<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title:</th>
<th>Introduction to British Politics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Code:</td>
<td>LONS PSU 130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits:</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester/Term:</td>
<td>☒ Semester</td>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ J-Term</td>
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<td></td>
<td>☐ Summer</td>
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**Course Description:**
This course examines the context, procedures and politics of British parliamentary democracy. It progresses through four parts: Introducing British Politics, Institutions and Structure, Britain in the Larger Context, and A Divided Britain. This course examines the context, procedures and politics of British parliamentary democracy. It progresses through four parts: Introducing British Politics, Institutions and Structure, Britain in the Larger Context, and A Divided Britain. Through these parts it engages several key themes in contemporary British Politics, including: Britain’s Institutional Democracy, the effects of globalization and global politics on Britain, and the current social and cultural divisions causing tension in British Politics. The question lurking behind all of these discussions will be whether contemporary British Politics is in some kind of crisis and what its future prospects are.

The course will employ a mix of lectures, seminars, and field studies out to view British Politics in action. Classes will be of a participatory nature and students are expected to prepare, read widely, and contribute fully to discussions and debates.

**Course Requirements:**
Required Text
Fully engaging with the ‘essential’ readings for each week’s topic is crucial for contributing to class and successfully completing the course. These essential readings will mainly be drawn from the textbooks below, all of which are available at Senate House Library. However, some weeks, additional readings will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Newspapers/Blog</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Final Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Class Participation
Students will receive a grade out of 10 assessing their contributions in lecture and seminar discussions.

Newspapers and Blogs
Students will be responsible to keep up with the flow of British political news. This will involve reading at least 1 newspaper (out of a recommended list) each day. For each blog assignment (listed in course schedule) they must then select one article which illustrates the theme for that assignment (listed in course schedule) and write a 500-word blog entry about how that news-story demonstrates that theme.

Presentations
In week 1, students will be assigned groups and a presentation slot (weeks 2-12) with topic. They will then have to prepare a 10-minute presentation and at least 3 discussion questions on their assigned topic.

Midterm Exam
In week 6, there will be a 1-hour midterm examination covering all the preceding material of the course. The format of the exam will be discussed in a previous session.
**Final Essay**
The Final assessment will be a 1500-word research paper, the topic of which must be chosen from a pre-approved list released after reading week. Students are expected to research well beyond the course materials, pay attention to proper research and citation practice, and demonstrate original thinking in relation to their questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcomes and/or Expected Student Competencies and Assessment Measures:</th>
<th>On completion of the course, students should be able to:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Outcomes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Course Requirement that will be used to assess the student’s achievement of this outcome</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. List and describe British political institutions and explain the evolution of the British constitution.</td>
<td>Newspapers/Blogs, Midterm Exam, and Final Essay</td>
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<td>2. Describe and analyze interaction between Parliament and other institutions and bodies in both Britain and Europe.</td>
<td>Midterm Exam and Final Essay</td>
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<td>3. Identify and apply the theoretical approaches to the study of British politics.</td>
<td>Midterm Exam and Final Exam</td>
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<td>4. Synthesize information to construct arguments and actively contribute to conversations about current debates and key issues in British politics.</td>
<td>Newspapers/Blogs and Presentation</td>
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<td>5. Relate lived experiences from course fieldwork to the media's frame of British Political Culture.</td>
<td>Participation and Newspapers/Blogs</td>
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<td>6. Analyze trends and changes in the British political landscape.</td>
<td>Presentation, Midterm Exam, and Final Essay</td>
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## Course Outline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introducing British Politics</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Political Parties and the Historical Context of British Politics</td>
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| Session 3 | Parliament: The House of Commons and The House of Lords  
Field work: Parliament and Prime Minister’s Questions |
| Session 4 | The Cabinet, the Premiership, and the Unwritten Constitution |
| Session 5 | Voting, Elections, Electoral Reform and Local British Politics  
Field work: Local Council Meeting |
| Session 6 | *Britain in Global Politics* |
| Session 7 | Britain and the European Union  
Field work: BBC Question Time |
| Session 8 | Social Class and Multiculturalism |
| Session 9 | Immigration and Extremism |
| Session 10 | Devolution and Regional Nationalism |
| Session 11 | The City, the Media, and the Civil Service |
| Session 12 | Conclusion: A Crisis in British Democracy?  
Field work: City Hall in London, Mayor’s Question Time |

### Other Policies:

#### 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 e-mail.

#### Attendance/Participation
Prompt attendance, full preparation, and active participation in class discussions are expected from every student in every class session.
### Course Policies
For e-mail communications, students must use their Arcadia University e-mail account. Students are responsible for any information provided by e-mail or through Intranet postings.

### Plagiarism
Representation of another’s work or ideas as one’s own in academic submissions is plagiarism, and is cause for disciplinary action. *Cheating* 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. *Fabrication* is the falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions, and cause for disciplinary action.

### Late or Missed Assignments
Will not be accepted for grading. Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in a failure of the class.

### 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.

<table>
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<th>Prerequisites:</th>
<th>None.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Country and Program Connection:</strong></td>
<td>This course will give students a detailed knowledge of British politics and issues, adding important context to their experience of living in London.</td>
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