Great Britain

I. Critical Historical Junctures
   (including Political Economy)
II. Governance and Policy-Making
III. Representation and Participation
IV. Culture and Identity
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
The “Union Jack”

Genealogy of the Union Jack

1. St. George's Cross
2. St. Andrew's Cross
3. St. Patrick's Cross
4. Union Flag 1606-1801
5. Union Flag since 1801
I. Critical Historical Junctures

- **Magna Carta (1215)**
- English Civil War (1642-47) and Commonwealth (1648-60)
  - Stuart Restoration
  - Glorious Revolution (1688) and Bill of Rights (1689)
- Reform Acts (Starting in 1832; ending 1928)
- Industrialization and Empire
- World Wars and Economic Decline
The British Empire (1905)
I. Critical Historical Junctures

- The ‘Collectivist Consensus’
- 1970s and Economic Crisis
  - ‘Winter of Discontent’ (1978-79)
- Thatcher and Free Market Reform
  - Falklands War (1982)
  - Electoral Victory (‘79, ‘83, ‘87)
  - Resignation (1990)
- Tony Blair and ‘New Labour’
  - Three landslides (‘97, ‘01, ’05)
II. Governance and Policy-Making

A. CONSTITUTION:
- Gradual Development
- Constitutional Sources
  - Key Documents (i.e., Magna Carta, Bill of Rights)
  - Convention
  - EU Laws and Treaties

Constitutional Principles
- Constitutional Monarchy
- Parliamentary Sovereignty (‘Elective Dictatorship’)
- Rule of Law
- Democratic Accountability
- Unitary State
- Membership in the EU
II. Governance and Policy-Making

- **A. House of Commons**
  - 646 Members of Parliament (MPs)
  - Strict party discipline (always vote with party)
  - Reactive body
  - Backbenchers
  - Question Time

- **B. House of Lords**
  - Hereditary & Life Peers
  - Revising Chamber
  - Lords Reform
II. Governance and Policy-Making

- **Prime Minister**
  - Powers of Prime Minister
  - Limitations on PM Powers
  - PM as ‘Elected Dictator’

- **Cabinet and Ministers**
  - Collective Responsibility
  - Secrecy
  - Cabinet Committees

- **Civil Service**
  - Permanence, Expertise and Loyalty/Neutrality

Cabinet Room
10 Downing St.
II. Governance and Policy-Making

DEVOLVED INSTITUTIONS:
- Parliament for Scotland
- National Assembly for Wales
- Northern Ireland Assembly (power-sharing)
- Regional Governments in England?
- Government & Mayor for London

National Flag
Of Wales
III. Representation and Participation

- Labour
- Conservatives (“Tories”)
- Liberal Democrats
  - Liberals, SDP and Merger
- Scottish and Welsh Nationalists
- Northern Ireland Parties
  - Unionist (DUP and UUP)
  - Republicans (SDLP and Sinn Fein)
- Campaigns and Elections

Conservative Leader David Cameron

That was then…

…and this is now.

And he likes puppies, too!
IV. Culture and Identity

- **Role of Social Class**
  - Much less significant

- **National Identity**
  - “Britishness” and Multiculturalism

- **Britain and Europe**
  - An Awkward Partner
  - The Euro Decision
    (Thanks, Frenchies!)