



Boston University Study Abroad
London

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Understanding British Foreign and Domestic Policy Processes
CAS IR 361/PO 225 (Core course)
Spring 2016

Instructor Information

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| A. Name | Dr Paul Cousins |
| B. Day and Time | Wednesday and Thursday, 1.15-5.15pm |
| C. Location | Alexander Room (2 nd Floor), 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU |
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| F. 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.

Today, many, if not the vast majority of policy outcomes, also require international co-operation, both in framing them and in carrying them out. The UK is a member of the European Union which makes policy over a wide range of 'federal' issues especially those relating to the economy, business and the environment. The EU has established its own complex structures to enable all 28 countries to work together effectively if possible!

On many issues 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. 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:

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| Test: | 10% (of the final grade) |
| Paper: | 30% |
| Examination: | 50% |
| 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>

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

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

Thursday 14 January

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

Wednesday 20 January

Session 2: Parliament and the political process, including the parties.
Reading: Budge et al; chapter 3

Thursday 21 January

Session 3: Elections and the political process and the interaction with the executive – Prime Minister, Cabinet and Government.
Reading: P Dorey *Policy Making in Britain* chapter 4;

Wednesday 27 January

Session 4: Westminster Walk – details to be given in class.

Thursday 28 January

Session 5: Britain and the European Union; the UNO; Commonwealth and other agencies
Reading: J Pinder: *The European Union* chapter 1; R Self *Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945*, chapter on *Making Foreign Policy*; R Hefferman, chapter 14

Wednesday 3 February

Session 6: The civil service and the Policy Making Process – government departments, NGO's, pressure groups and lobbying organisations
Reading: P Dorey chapters 3 & 5; R Hefferman chapter 10)

Thursday 4 February

Session 7: Britain's Defence and Foreign Policy: Guest speaker Dr Adrian Kendry
Reading: Dorey: chapter 8 and Conclusion; R Hefferman chapter 16
Budge: chapter 14; R Hefferman chapter 15

Contingency Class Date: Friday 5/02/2016. Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled

Wednesday 10 February

Session 8: The role of the various types of media in the decision-making process
Reading: to be advised

Thursday 11 February

Session 9: Anglo-American relations and comparisons; Revision
Reading: R Haque & M Harrop: *Comparative Government and Politics* Part IV

*** Please note: Students will have their first Internship Tutorial meeting on Wednesday 10th February. Check Internship Tutorial Timetable for time and location.**

In addition to the above, the class will be visiting the First World War Galleries at the Imperial War Museum' details to be given in class.

Final Exam: **15th February**. Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

****All students must attend a mandatory drop-in session (to sign Internship Agreement and for any questions about placement, social programme, travel and academics) on 15th February 2015, in the Boston Room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU. Food will be served!**

Required Reading

The following texts are available in the Library.

Please purchase and read:

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| B Jones et al | Politics UK |
| P Dorey | Policy Making in Britain |

Additional Reading:

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| 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 |
| 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 |

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>

**** Contingency Class Date: Friday 5th February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled

FINAL EXAM: The exam will be on **Monday 15 February**. Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

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 2016