



## THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Spring 2020

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### **POL 442A British Politics (3 credits)**

This course is designed for CUA Students participating in the London Parliamentary Internship Program, and serves as an academic component of the internship. It is therefore intended to complement students' practical experience in the British House of Commons, as well as the mandatory on-site academic sessions and course work coordinated by Anglo Educational Services.

#### **Required Readings:**

The course syllabus and readings will be made available on Blackboard at <https://blackboard.cua.edu/>

#### **Grading Policy and Requirements:**

3 Critical Analysis Papers (CAPs), 5 pages each: 60% (20% each)

1 Reflective Paper, 7 pages: 10%

MP Evaluation: 30%

**CAP Assignments:** You are asked to write 3 CAP assignments. **All papers need to be submitted as MS word documents to [hellmuth@cua.edu](mailto:hellmuth@cua.edu).**

#### **CAP 1: Comparing U.S. and British government systems – due February 3, 2020, at 11pm (London time)**

Write a critical analysis that compares the U.S. separation of powers and the British fusion of powers system. Your paper should assess the particular set-up of (and relationship between) executive and legislative branches; explain the electoral systems; discuss how laws are passed; and identify at least 3 checks and balances in each system.

#### **CAP 2: Your member, office, district, and staff – due March 2, 2020, at 11pm (London time)**

Write an essay that describes and analyzes your Member of Parliament, the home district he or she represents, how your office staff is organized, and where you fit in. (Please note: This assignment is asking you to conduct an objective analysis and is therefore very different from the subjective and more informal reflective paper).

#### **CAP 3: Analysis of public policy issue – due March 23, 2020, at 11pm (London time)**

Define, discuss, and evaluate a particular policy issue that your office or the House of Commons is currently dealing with. Why is the policy issue important or controversial? What are the major benefits and disadvantages associated with the policy issue, and what is your own opinion on the issue? (Be sure to give the issue a “fair shake” before voicing your own opinion at the very end of the paper.)

\*\*\*THE POLICY ISSUE MUST BE DIFFERENT FROM TOPICS YOU MAY HAVE ANALYZED OR WILL DISCUSS AS PART OF OTHER POLITICS PAPERS (in London or at CUA, etc.)\*\*\*

**Reflective Paper Assignment: – due April 20, 2020, at 11pm (Washington DC time)**

**To be submitted as MS word document to [hellmuth@cua.edu](mailto:hellmuth@cua.edu)**

As part of this more informal and subjective paper, you are asked to reflect on your study abroad experience in general and your parliamentary internship in particular. You are not required to cite any outside sources.

Questions that should be addressed in the paper include:

-What did you expect from this internship, your coursework, and from living in London, and in how far did the internship/classes/life in London meet your expectations, or not? (Major highlights, surprises, and/or disappointments)

-Describe your internship experience (in terms of your responsibilities, your relationship with the staff, and what you observed about their activities). How did it compare to other internships you might have done in the past? Be sure to actually reflect on your experience as opposed to e.g. just listing internship responsibilities and chores. In other words, *explain* what you did as part of a large research assignment, rather than just saying you *did research*.

-What did you learn about British politics?

**\*\*\*\*\*Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of a half letter grade per day (or part thereof). In other words, an A paper that is submitted 7 days late will be recorded as an F.\*\*\*\*\***

CAPs Sources:

Several sources will be listed on blackboard (under course documents), and you are required to consult them and integrate them as part of your CAPs. However, all CAPs require additional, outside research. This could involve information obtained from parliamentary or congressional websites, government reports, think tank publications, respectable newspaper articles, books, or scholarly journal articles (instructions on how to access CUA's electronic resources are available here: <http://libraries.cua.edu/instruct/aladconx.cfm>). You should consult and cite at least 5 sources in addition to the readings posted on blackboard.

CAPs Citations:

1. Cite consistently and carefully in order to prevent plagiarism. Remember to cite the author/source both when using direct quotes as well as when paraphrasing their words.
2. While I prefer footnotes, MLA, Turabian, and Chicago are all acceptable citation styles for CAPs.
3. Use quotes only sparingly and selectively – usually there is no need for long quotes!
4. Include a bibliography/works cited page.
5. Citations and bibliographic notes do not count toward the required page limit.

CAPs & Reflection Paper Format:

1. All papers need to be submitted as **MS word documents**.
2. Use a 12 point Times New Roman font and 1" margins.
3. The text should be double spaced. Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs.
4. Number your pages.

**Use the spell check, and proofread!**

**Here are some additional pointers for writing academic research papers. Please read carefully.**

**Your introduction:** State the question/issue/dilemma your paper analyzes as well as your answer to the question/issue/dilemma.

**A good way of organizing/structuring the paper is by developing “themes”** (which might also serve as subtitles): Think about themes in terms of the most important issues that are/ought to be discussed, and how these are addressed by the different authors/schools of thought.

**Your paper must present and discuss the different viewpoints thoroughly:** Present (summarize, paraphrase) and carefully weigh the arguments (discuss) associated with certain authors/ schools of thought. What are the similarities, where do they differ?

**When discussing your own viewpoint...** You must refer to and weigh the arguments of the readings/schools of thought rather than just tell me your personal opinion.

**Your conclusion:** Briefly re-touch on the most important factors that support your answer and lead to your conclusion.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

All students must adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy

(<http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityfull.cfm>). As the policy states, “Academic dishonesty, including such practices as cheating, plagiarism and fabrication, undermines the learning experience, and, as it involves fraud and deceit, is corrosive of the intellectual principles and is inconsistent with the ethical standards of this university... This policy sets forth the standards of honesty which student members ... are expected to follow. The faculty is also bound to adhere to the strictest standards of academic honesty. All members of the academic community have an obligation to familiarize themselves with these standards and to conduct themselves in accordance with both their letter and their spirit.”

**ONLINE CAMPUS RESOURCES FOR STUDENT SUPPORT:**

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please do not hesitate to consult with me. A wide range of services is available to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please notify me in a timely manner with a letter from Disability Support Services so that we can address your needs.

**Center for Academic Success** (202-319-5655) offers individual and online tutoring; skill workshops; online learning resources, etc.

**Counseling Center** (202-319-5765) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, emergency and testing services.

**Disability Support Services** (202-319-5211) offers assistance with accommodations for students with physical, medical, or psychological disabilities.