



## **Boston University Study Abroad**

London

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

**CAS PO220/IR 335 (*Elective A*) Draft**

**Spring 2018**

### **Instructor Information**

A. Name	Dr Paul Cousins
B. Day and Time	Monday and Tuesday mornings 9am to 1pm
C. BU Telephone	
D. Email	
E. webpage	<a href="http://blackboard.bu.edu/">http://blackboard.bu.edu/</a>
F. Office hours	By appointment

### **Course Overview**

The aim of this course is to examine the relationship between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union in the light of the vote in June to leave the Union. The UK Parliament voted to join what was then the European Common Market in 1972, but on 23 June 2016 the British people voted by 52% to 48% to leave the EU. Now an entirely new relationship with the rest of the EU needs to be devised!

The other 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’. EU leaders say that they are committed to pursuing this goal, but it may be that the British vote will undermine this project.

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, in 2013, David Cameron said that if he won a clear majority at the 2015 general election he would hold a referendum on the UK’s continuing membership of the EU. Having won the 2015 election, he duly held the referendum in June, asking the electorate to support continued EU membership, but he lost and had to resign as prime minister. His successor Theresa May now has to negotiate the exit from the EU.

That process may take many years and the course will examine both how this will be undertaken and the possible consequences.

## Course Objectives

The aim of this course is to provide:

- An introduction to the history of the European Union and Britain's relations with it;
- Basic information on the institutions and arrangements;
- The background to the Brexit vote;
- An examination of the process of exiting the EU;
- An understanding of the main consequences of Britain's evolving relationship with the EU.

## 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 the middle part of the course students will submit a **short paper** of 500 words on a set topic which will count for 10% of the final grade. 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 40% towards the final grade. The other 10% will be a combination of attendance and participation.

Class test	<b>10%</b>
Short paper	<b>10%</b>
2500 word paper	<b>30%</b>
Final exam	<b>40%</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**

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/>

**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 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**

- Wednesday 17 January:** Introduction to the course; overview of what the EU was formed to do; why Britain joined and why it is leaving the Union.  
**Reading:** Nugent Part 1
- Monday 22 January:** The institutions of the European Union and how these have developed; the ‘federal’ nature of the EU.  
**Reading:** Hix & Heyland Part 3
- Tuesday 23 January:** The June 2016 Referendum and UK decision to leave the EU  
**Reading:** To be advised
- Monday 29 January:** The ‘European Identity’ and culture; the British Identity and culture.  
**Reading:** To be advised
- Tuesday 30 January:** Briefing for the visit to Brussels.
- Sunday 4 to Tuesday 6 February:** Visit to Brussels: details to be given in class.
- \*\* Contingency Class Day Friday 9 February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.
- Monday 12 February:** The Global significance of the EU – guest speaker:  
Dr Mohammad Nafissi  
**Reading:** To be advised
- Tuesday 13 February:** The constitutional, political and economic consequences of Brexit  
**Reading:** To be advised
- Friday 16 February:** The future relations between UK and EU following Brexit;  
concluding thoughts; revision.  
**Reading:** Charter Chapters 4 & 5

### **Exam: Tuesday 20 February**

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.

### **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**

**NB: because of the rapidly evolving nature of the topics being discussed, much of the reading cannot be set in advance! As of now all the text-books are out of date due to Brexit.**

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
D Charter	Europe: In or Out
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*

Other reading may be advised as necessary.

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 2018