



Boston University International Programs
London

Boston University British Programmes
Britain and Europe – A New Beginning?
CAS PO/IR 335 (*Elective*)
Summer 2009

Instructor Information

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B. Day and Time	Mondays and Tuesdays, 1.15 to 5.15pm
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Course Overview

The course examines the origins, development and future prospects of Britain's relationship with the European Union. In so doing, it also explores how the countries which have led European integration along supranational lines, most notably France and Germany, have viewed Britain's attitudes to key issues like state sovereignty, the enlargement of the union, the EU's institutional 'democratic deficit' and, not least, the most appropriate – and effective – mechanisms for pursuing foreign and defence policies vis-à-vis the wider world. Finally, the current political wrangling over how the EU should be reformed will be assessed in the context of the longstanding scholarly debates about whether the organization was ever really meant to replace the nation-state in Europe or merely rescue and eventually supplement it.

Course Methodology

The main teaching method will be by lecture, but classes will be interactive and you will be expected to participate fully in them. Class participation is worth 10% of the final grade. You will also be required to write a 2000-word essay by the start of class 9 (worth 40% of the final grade), and make a formal presentation in class 6 (worth 10%) based on a field trip to Britain's National Archives. The exam will consist of two essay-type questions and be worth the final 40% of the grade.

Class Schedule

* denotes compulsory class readings (either online or on the BU course webpage)

Part One – Explaining Britain’s awkward relationship with Europe

Class 1:

- Introduction: Britain and the EU today

* DVD to be shown in class: Yes Minister, *The Devil You Know*, transmitted BBC 1, 1981
(Question: How is Britain’s awkward relationship with Europe conveyed in this situation comedy from the early Thatcher years?)

Class 2:

- British attitudes to European integration, 1945-1957

* Michael Howard, *1945-1995: Fifty Years of European Peace* (Question: Which do you consider to be more important to European peace – NATO or the EEC?)

Class 3:

- The EEC without Britain, 1957-72

* De Gaulle’s ‘Non’ speech to Britain’s second application for entry into the EEC, 16 May 1967, see <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1967-degaulle-non-uk.html> (Assignment: using the BU library, detail how various scholars assess the significance of this speech).

Class 4:

- The EEC with Britain, 1973-1992

* William Wallace, *Rescue or retreat: The nation state in Western Europe, 1945-1992* (Questions: To what extent is the nation state in Europe in decline? How has globalization impacted upon European states since 1992?)

Class 5:

- Visit to National Archives

Part Two – Key issues for the present and future

Class 6:

- The Euro and economic policies

* *Class presentations based on field trip*

Class 7:

- The politics of enlargement

* See various reviews of Jan Zielonka’s, *Europe as Empire* at <http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/people/zielonka/europeasempire.html> (Questions: In what ways may the EU be likened to an empire? What are the shortcomings of this thesis?)

Class 8:

- The 'democratic deficit' and the reform dilemma

* Larry Siedentop, *Democracy in Europe* (Question: is Siedentop's thesis still relevant after the failure of the Lisbon Treaty?)

Class 9:

- Foreign and defence policy
- Review session

* Timothy Garton Ash, *Europe's True Stories*

See http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/article_details.php?id=8214 (Question- What do these proposed future intentions for the EU suggest about its past performance?)

** **Make-up Class Date: Friday 19 June.** Should any class dates need to be rescheduled, students are obligated to keep this date free to attend classes.

Examination: Tuesday 23rd June 2009.

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

Course Reading

Some Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/poir335>

J. Zielonika	Europe as Empire
T. Garton Ash	In Europe's Name
T. Garton Ash	Free World
A. Milward	The European Rescue of the Nation State
N. Ashworth & P. Larkham	Building a New Heritage
A. Blair	Companion to the European Union
S. Bromley (Ed)	Governing the European Union
S. Bulmer	The UK and EC Membership Evaluated
M. Cini	European Union Politics
P. Coffey	The Euro: An Essential Guide
N. Davies	Europe - A History
D. Dinan	Origins and Evolution of the European Union
A. Forster	Euro-scepticism in Contemporary Britain
J. Harrop	The Political Economy of Political Integration in the EU
T. Judt	Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945
P. Magonette	What is the European Union?
A. Menon	Europe: The State of the Union
D. Phinnemore & C. Church	Understanding the European Constitution
J. Richardson (Ed)	European Union
L. Siedentop	Democracy in Europe
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. & W. Wallace (Eds) Policy-making in the European Union
S. Wall A Stranger In Europe: Britain and the EU from Blair to Thatcher
J. Peterson & M. Shackleton The Institutions of the European Union
M. Burgess Federalism and European Union: Building Europe 1950-2000

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!

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/ACADEMICHANDBOOKSU09.pdf>.

Terms and Conditions

Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Students missing lectures without a doctor's letter or authorisation from the Director or from the Placements Team 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, and marks will be awarded for attendance. Absence can be conveyed by advising a senior member of staff in the Academic Affairs Office with a request that the information be passed on to me. 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.

Course work must be delivered before agreed deadline. Failure to hand on time 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 me in person I will also be available during the break mid-lecture.

Michael Thornhill
1 May 2009