds)          | Issues in World Politics (chapters 6,7,8, 9)                                       |
| I. Stewart                    | War, Culture and the Media   |
| R.Gilpin                      | War and Change in World Politics   |
| J.Cooley                      | Unholy Wars  |
| P. L. Bergen                  | Holy War   |
| G. Kepel                      | The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West                                       |
| C.McInnes &<br>G.D.Sheffield  | Warfare in the Twentieth century   |
| H.Strachan                    | European Armies and the Conduct of War   |
| R.Connaughton                 | The Nature of Future Conflict  |
| G. Vidal                      | Dreaming War   |
| P.Singer (ed)                 | A Companion to Ethics  |
| J.P.Sterba (ed)               | Morality in Practice   |
| J.P.Sterba                    | Ethics: The Big Questions  |
| B.Magas                       | The Destruction Of Yugoslavia  |
| E. D.Weitz                    | A Century of Genocide  |
| A.L.Hinton (ed)               | Genocide   |
| G. Martin                     | Understanding Terrorism  |
| R. A. Pape &<br>J. K. Feldman | Cutting the Fuse: The Explosion of Global Suicide Terrorism<br>and How to Stop It. |
| S. Talbot                     | The Age of Terror  |
| J. F. Hoge &<br>G.Rose        | How Did it Happen?   |
| F. Halliday                   | Two Hours that Shook the World   |
| L. Mylroie                    | The War Against America  |

P. Bergen	The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict Between America and al-Qaeda (2011)
J. Burke	Al Qaeda: Casting a Shadow of Terror
J.Gray	Al Qaeda and What it Means to be Modern
J. K. Frey (ed)	Violence, Terrorism and Justice
P. Wilkinson	Terrorism and the Liberal State
V. Held	How Terrorism is Wrong
E. Stepanova	Terrorism in Asymmetrical Conflict.
A. P. Schmid	Western Responses to Terrorism
T. Bjorgo	Terror from the Extreme Right
N.Chomsky	Power and Terror
C. Harmon	Terrorism Today
B. Hoffman	Inside Terrorism
Jimmy Carter	Our Endangered Values: America's Moral Crisis
F. Fukuyama	After the Neo-Cons: America at the Crossroads
J. Gray	Black Mass: Apocalyptic Religion and the Death of Utopia

**H. LaFollette (ed)**

**Ethics in Practice 3<sup>rd</sup> edition contains the following excellent articles:**

Joseph Boyle	Just War Doctrine and the Response to Military Terrorism
Douglas Lackey	Nipping Evil in the Bud: The Questionable Ethics of Preventive Force
Charles R. Beitz	The Justifiability of Humanitarian Intervention
William J. Hawk	Pacifism: Reclaiming the Moral Presumption

**A. Kavanagh & J Oberdiek (eds)**

Arguing about Law. Section VII Rights, Terrorism and Torture contains the following articles:

J. Waldron	Security and Liberty: The Image of Balance
J. Shue	Torture in Dreamland: Disposing of the Ticking Time Bomb
J. McMahan	Torture, Morality and the Law

**Northern Ireland**

P. Dixon	Northern Ireland (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition October 2008)
J.McGarry & B.O'Leary	Explaining Northern Ireland
P.Bew	Northern Ireland 1921-1994
P.Barton	A Pocket History of Ulster
T.W.Moody	The Course of Irish History
R.J.Lawrence	The Government of Northern Ireland
N.Mansergh	The Government of Northern Ireland
S.Wichert	Northern Ireland since 1945
T. Wilson	Ulster: Conflict and Consent
D.G.Boyce	The Irish Question and British Politics
S.Bruce	The Edge of the Union
D.Birrell	Policy and Government in Northern Ireland
T.Pat-Coogan	The Troubles
M.Dillon	The Enemy Within
M.Dillon	The Shankill Butchers

M.Dillon	The Dirty War
K.Boyle	Northern Ireland: The Choice
S.Dunn	Facets of the Conflict in Northern Ireland
M.Farrell (ed)	Twenty Years On
P.Foot	Ireland: Why Britain Must Go
S.Gillespie	N. Ireland and its Neighbours Since 1920
B.Hadfield (ed)	Northern Ireland
D.Keogh	Northern Ireland
G.Adams	Before the Dawn: An Autobiography
M. O'Neill	Devolution and British Politics (chapters 6,7)
I. Budge et al	The New British Politics (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition, chapter10)
A. Wilson,(ed)	Irish America and the Ulster Conflict
B.Jones	Politics UK (Chapter 30)
B Coxall & L. Robins	Contemporary British Politics (pp 291-7)
P.Dunleavy (ed)	Developments in British Politics, No 6 (chapter 7)
	Developments in British Politics, No 6 (chapter 10)
J.Fisher (ed)	Central Debates in British Politics (chapter 4)

### **Multiculturalism and Immigration**

B. Parekh	A New Politics of Identity
L. Schuster	The Use and Abuse of Political Asylum in Britain and Germany
A. Cohen and G. Wellman (eds)	Applied Ethics (Two essays on Immigration by Miller and Kukathis)
P. Legrain	Immigrants: Your Country Needs You
C. Moorhead	Human Cargo
M. J. Gibney	The Ethics and Politics of Asylum
S.Cohen	No One is Illegal
T.Hayter	Open Borders
J.Harding	The Uninvited: Refugees at the Rich Man's Gate (Profile, 2000)
S.Castles & M.Miller	The Age of Migration
B.White,(ed)	Issues in World Politics (chapter 10)
B.Joly	Haven or Hell: Asylum Policies and Refugees in Europe
B.Barry & R.Goodwin	Free Movement: Ethical Issues in Trans-National Migration
J. Seabrook	The Refuge and the Fortress
A.Dummett	Subjects, Citizens, Aliens and Others
T.Kushner	Refugees in an Age of Genocide
L. Schuster & L.Schuster and J.Solomos	Asylum, Refuge and Public Policy: Current Trends and Future Dilemmas in the UK (offprint)
A. Bloch and L.Schuster	Asylum and Welfare: Contemporary Debates (offprint)
UNHCR	The State of the World's Refugees
H. Lafollette (ed)	Ethics in Practice (pp 571-633)
I Budge et al	The New British Politics (4 <sup>th</sup> edition, chapter 26)

## Precise References on Muslim Britain

J. Gest	Apart: Alienated and Engaged Muslims in the West
T. Abbas	Muslim Britain: Communities Under Pressure
T. Abbas	Islamic Political Radicalism: A European Perspective
H. Ansari	The Infidel Within: Muslims in Britain since 1800
G. Dench, K. Gavron & M.Young	The New East End
D. Held and H. Moore	Cultural Politics in a Globalised World
J. Esposito	The Future of Islam.

## Fascism and the Extreme Right Today

B. Klandermans	Extreme Right Parties in Europe
R. O. Paxton	The Anatomy of Fascism
R.J.Evans	Fascism: A Very Short Introduction
B. White	Issues in World Politics (chapter 8)
J.Kellas	The Politics of Nationalism and Ethnicity
E.Kedourie	Nationalism
E.Gellner	Nations and Nationalism
S.Hood	Fascism for Beginners
A.E.Ansell	New Right, New Fascism
R.Griffin	The Nature of Fascism.
R. Griffin	A Fascist Century (August 2008)
N. Copsey	Contemporary British Fascism (May 2008)
P. Ignazi	Extreme Right parties in Western Europe
N. Golshan (ed)	Fascism's Return
T. Jones	The Dark Heart of Italy
T. Jones	Utopian Dreams
K.von Beyme	Right Wing Extremism in Contemporary Europe
G.Harris	The Dark Side of Europe
P.Hainsworth (ed)	The Extreme Right in Europe and America
M.Schmidt	The New Reich: Penetrating the Secrets of Today's Neo-Nazi Networks
Evans Foundation	Europe's New Racism
N.Goodrick-Clarke	Black Sun: Aryan Cults, Esoteric Nazism and the Politics of Identity
G.Frazer	Zhirinovskiy: The Little Black Book
T.Bjorgo	Racist Violence in Europe
T.Bjorgo	Terror from the Extreme Right
G.Ford	Fascist Europe
P.Merkl	Encounters With the New Radical Right
P.Merkl	The Revival of Right Wing Extremism in the 1990's
J.Marcus	The National Front and French Politics
C.Fisher	The Rise of the Nazis
P.Morgan	Italian Fascism
J.Solomos	Race and Racism in Contemporary Britain
S.Sagger	Race and Politics in Britain
H.Goulbourne	Race relations in Britain Since 1945

B.Coxall and L.Robins	Contemporary British Politics (pp 65-8)
I.W.Hannafor	Race: The History of an Idea in the West
K.Malik	The Meaning of Race
T.Grundy	Memoir of a Fascist Childhood
R.Pearce	Fascism and Nazism.
A.J.Grand	Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany
H-G.Betz & S.Immerfall	The New Politics of the Right
P.Hainsworth	The Politics of the Extreme Right
M.Durham	Women and Fascism
P.Brooker	Non-Democratic Regimes
H.G.Betz et al	The New Politics of the Right
M.Hughey	The New Tribalisms: The Resurgence of Race

### **Secret Institutions**

H. Brooke	The Silent State: Secrets, Surveillance and the Myth of British Democracy
C. Andrew	Defend the Realm
P. Todd & G. Bloch	Global Intelligence: The World's Secret Services
P. Hennessy	The Secret State (NB 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition goes up to 2010)
P. Wright	Spy Catcher
M. Hollingsworth	Defending the Realm
A. Rogers	Secrecy and Power in the British State
A. Cavendish	Inside Intelligence
J. Adam	The New Spies
P. Sands	Lawless World: America and the Making and breaking of Global Rules

You are advised to look up MI5 and MI6 on the web

### **The Economic Crisis: 1929 and Now**

J.K. Galbraith	The Great Crash
L. Elliot & D. Atkinson	The Gods that Failed: How Blind Faith in Markets has Cost us Our Future
A. Offer	The Challenge of Affluence
A. Glyn	Capitalism Unleashed
R. Freeman	America Works
J. Cassidy	How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities.
A. R. Sorkin	Too Big to Fail: Inside the Battle to Save Wall Street.
G. Tett	Fool's Gold: How Unrestrained Greed Corrupted a Dream, Shattered Global Markets and Unleashed Catastrophe.

### **The Politics of Ethical Controversies**

H.Lafollette (ed)	Ethics in Practice (Excellent collection on most issues in 3 editions)
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M. Cohen	101 Ethical Dilemmas
J. Evans	Moral Philosophy and Contemporary Problems
J. Glover	Causing Death and Saving Lives
A. Cohen and C. Wellman (eds)	Applied Ethics
J. Glover	Choosing Children
M. Warnock	An Intelligent Person's Guide to Ethics
P. Sterba	Morality in Practice
P. Sterba	Ethics: The Big Questions
N. White	A Brief History of Happiness
M. Timmons	Conduct and Character
J.E. Gracia (ed)	Classics of Western Philosophy
R. L. Arrington	Western Ethics: A Historical Introduction
G. Graham	Eight Theories of Ethics
A. MacIntyre	A Short History of Ethics
P. Kitcher	Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities
B. Rollin	The Frankenstein Syndrome
P. Singer &	Embryo Experimentation
H. Kuhse	The Life You Can Save (2009)
P. Singer	Unsanctifying Human Life
P. Singer	Practical Ethics
P. Singer (ed)	A Companion to Ethics (excellent section on religion and ethics)
P. Singer (ed)	Applied Ethics
J. Nuttall	Moral Questions
R. Billington	Living Philosophy
E. Bond	Ethics and Human Well Being
J. L. Mackie	Ethics
B. Williams	Morality
R. Trigg	Morality Matters
B. Appleyard	Brave New Worlds: Genetics and the Human Experience
M. Ridley	Genome: The Autobiography of a Species
D. Koehn	Rethinking Feminist Ethics

Good luck, TJS February 2011  
*Nec te fugiat nobilis certamen equorum.*