Instructor Information

- A. Name          Dr Paul Cousins
- B. Day and Time  Wednesday and Thursday,
- C. BU Telephone
- D. Email
- E. 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.
At this moment in time, the UK is working to extract itself from the European Union following the referendum of 23 June last year and its dramatic aftermath, including the shock result of the general election of June 8 this year. The EU has established its own complex structures to enable all 28 countries to work together effectively and withdrawal from these is a massive operation, mostly the responsibility of civil servants.

Despite ‘Brexit’ there are many issues where 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. There will also be a short paper of 500 words on a set topic to be submitted in the third week 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:

- Test: 10% (of the final grade)
- Short Paper: 10%
- Final Paper: 30%
- Examination: 40%
- Attendance and Participation: 10%

**Total 100%**

**Grading**

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: [http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester](http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester)

*Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.*

**Attendance**

**Classes**

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, seminar, and field trip in order to fulfil 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 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). The Authorised Absence Approval Request Form is available from: [http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester/](http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester/)

**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 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 a 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.

**Religious Holidays**
Boston University’s Office of the University Registrar states:

‘The University, in scheduling classes on religious holidays and observances, intends that students observing those traditions be given ample opportunity to make up work. Faculty members who wish to observe religious holidays will arrange for another faculty member to meet their classes or for cancelled classes to be rescheduled.’
Special Accommodations
Each student will need to contact the Office of Disability Services to request accommodations for the semester they are abroad. Students are advised by BU-ODS not to expect the same accommodations as they receive on campus.

BU London can only uphold special accommodations if we have received the appropriate documentation from the BU-ODS. We cannot accept letters from other universities/centres.

All disabilities need to be known to the ODS in Boston if they are to be used as a reason for requiring a change in conditions, i.e. reduced internship hours or special accommodations for the internship schedule.

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 Associate Director for Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Course Chronology
Thursday 18 January
Session 1: An introduction to the British political system: recent events; the constitution.
Reading: I Budge et al: *The New British Politics* Part 1; R Hefferman et al *Developments in British Politics* chapter 3

Wednesday 24 January
Session 2: Parliament and the political process, including the parties and elections. The political executive – Prime Minister and Cabinet
Reading: Budge et al; chapter 3

Thursday 25 January
Session 3: The civil service and the Policy Making Process – government departments, NGO’s. pressure groups and lobbying organisations
Reading: P Dorey chapters 3,4 & 5; R Hefferman chapter 1

Wednesday 31 January
Session 4: Britain and the European Union – Brexit
Readings to be advised

Thursday 1 February
Session 5: The Media and the administration of government in Britain; class test and short paper.
Readings to be advised

Wednesday 7 February
Session 6: 2.30 pm Westminster Walk: details to be given in class

Thursday 8 February
Session 7: Britain’s Defence and Foreign Policy: Guest speaker Dr Adrian Kendry
The UNO; Commonwealth and other agencies.
Reading: Dorey: chapter 8 and Conclusion; R Hefferman chapter 16
Budge: chapter 14; R Hefferman chapters 14 and 15
R Self: Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945, the chapter on Making Foreign Policy.

Contingency Class Date: 9th February. Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled

Wednesday 14 February: To be finalised
Session 8  Visit to the International Maritime Organisation – details to be given in class.
Reading: to be advised

Thursday 15 February
Session 9: Anglo-American relations and comparisons; review and revision
Reading: R Haque & M Harrop: Comparative Government and Politics Part IV

In addition to the above, the class will be visiting the Imperial War Museum’ or the Museum of London - details to be given in class.

Monday 19 February
Final Exam
Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London Programmes Blackboard course page and will be emailed to students, a week before the final exam.

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
D Charter Euroe: In or Out?
M Curtis Web of Deceit
J Dickie The New Mandarins
R Haque & M Harrop Comparative Government and Politics
R Hefferman et al Developments in British Politics (number 9)
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
Turpin & Tomkin British Government and the Constitution
S Weir et al Not in Our Name
H & W Wallace (eds) Policy-making in the European Union

Additional reading may be advised as necessary.
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 reading may be found on Blackboard: [https://lms.bu.edu](https://lms.bu.edu)

**Terms and Conditions**

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.

I hope that you enjoy the class!

Paul Cousins
January 2018