



Anglo Educational Services

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Catholic University of America
Syllabus proposal, Spring 2020.

Britain and Europe in a Global Perspective

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Overview

This module provides students with an overview of the major intellectual concepts and approaches to the study of key challenges facing contemporary Britain and Europe. The programme is made up of three themes: the first will provide historical background and focus on the frayed relationship between the UK and Europe which has culminated in the recent EU referendum and subsequently Brexit; the second unit will investigate the pressing and divisive issues facing the UK and EU, including extremism, populism and nationalism; and the third will introduce students to significant foreign policy and security issues that the UK and Europe face, as well as transatlantic relations.

Objectives

- To provide students with an understanding of some of the major contemporary challenges facing the UK and Europe;
- To encourage students to critically assess the impact of foreign and domestic policies pursued by the UK and the EU; and
- To encourage students to contribute fully and articulately to seminar discussions.

Teaching Arrangements

There will be thirteen compulsory sessions (and an additional session for the final exam), each consisting of a lecture and subsequent seminar discussion. Attendance is compulsory, and an attendance record will be taken at the beginning of every session.

It is essential that all students prepare for each session with the help of the reading list. The instructor will lead the discussion, but students are expected to engage actively and independently with each other. A list of required reading is provided for each topic. You are expected to read additional items to further your knowledge and to enable you to participate in class discussion and debate. You will need to read more for your essay. The list is not exclusive and you are encouraged to find other sources, both books and articles, which may help with your essay and other coursework.

Assessment

The instructor will use numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade you receive for this course; these are listed and weighted below. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class. However, you must complete all grading assessment categories to receive a grade for this course.

Class Participation	20%
Presentations (three each)	30%
Essay	20%
Final Examination	30%

The course assessment has the following components:

1. Class Participation

When determining your class participation grade, traditional criteria such as material preparation,



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completed reading before class, and collaborative group work are all evaluated. But it is the active, meaningful and informed verbal and written contribution that you make that is most important to your overall participation grade. Whereas attendance and punctuality are expected and will not count positively towards the grade, laxity in these areas will have a negative effect on your grade.

2. Presentations

On the first day of class, students will be assigned three presentation dates. Students will, during the weeks of their assigned presentation, select an article which interests them from **Politico.eu**, and present that article to the class in a compelling manner. Students will describe the context of the article, address why the topic is important, and critically assess it. Presentations will be assessed on the basis of preparation and organisation, creativity, quality of delivery, quality of analysis, and ability to trigger discussion around the selected topic. The presentation should be approx. **10 min long**, and questions and discussion will follow.

3. Essay

Students will write one essay of 1000 words. Essays must be submitted electronically to jonathan.a.boyd@gmail.com one week after Professor Goodwin's lecture.

Students will answer the following essay question:

- **Is 'populism' in Europe gaining ground, or receding? Is it something to be encouraged, or discouraged? By what means?**

The essay should demonstrate the synthetic and analytical skills of the students, their familiarity with the relevant literature, clarity of expression as well as their ability to address and evaluate various positions, to debate, and to develop argumentation.

6. Exam

The final exam is designed to assess the extent to which students have met the course learning outcomes listed above. It will test students' abilities in three important areas of competency: the amount of information you master; the accuracy of the information you present; and the significance you attribute to the facts and ideas you have integrated across your study in this course.

The examination will consist of short answer and essay questions. For instance, students will respond to questions challenging their knowledge of names, seminal publications, institutions, definitions, and more. Essay questions may require students to explain key concepts.

Attendance and absence

- UK Border Agency regulations require that we keep a full record of class attendance.
- Authorized absence may be caused by illness, scheduled medical/dental appointments, attendance at academic conferences, and observing University-approved religious holidays. They can only be authorized in advance.
- Unauthorized absence results from a failure to contact Anglo Educational before a class that you do not attend or from absence without acceptable excuse. Unacceptable excuses include: personal travel, visits from guests. Please note that unauthorized absences may put you in breach of your visa conditions.

Attendance at all classes is mandatory, and unauthorized absences will affect your grade as follows.

Unauthorized Absences - Effect on Grade

0-1	[A is A; B is B]
2-3	Subtract 1 letter grade [A becomes B; B becomes C]
4 or more	Subtract 2 letter grades [A becomes C; B becomes D]


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Course Calendar

	Topics	Student Assignments
7 Jan	Introduction Dr Jonathan Boyd	Become familiar with UK news sources
14 Jan	British Nationhood and Empire Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: The British Empire: A Very Short Introduction (OUP). British Politics: A Very Short Introduction (OUP)
21 Jan	The EU and its institutions Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Pinder and Usherwood, 'The European Union: A Very Short Introduction' (OUP)
28 Jan	Nationalism and European Integration Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Baylis, Smith and Owens, 'Nationalism', Chapter 25 Francis Fukuyama, 'European Identities: part II', American Interest, Jan. 12, 2012
4 Feb	Scottish nationalism and Ireland Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: McGarvey, Neil, and Fraser Stewart. "European, not British? Scottish nationalism and the EU referendum." (2016): 59-70. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/30/magazine/brexit-northern-ireland.html?searchResultPosition=2
11 Feb	Migration: the UK and the EU Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Migration Observatory briefing – EU migration to and from the UK Migration Observatory briefing – Long-Term International Migration Flows to and from the UK Migration Observatory Election 2015 Briefing – Why do International Migrants Come to the UK?
18 Feb	Human rights in the UK and EU Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Franck, Are Human Rights Universal? Foreign Affairs (2001)
25 Feb	Populism and Extremism in Europe Prof Matthew Goodwin	TBA
3 March	Trade & Finance in UK and EU Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Simeon Djankov, The City of London after Brexit, http://www.lse.ac.uk/fmg/dp/discussionPapers/fmgdps/DP762.pdf
10 March	Counter-terrorism and intelligence Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Borger, Julian, James Ball, and Glenn Greenwald. 'Revealed: How US And UK Spy Agencies Defeat Internet Privacy And Security'. The Guardian. N.p., 2013. Web. 4 Aug. 2015.



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17 March	America and the UK: a 'special relationship'? Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: Porter, Patrick. "Last charge of the knights? Iraq, Afghanistan and the special relationship." <i>International Affairs</i> 86.2 (2010): 355-375.
24 March	UK and Europe: the return of geopolitics? Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: John J. Mearsheimer, "Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault", <i>Foreign Affairs</i> , Sept/Oct 2014.
31 March	European climate challenges Dr Jonathan Boyd	Readings: TBD
7 April	Final Exam	Review all class readings & materials