



Course Title:	Contemporary British Politics: Unity, Division, & Brexit									
Course Code:	LONS PSUK 249S									
Subject:	Political Science, Sociology									
Credits:	3									
Contact Hours:	37.5									
Semester/Term:	<input type="checkbox"/> Semester <input type="checkbox"/> J-Term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summer									
Course Description:	<p>This course explores contemporary socio-political ideas and issues in Britain with a particular focus on those issues that unite and divide Britain in the 21st century. Britain's recent history entails a fascinating transition from world superpower to key actor in the world economy, education and politics.</p> <p>In addition, a substantial part of this course will address the recent referendum by which the UK has voted to leave the European Union.</p> <p>In what is no doubt one of the most significant political crises of the UK in 60 years, students will analyze the motivations for the referendum, the key proponents, the electorate's reaction to the outcome, the implications (for Britain, and specifically for Scotland and London, and for the EU) and the potential scenarios resulting from the so-called Brexit.</p> <p>The class includes embedded academic excursions across the UK. In particular, students will travel to Cambridge and the North of England to experience social class dynamics and to Edinburgh to discuss Scottish Nationalism.</p>									
Course Requirements:	<p>Required Text</p> <p>Heffernan, R., Hay,C and Russell,M.(Eds.) (2016). <i>Developments in British Politics 10</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan. ISBN: 978-1137494740; Cost: To Be Determined.</p> <p>Payne, G (Ed.) (2013). <i>Social Divisions</i> (3rd ed). Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan. ISBN: 978-0230228214; Cost: To Be Determined.</p> <p>In addition, as well as selected sections from additional academic texts, the course draws heavily from current events and their depiction in mainstream and fringe British Journalism, including the <i>Times</i>, the <i>Economist</i> and the <i>Guardian</i>.</p> <p>Assignments</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Course Requirements</th> <th>Percentages</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Thematic Reflections</td> <td>30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Essay</td> <td>40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Presentation</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Course Requirements	Percentages	1. Thematic Reflections	30%	2. Essay	40%	3. Presentation	20%
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	<p>Thematic Reflections (30%) Students will construct two thematic reflections of 500-600 words that use one or more of the course themes to critically analyze an out-of-class excursion.</p> <p>Essay (40%) At the conclusion of the course students will select from a range of essay questions that link course themes with contemporary political issues discussed during the course (1,200 words).</p> <p>Presentation (20%) Working in groups of 2-3, students will lead class discussion at the beginning of each session by critically reflecting on the previous topic. Students will be able to select their group and their presentation session at the beginning of the course.</p> <p>Participation & Class Discussion (10%) Students' participation will be assessed based on the analytical quality of the comments and questions they contribute to the class, their engagement with reading assignments and lecture information and their willingness to share these with the group.</p>										
<p>Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies and Assessment Measures:</p>	<p>On completion of the course, students should be able to:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="462 1108 964 1220">Learning Outcomes</th> <th data-bbox="964 1108 1466 1220">Course Requirement that will be used to assess the student's achievement of this outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1220 964 1362">Analyze the political ideas that dominate contemporary British politics.</td> <td data-bbox="964 1220 1466 1362">Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation; Participation & Class Discussion</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1362 964 1474">Apply these political ideas to contemporary issues in British politics.</td> <td data-bbox="964 1362 1466 1474">Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1474 964 1629">Articulate written and verbal arguments in response to political ideas and issues explored throughout the course.</td> <td data-bbox="964 1474 1466 1629">Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation; Participation & Class Discussion</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Learning Outcomes	Course Requirement that will be used to assess the student's achievement of this outcome	Analyze the political ideas that dominate contemporary British politics.	Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation; Participation & Class Discussion	Apply these political ideas to contemporary issues in British politics.	Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation	Articulate written and verbal arguments in response to political ideas and issues explored throughout the course.	Thematic Reflections; Essay; Presentation; Participation & Class Discussion	
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<p>Course Outline:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="462 1709 621 1751">Session</th> <th data-bbox="621 1709 1045 1751">Topic</th> <th data-bbox="1045 1709 1466 1751">Excursion</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3" data-bbox="462 1751 1466 1808">Week 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="462 1808 621 1890">Session 1</td> <td data-bbox="621 1808 1045 1890">Introduction, institutions and issues</td> <td data-bbox="1045 1808 1466 1890">Parliamentary walk</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Session	Topic	Excursion	Week 1			Session 1	Introduction, institutions and issues	Parliamentary walk
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	Session 2	Social class: Elitism	Cambridge, departing 1pm, arriving in London at 10pm
	Session 3	Social class: Inequality	
	Week 2		
	Session 4	Nationhood and empire	British Museum and Imperial War Museum
	Session 5	Nationhood and regional divides	Newcastle, 1-6pm, in Edinburgh overnight
	Session 6	Scottish nationalism	Departing Edinburgh at 6pm (option to stay on)
	Week 3		
	Session 7	Migration	Brixton
	Session 8	Multiculturalism	Shepherd's Bush
	Week 4		
	Session 9	Governing the body: Welfare	
	Session 10	The future of Britishness	
Other Policies:	<p>Expectations Professional behavior is expected of all students. This includes preparation for classes, on-time attendance at classes, attendance at all group sessions and appropriate participation in the form of attentiveness and contributions to the course. Respect for the academic process is the major guiding principle for professional behavior and extends to all communications, including email.</p> <p>Attendance/Participation Prompt attendance, full preparation, and active participation in class discussions are expected from every student in every class session.</p> <p>Course Policies For email communications, students must use their Arcadia University email account. Students are responsible for any information provided by e-mail or through Intranet postings.</p> <p>Plagiarism Representation of another's work or ideas as one's own in academic submissions is plagiarism, and is cause for disciplinary action. <i>Cheating</i> is actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions. Students caught cheating in this course will receive a failing grade. <i>Fabrication</i> is the</p>		



	<p>falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions, and cause for disciplinary action.</p> <p>Late or Missed Assignments Will not be accepted for grading.</p> <p>Students with Disabilities Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should disclose this information while enrolling into the program, and before leaving the United States so that appropriate arrangements can be made.</p> <p>Title IX Statement Arcadia University is committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions a faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.</p> <p>Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at https://www.arcadia.edu/university/policies-guidelines/title-ix.</p>
Prerequisites:	None.
Country and Program Connection:	While Great Britain has adapted smoothly to the 21st century, some key issues (social, economic) remain with undying vitality. Hence, this course will help students understand how class issues, elitism, income inequality, and the role of religion- among other issues- plays out in contemporary Britain.