



Boston University International Programs
London

Boston University British Programmes
British Foreign and Domestic Policy Processes
CAS IR 361 (Core course)
Spring 2011

Instructor Information

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| A. Name | Dr Paul Cousins |
| B. Day and Time | Wednesday and Thursday, 1.15-5.15pm |
| C. Location | Wetherby room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU |
| D. BU Telephone | 020 7244 6255 |
| E. Email | [REDACTED] |
| F. Webpage | www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/ir361 |
| G. Office hours | By appointment |

Course Overview

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main policy areas in Britain, together with an outline of the policy-making process, presenting this in an international context. Particular attention will be paid to foreign and defence policies. The course will focus on policy outcomes and the various ways in which they come about. Thus, there will be a brief survey of the political system and associated legal and constitutional factors, but the emphasis will be on the interaction of these with the range of other actors in the decision-making process.

The political system provides the democratic context within which decisions are taken. In addition to political parties and politicians themselves, there are many other organisations and stakeholders. At the heart of the whole process is the executive branch of government, the Cabinet and civil service, presided over by the prime minister. They relate to pressure groups, companies, and trade unions and are all the time conscious of the interest in all this of the media in all its forms.

In framing policy the ‘amateur’ politicians and officials need specialist help and advice. As in Washington, there are a number of ‘think tanks’ and commercial organisations that have been established to assist government. Academics are also often invited to participate in the policy making process. Other experts are employed by government itself but any government today will require technical (especially scientific) help which can only be obtained from the wider community.

A complex system of on-going contacts, both official and unofficial, are maintained by the executive (especially the civil servants) with these various agencies and individuals through committees, meetings and conferences etc. Social links are also significant (London has many clubs and societies which facilitate such contacts).

The national policy-making process has to relate to other official bodies at regional and local government levels. Most national policies have implications or require the co-operation of

devolved administrations and other councils, and thus there are arrangements for consultation and involvement, often involving financial help from the national government.

Today, many, if not the vast majority of policy outcomes, also require international co-operation, both in framing them and in carrying them out. The UK is a member of the European Union which makes policy over a wide range of 'federal' issues especially those relating to the economy, business and the environment. The EU has established its own complex structures to enable all 27 countries to work together effectively.

On many issues it is necessary for the British government to work with other national governments and co-ordinate policy, especially with regard to foreign and defence matters. There are, of course, bilateral links with the many nations which have embassies here. Britain is an active member of the United Nations, being a Permanent Member of the Security Council, and its many agencies, one of which (The International Maritime Organisation) is located in London. The UK is a member of many Inter-Governmental Organisations, such as NATO, that are an integral part of the overall UK policy-making process. The World Trade Organisation is perhaps the most important such body.

Because of the similarities (but also significant differences) to the policy-making process in the USA, the course will adopt a comparative approach.

Methodology

The main teaching method will be by lecture, but classes will be interactive and students will be expected to participate fully in them.

Assessment

Students will be required to write a paper in essay format on an agreed topic of not more than 3000 words. The paper will require research and must be analytical reflecting a knowledge of theory. A deadline for submission will be set. A class test will take place in the middle of the course. At the end of the course there will be an examination, two hours long, requiring two essay style answers from a range of questions set.

The breakdown for assessment will be as follows:

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| Test: | 10% (of the final grade) |
| Paper: | 30% |
| Examination: | 50% |
| Attendance and Participation: | 10% |
| Total | 100% |

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>

Course Chronology

Thursday 13 January

Session 1: An introduction to the British political system: the constitution; Parliament; electoral arrangements.
Reading: I Budge et al: *The New British Politics* Part 1

Wednesday 19 January

Session 2: The main political parties; the executive in Britain: Prime Minister, Cabinet and Civil Service
Reading: Budge, chapters 16 & 17

Thursday 20 January

Session 3: The Policy Making Process: the stakeholders – government departments, NGO's, pressure groups and lobbying organisations.
Reading: P Dorey: *Policy Making in Britain*, chapter 1

Wednesday 26 January

Session 4: Britain and the European Union.
Reading: J Pinder: *The European Union*, chapter 1

Thursday 27 January

Session 5: The Commonwealth United Nations and other international agencies.
Reading: R Self: *Foreign and Defence Policy Since 1945*

Wednesday 2 February

Session 6: 2.30pm: Meet Andy Charlton at Westminster tube for Westminster Walk.

Thursday 3 February

Session 7: British foreign and defence policies.
Reading: Dorey: chapter 8 and Conclusion

Wednesday 9 February

Session 8: Anglo-American relations and comparisons.
Reading: R Haque & M Harrop: *Comparative Government and Politics* Part IV

Thursday 10 February

Session 9: The role of the media in influencing policy outcomes.
Reading: Budge: chapter 14

*** Contingency Class Date: Friday 4 February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

Final Exam: **Monday 14 February.** Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

**** Please note: students will have their first Internship Tutorial meeting on the day of their eighth or ninth (last) Core lecture, 9 or 10 February.**

In addition, all students must attend a Mandatory Internship Briefing that will not conflict with your exam on Monday 14 February at the Cine Lumiere, 17 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DT. You will be emailed with the time closer to the date.

Required Reading

The following texts are available in the Library.

Please purchase and read:

B Jones et al Politics UK

P Dorey Policy Making in Britain

Additional Reading:

N Abercrombie Contemporary British Society

T Bainbridge The Penguin Companion to the European Union

H Barnett Britain Unwrapped

I Budge et al The New British Politics

S Bulmer & M Burch The Europeanisation of Whitehall

A Blair Companion to the European Union

V Bogdanor Devolution in the United Kingdom

M Curtis Web of Deceit

J Dickie The New Mandarins

R Haque & M Harrop Comparative Government and Politics

M Herman Intelligence Power in Peace and War

M Hill The Public Policy Process

V Hudson Foreign Policy Analysis

B Jones Politics UK

D Kavanagh et al British Politics

R North The Wrong Side of the Hill

P Norton The Constitution in Flux

N Nugent The Government and Politics of the EU

P Hennessy The Hidden Wiring

P Hennessy The Prime Minister

J Pinder The European Union

D Richards Governance and Public Policy in the UK

R Self Foreign and Defence Policy Since 1945

D Stone et al Think Tank Traditions

S Weir et al Not in Our Name

H & W Wallace (eds) Policy-making in the European Union

Other texts are also held in the Library which are relevant to this course.

In addition, students will be expected to read a 'serious' British broadsheet – *Times*, *Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Independent* – plus look at the relevant weekly publications on a regular basis. There are also very good relevant current affairs programmes on television, such as *Newsnight* on BBC 2.

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/ir361> (you must be logged in to view materials).

Terms and Conditions

**** Attendance at all classes and visits is mandatory. Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders, if any are to be included. Students missing lectures without a doctor's letter or authorisation from the Director will automatically be docked a – or a + from their final grade. Persistent lateness will also be penalised in the final grade.** A register of attendance will be taken at the beginning of each session. Absence can be conveyed either by advising a senior member of staff in the Academic Affairs Office with a request that the information be passed on to the lecturers; or by emailing faculty teaching the course (see the contact details at the top of this syllabus) prior to class. Leaving it to another class member to convey messages will not be acceptable. Appointments for interviews for internships should not conflict with attendance at classes. **

Any student who is unable to attend a class, or take part in an assignment because of religious reasons, must give notice of the fact in advance. He/she will be required to make up for time lost. In this situation arrangements must be made with another student for class notes to be shared. Written papers must be delivered before agreed deadline, failure to hand in the paper will result in deducted marks.

I will make some time available in each session for students to raise questions etc. Should students wish to discuss matters with faculty in person he will also be available during the break mid-lecture and at the end of class. Alternatively, please feel free to e-mail me with questions. If you have problems with the availability of reading materials (all of which should be in the library) please contact him either through the Academic Affairs Office or via e-mail.

Note: Please turn off all mobile phones in class; laptops can only be used for note-taking and only after permission has been given by faculty.

Paul Cousins