



## **Boston University Study Abroad**

London

**Britain and Europe – A New Beginning?**

**CAS PO/IR 335 (*Elective A*)**

**Spring 2013**

### **Instructor Information**

A. Name

Dr Paul Cousins

### **Course Overview**

The aim of this course is to plot the on-going relationship between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union on the other. Parliament voted to join what was then the European Common Market in 1972, but over the last three decades Britain has had a difficult time ‘in Europe’, and never more so than now!

The twenty-seven member states of the EU are committed to working towards ‘an ever closer union’. The Convention that drafted a new constitution for the EU talked openly of establishing a ‘United States of Europe’. Twenty-six member states are not unduly concerned at this idea, but one is - the UK.

In the decades since 1945 British society has undergone great change. Established institutions, including marriage, and the Church, have been questioned and scrutinised as never before, as Britain has moved towards becoming a multi-racial and multi-cultural society. As the EU states get closer together, Britain is being pulled apart by the forces of nationalism in both Scotland and Wales (and also the issue of the relationship of Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland).

For almost the whole of the last century social class was the bedrock of British society, but today the traditional class structure is under strain as both academics and politicians suggest alternative interpretations of the British way of life. It has been argued that one reason for the tension between the UK and her neighbours is the fact that the latter have adjusted more quickly to the global economic and social pressures of the last half-century than has been the case in Britain. The election of a radical, modernising New Labour administration heightened these tensions.

Tony Blair claimed to be positive on the EU where Major and Thatcher had been opposed, but in reality many on the continent saw little different to the position taken by the Conservatives. However, on taking office as Prime Minister in May 2010, David Cameron stressed that his coalition government wanted both a strong and vibrant EU and that the UK would have a positive role to play in Europe.

Following the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by all 27 states, there is now a new set of constitutional arrangements in place in the EU. In Britain, the institutions of the EU are seen as gaining power at the expense of traditional parliamentary sovereignty in Britain. It should be noted that the EU is attempting to adopt the new ‘constitution’ as a result of the ‘enlargement’ of the Union following the admittance of ten new states joining the fifteen previous members on 1 May 2004, bringing the number of member states up to 27 when Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. These new states all want to adopt the euro as soon as possible, and in the UK it is feared that Britain may come under renewed pressure to do the same, which would eventually spell the end of the pound sterling. Many in Britain, especially the older people and those who support the main opposition party, the Conservatives, fear that this country will soon be reduced to the status of an American state such as Massachusetts, bringing to an end over a thousand years of independence. Or, rather, are we seeing the end of the dream of a ‘brave new world’ in which Europe, with Britain at its heart, will be economically and politically a new ‘super-power’? Has the ‘euro-crisis killed this off?

When he became prime minister, Gordon Brown seemed to be more cautious on the EU than Blair had been, but he approved the Lisbon Treaty which puts in place, in effect, a constitution for the Union without submitting the decision to a referendum. Cameron promised that he would put the Treaty to a vote by the UK electorate, but in October 2009 revised his policy because the Treaty was now in force. However, many in Britain now want to leave the EU.

The course will examine the social, cultural, political and economic changes affecting both the UK and the continental states of the EU as the ‘new’ Europe celebrates its half-century. It will introduce the class to the debates as to the future of Britain, both in respect of membership of the EU (including the adoption of the Euro in place of the pound and the new constitutional arrangements) and of the ‘new’ Britain of the twenty first century. The course aims to put all these changes in an historical context.

The future of the relationships between both the EU and the UK with regard to the USA will also be addressed, especially in the light of recent events, not least the euro crisis.

### **Methodology**

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

### **Assessment**

You will be required to write an essay on an agreed topic of not more than 2500 words. The paper is to be written in essay format and will require research as it must be analytical, reflecting a knowledge of theory. **The essay is to be submitted at the end of the course, at the start of the final examination.** The topic should, therefore, be agreed with me by the fourth or fifth class meeting. Time will be made available for you to discuss issues and problems in connection with the paper in the seminar sessions. There will also be a **class test** early in the course. In addition there will be **an examination** of two hours at the end of the course, and you will be required to answer TWO questions. The class test will count 10%, the paper 30% and the examination 50% towards the final grade. The other 10% will be a combination of attendance and participation.

Class test	<b>10%</b>
3000 word paper	<b>30%</b>
Final exam	<b>50%</b>
Attendance and participation	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

## **Grading**

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism: <http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

## **Attendance Policy**

### **Classes**

Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

#### *Authorised Absence:*

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible). **Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorized absence**

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor's note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

**The Directors will only in the most extreme cases (for example, death in close family) allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.**

#### *Unauthorised Absence:*

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

## Course Chronology

- Mon 21 Jan:** Introduction to the course; overview of UK and EU relations; the main EU institutions.
- Reading:** Nugent Part 1
- Tues 22 Jan:** The origins of the European Union and how it has developed, and associated economic factors.
- Reading:** Hix & Heyland Part 3
- Mon 28 Jan:** The economic aspects of the EU and the current 'euro crisis'.
- Reading:** Nugent Part 3
- Tues 29 Jan:** Briefing on the Brussels Visit; EU and UK cultures.

### *Sunday 3 to Tuesday 5 February: Visit to Brussels*

- Mon 11 Feb:** Follow up to the visit; Federal Europe and alternative interpretations.
- Reading:** Wallace chapter 7
- Tues 12 Feb:** The Global impact of the EU. Guest Speaker: Dr Mohammad Nafissi
- Reading:** Nugent Part
- Fri 15:** Britain and the EU – the future; Revision
- Reading:** Hix & Heyland Part 3 Conclusions

**\*\* Contingency Class Date: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free.

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

**Time will be made available to finalise essay topics, and for discussion of essay issues.** Readings are indicated for each topic in the attached note, and there will be hand-outs also distributed.

## Required Reading

- N Nugent                      The Government and Politics of the European Union;
- S Hix & B Heyland      The Political System of the European Union

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage: <https://lms.bu.edu> (you must be logged in to view materials).

The following texts are available in the Library:

- |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| N. Abercrombie           | Contemporary British Society    |
| J. Ash                   | In Europe's Name                |
| N. Ashworth & P. Larkham | Building a New Heritage         |
| A. Blair                 | Companion to the European Union |
| J. Bailey (Ed)           | Social Europe                   |
| S. Bromley (Ed)          | Governing the European Union    |
| J. Budge                 | The New British Politics        |

S. Bulmer	The UK and EC Membership Evaluated
M. Cini	European Union Politics
P.Coffey	The Euro: An Essential Guide
B. Coxall & L. Robbins	Contemporary British Politics
B.Coxall & L. Robbins	Britain since the War
N. Davies	Europe - A History
F. Dell'Olio	The Europeanisation of Citizenship
D. Dinan	Origins and Evolution of the European Union
P. Dorey	Policy Making in Britain
R. Eatwell	European Political Culture
A. Forster	Euroscepticism in Contemporary Britain
A. Halsey	Change in British Society
J. Harrop	The Political Economy of Political Integration in the EU
K.Holden	The UK Economy Today
B.Jones	Politics UK
J.Lane & S Erson	Politics and Society in Western Europe
P Magnette	What is the European Union?
M Moran	Politics and Governance in the UK
D. Phinnemore & C. Church	Understanding the European Constitution
J.Richardson (Ed)	European Union
J. Rifkin	The European Dream
G.Thompson (Ed)	Governing the European Economy
L. Tsoukalis	What Kind of Union?
M. Vink	Limits of European Citizenship
M.Wintle	Culture and Identity in Europe
J. Pinder	The European Union: A Very Short Introduction
T. Bainbridge	The Penguin Companion to the European Union
H. Wallace	Policy-making in the European Union
J. Peterson & M. Shackleton	The Institutions of the European Union
M.Burgess	Federalism and European Union: Building Europe 1950-2000

### **Additional Readings for each topic**

#### The Institutions

*Hix: The Political System of the EU*

*Peterson & Shackleton :The Institutions of the European Union*

*Nugent:The Government and Politics of the European Union*

*Magnette: What is the European Union?*

*Wallace: Policy Making in the European Union*

#### Post-war Britain

*Davies: The Isles - A History;*

*Halsey: Change in British Society;*

*Coxall & Robbins: Britain since the War;*

*McCormick: Contemporary Britain*

#### Post-war Europe:

*Davies: Europe - A History;*

*Eatwell: European Political Culture;*

*Burgess :Federalism and the European Union:The Building of Europe 1950-2000*

*Bache: Politics in the EU*

#### The Euro:

*Thompson: Governing the European Economy;*

*Coffey: The Euro: An Essential Guide;*  
*Nugent: The Government and Politics of the Euro*

Federal Europe:

*Bromley: Governing the European Union*  
*Magnette: What is the European Union?*  
*Dinan: Ever Closer Union*  
*Lane & Erson: Politics and Society in Western Europe;*  
*Phinnemore & Church: Understanding the EU Constitution*  
*Wiener & Diez: European Integration Theory*

Culture:

*Wintle: Culture and Identity in Europe;*  
*Bailey :Social Europe;*  
*Dell'Olio :The Europeanisation of Citizenship*  
*Vink: The Limits of European Citizenship*

The EU and the Future:

*Ashworth & Larkham: Building a New Heritage;*  
*Bellamy : Citizenship and Governance in the EU*  
*Magnette;*  
*Ravenhill: Global Political Economy*  
*Bache (ed): The Europeanisation of British Politics*

The EU and the rest of the World;

*Ravenhill;*  
*Wallace;*  
*Cini: European Union Politics*

Remember that all these topics are greatly affected by current events and developments. It is essential that you keep up to date!

Please note that ALL students should read a broadsheet newspaper every day in addition to the readings indicated. The issues being discussed are liable to develop and 'change direction' at short notice!

I will make some time available in each session for students to raise questions etc. Should students wish to discuss matters with me in person I will also be available during the break mid-lecture.

I hope that you find the course interesting and enjoyable.

Paul Cousins

January 2013