



Boston University Study Abroad

London

Britain and Europe – A New Beginning?

CAS PO/IR 335 (*Elective A*)

Spring 2016

Instructor Information

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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-eight 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-seven 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. With Croatia joining in July 2013, there are now 28 member states. 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 has promised that he would hold a vote on UK’s continuing EU membership in the next parliament. This is because many Conservatives want Britain 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	10%
3000 word paper	30%
Final exam	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.edu/london/current-semester>

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, 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. This may result in the student having to take a medical leave of absence from the programme or withdraw from 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 more than one day. In this situation 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 authorised absence**

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

- Illness (first day of sickness): If a student is too ill to attend class, the student must phone the BU London Student Affairs Office (who will in turn contact the student's lecturer).
- Illness (multiple days): If a student is missing more than one class day due to illness, the student must call into to the BU London Student Affairs Office each day the student is ill. Students must also provide the Student Affairs office with a completed Authorised Absence Approval Form and sick note from a local doctor excusing their absence from class.
- 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 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.

Lateness

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Course Chronology

Wednesday 13 January: Introduction to the course; overview of UK and EU relations; the origins and development of the Union.

Reading: Nugent Part 1

Monday 18 January: The institutions of the European Union and how these have developed; the 'federal' nature of the EU.

Reading: Hix & Heyland Part 3

Tuesday 19 January: The history of the EU and the nature of 'European Culture'.

Reading: Nugent Part 3

Monday 25 January: The economic aspects of the EU and the visit to Brussels

Reading: Nugent Part 3

Tuesday 26 January: Briefing on the Brussels Visit; the Global impact of the EU. Guest speaker: Dr. Nafissi.

Sunday 31 January to Tuesday 2 February: Visit to Brussels

Monday 8 February: Follow-up to the Brussels visit; what IS the EU?

Reading: P Magnette: What is the European Union?

Tuesday 9 February: The impact of the EU on Britain (and vice versa).

Reading: Nugent Part 1

**** Contingency Class Day Friday 5th February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free.

Friday 12 February: The impact of membership of the EU on Britain and the options facing the UK with regard to the future. Revision.

Reading: Hix & Heyland Part 3 Conclusions

Final Examination Tuesday 16th February. 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:

<http://blackboard.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 Magonette	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
Magonette: 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 2016