



Anglo Educational Services

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Catholic University of America
Syllabus proposal, Spring 2019.

Teaching Supplement to the Internship Seminar Contemporary Britain under Brexit: Divisions, Challenges and Prospects

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Overview

In June 2016, a referendum was held by which the UK voted to leave the European Union; the UK had been a member for decades, and the referendum result largely took pollsters and pundits by surprise. It by no means reflected a consensus amongst British voters however: the 'leave' vote was 51.9% compared to 48.1% for 'remain'. Nevertheless, the result was a clear victory for 'leave', and the British government has honoured the electorate's decision and is now in negotiations with the EU to determine the future relationship between the UK and the EU.

This course will examine contemporary Britain in the grips of this significant transition. Students will analyse the motivations for the referendum, the role of demographics and inequality on voters' preferences, the key actors and proponents, domestic and international reaction to the outcome, and the latest negotiating positions of the UK and the EU.

Brexit will most certainly have a meaningful impact on British politics, society and its economy; indeed, there are few issues in contemporary Britain that will not conceivably be affected by Brexit. Students will examine the potential scenarios and their implications—not only for Britain, but also specifically for London and Scotland, as well as for the EU—on issues that the UK and the EU have traditionally closely cooperated, including trade relations, immigration, human rights, and foreign and defence policy.

Teaching Arrangements

There will be twelve compulsory sessions, each consisting of a seminar discussion or an off-site visit. 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

One 3000-word essay; questions will be self-developed. Deadline: TBD. 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.

Attendance and absence

- UK Border Agency regulations require that we keep a full record of class attendance.



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- 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]

Seminar Calendar		
	Topics	Student Assignments
February 1	Introduction	Self-guided walking tour of Westminster
February 8	European security	Field trip: Imperial War Museum
February 15	Brexit and the media	Readings: Moore and Ramsay, 'UK media coverage of the 2016 EU Referendum Campaign' https://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/policy-institute/CMCP/UK-media-coverage-of-the-2016-EU-Referendum-campaign.pdf
Feb 22	Brexit Negotiations	Readings: UK Government – "Plan for Britain" website Europa (EU official website) – UK – Brexit – overview European Commission – Brexit negotiations website Visit to The British Museum: Parthenon Marbles
March 1	Imperial legacy and European culture	Field trip: British Museum, Parthenon Marbles Readings: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/archaeology-and-history/magazine/2017/03-04/parthenon-sculptures-british-museum-controversy/#
March 8	Inequality and elitism	Readings: Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2017 www.ifs.org.uk/publications/9539
March 15	Essay development	Students will develop their own essay questions, and this session will enable them to receive feedback on their proposals in a peer-review setting.
March 22: midterm exam (no seminar)		



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March 29	Brexit & The City	Field trip: Bank of England
April 5	Britain and Immigration	Field trip: Migration Museum Readings: Migration Observatory Election 2015 Briefing – Why do International Migrants Come to the UK?
April 12	Understanding the Brexit vote Prof Matthew Goodwin	Readings: Goodwin, Brexit vote explained (2016).
April 26		
May 3		
May 10: Exam (no seminar)		