



British Politics & Government

SV369 Spring 2012

Professor TERRENCE CASEY

Office: Moench A 209

Office Hours: MTRF 5th Hour or walk-in

RHIT Mailbox: #93

PHONE: 877-8281

E-Mail: casey1@rose-hulman.edu

This course will introduce you to the history, institutions, and politics of Great Britain. We will begin with an examination of the major events in British politics since the Second World War. We will then move on to review the major governing ideas, institutions, actors, and electoral processes of the British political system. Finally, we will look at Britain's role in the wider world and the key challenges facing the country in the early 21st century. By the end of the course you should have a much greater appreciation of the similarities and differences between Britain and the United States and (hopefully) a sense of what Americans might be able to learn from the British experience.

READINGS: The majority of the reading for this course will come from the following texts:

- (1) Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*
- (2) Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, 5th Edition
- (3) Richard Heffernan, Philip Cowley, and Colin Hay, eds. *Developments in British Politics* 9

You are also expected to keep abreast of current events in the UK. The course website has a list of various news links that will assist you in this task, especially the BBC, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Economist*. You are expected to read these DAILY and come to class prepared to discuss current events.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your grade will be based on the following:

(A) Three Exams (65% total). The first two exams (20% each) are tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 30th (end of 4th week) and Friday, May 4th (end of 8th week) These will include broad questions that require you to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter and show that you can critically and intelligently analyze key issues in British politics. The third exam (25%) will be a take-home essay exam that includes material from the entire course. Exams from graduating seniors will be due on Friday, May 18th. Exams for all others are due on Monday, May 21st.

(B) Research Paper (25%). Topic and bibliography due on Friday, March 16th; research paper due on Monday, April 30th. You will be required to write a 10-15-page research paper on an important political topic related to the history, governance, or politics of the United Kingdom. More detailed instructions will be handed out separately.

(C) Attendance and Participation (10%). You are *expected* to come to each class prepared (i.e., having done the assigned reading) and ready to actively participate in the discussion. *Participation points are not an automatic bonus for showing up.* If you do not do the reading or never speak up, even if you attend class every day, you will get a zero for participation

COURSE POLICIES: The following policies apply unless otherwise stated.

Academic Misconduct: All cases of academic misconduct, including plagiarism (taking another's words or ideas and presenting them as your own) or cheating (making use of assistance on an assignment beyond that authorized by the professor) will be punished appropriately. Penalties for academic misconduct are at the discretion of the professor and can range from the loss of all credit on an assignment to a formal hearing before the Institute's Rules and Discipline Committee. It is incumbent upon you to know what constitutes academic misconduct and make sure to avoid it. If you are in any way unsure about what constitutes a violation, please ask me. *Claiming ignorance after the fact is not a valid excuse. Think rationally; the risks outweigh the gains*

Late Assignments: Extensions for exams or assignments will only be given if you have a *legitimate excuse and you contact me in advance.* All late assignments will receive a letter grade reduction for each day (including weekend days) that they are late. You can reach me via e-mail, voicemail, or by dropping a note in either my campus or HSS mailbox. Short of being in a coma, you should be able to reach me if there is a problem. I am very accommodating to those who alert me to a problem in advance; I will be far less friendly if you approach me after the fact.

Ideological Perspectives: I have no intention of trying to indoctrinate you with my beliefs. The issues we will be exploring are often contentious and there are not right or wrong answers per se. That being said, there are good and bad arguments. You may hold any opinion you wish, but *your arguments must be logically sound and supported by the available evidence.*

Overall, I can only facilitate the learning process; I cannot force knowledge into your heads. All of you are adults and fully capable of being responsible students and active learners. That means that if you do not understand something *you* need to take the initiative to find out the answer -- raise your hand, talk to me after class, come to my office. I cannot read minds, so it is up to you to try to seek clarity when it is lacking.

Topics and Readings

PART I -- THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT: BRITAIN SINCE WORLD WAR II

Week 1 (March 5-9)

MT – The Development of Britain and the British

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapters 1 and 3

Philip Cowley, Colin Hay, and Richard Heffernan, 'Introduction: A Landscape Without a Map? British Politics after 2010,' Chapter 1 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – Building a 'New Jerusalem': The Postwar Settlement

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Part 1 (pp. 1-112)

Week 2 (March 12-16)

MT – Change and Consensus: The Conservative Fifties

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Part 2 (pp. 113-228)

RF – Modernization and Failure: Wilson, Heath, and Callaghan

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Part 3 (pp. 231-377)

RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE (Friday, March 16th)

Week 3 (March 19-23)

MT – Britain's Capitalist Revolution: The Thatcher-Major Years

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Part 4 (pp. 381-474)

RF – Forging a 'Third Way': New Labour and Beyond

Andrew Marr, *A History of Modern Britain*, Part 5 (pp. 477-602)

PART II – GOVERNING IDEAS

Week 4 (March 26-30)

MT – The British Constitution

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 4

Meg Russell, 'Constitutional Politics,' Chapter 2 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

Vernon Bogdanor, 'A Codified Constitution for Britain?' *Politics Review*, September 2008, pp. 2-9 [Handout].

RF – Political Culture

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 2

Gerry Stoker, 'Anti-Politics in Britain,' Chapter 9 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

FIRST EXAM, (Friday, March 30th)

SPRING BREAK (April 2-6)

PART III – POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

Week 5 (April 9-13)

MT – Parliament: Commons and Lords

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 12

Alexandra Kelso, 'Changing Parliamentary Landscapes, Chapter 4 in in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – Executive: Prime Minister, Cabinet and Monarch

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 8 and 13

David Richards, 'Changing Patterns of Executive Governance,' Chapter 3 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

Week 6 (April 16-20)

MT – Devolved Governments: Scotland and Wales

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 10 (pp. 271-80; 291-96)

Roger Scully and Richard Wyn-Jones, 'Territorial Politics in Post-Devolution Britain,' Chapter 7 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – Devolved Government: Northern Ireland

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 10 (pp. 281-90)

Cathy Gormley-Heenan, 'Power-Sharing in Northern Ireland,' Chapter 8 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

PART IV – POLITICAL INTERESTS AND PROCESSES

Week 7 (Apr. 23-27)

MT – Political Parties

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 6

Philip Cowley, 'Political Parties and the British Party System,' Chapter 6 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – Campaigns and Elections

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 5

David Denver, 'Elections and Voting,' Chapter 5 in in *Developments in British Politics 9*
RESEARCH PAPER DUE (FRIDAY, APRIL 27)

PART V – BRITAIN AND THE WORLD

Week 8 (April 30-May 4)

MT – Britain and the European Union

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 9

Lori Thorlakson, 'Britain's Place in the European Union,' Chapter 14 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – Britain, the United States, and the Wider World

Andrew Gamble, 'Britain in the World,' Chapter 16 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

John Dumbrell, 'US-UK Relations: Structure, Agency, and the Special Relationship,' Chapter 19 in Terrence Casey, ed., *The Blair Legacy* [Handout]

SECOND EXAM, FRIDAY, MAY 4

PART VI – KEY ISSUES IN BRITISH POLITICS

Week 9 (May 7-11)

MT – Reviving the Economy

Terrence Casey, 'Capitalism, Crisis, and a Zombie named TINA,' in Terrence Casey, ed. *The Legacy of the Crash* [Handout]

Colin Hay, 'Britain and the Global Financial Crisis: The Return of Boom and Bust,' Chapter 13 in *Developments in British Politics 9*

RF – British Identity and the Future of the Union

Reading TBD

Week 10 (May 14-18)

MT – Extra time (as I almost assuredly will fall behind the above schedule)

RF – Wrap up and review

Philip Norton, *The British Polity*, Chapter 16

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM (Due from graduating seniors by START OF CLASS on Friday, May 18th; from everyone else by noon on Monday, May 21st)