

# **INTL 4325: British Politics**

**Spring 2020: Oxford, UK**

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Course Webpage: <http://www.shanepsingh.com/teaching.html>

**Class Meeting Times:** Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-12:00PM

**Class Location:** Keble College

**Description and Goal of Course:** This seminar introduces students to the main actors, institutions, processes, history, functions, and policies of the British political system. Students will therefore learn the essentials of British politics. In the process, they will also be better able to understand contemporary British public policy issues and political events during their Oxford term and thereafter.

By the end of this course, you should be able to: explain the basic procedures, rules, and structure of major British political institutions; discuss the role of mass political behavior and intermediary institutions in the United Kingdom; and describe the role of the United Kingdom in world politics.

## **Required Textbook:**

Garnett, Mark, and Philip Lynch. 2016. *Exploring British Politics*. New York: Routledge. Fourth Edition.

## **Student Responsibilities:**

**Readings:** Students are required to do the readings for each class period. I expect everyone to finish the readings for each class ahead of time. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, even if the material is not explicitly discussed in the classroom.

**Final Exam:** Students will take a written final exam on January 17.

**Final Report:** Students will complete a take-home research report prior to the written final exam referred to above. This report will be due at the time of the written final exam (on January 17). Details of the take-home research report are given at the end of this syllabus.

**Quizzes:** There will be eight daily quizzes given during the seminar meetings. You will need to complete the readings ahead of time in order to do well on these quizzes.

**Participation/Attendance:** This course is a seminar, with a small number of students. I therefore expect that students will attend course meetings and contribute meaningfully to class discussions (quality and quantity). Students should prepare for each class meeting by completing assigned readings, generating questions they have from those readings, and reviewing notes from previous meetings.

**Grade Distribution:**

Quizzes:	40% (5% each)
Participation:	10%
Final Report:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

**Grade Scale:**

>=93%:	A
90-92.99%:	A-
87-89.99%:	B+
83-86.99%:	B
80-82.99%:	B-
77-79.99%:	C+
73-76.99%:	C
70-72.99%:	C-
60-69.99%:	D
<60%:	F

**Policy on Laptops and Smartphones:** The use of smartphones during class is strictly prohibited, but students may use their laptops to take notes or to refer to the readings. Students may not, however, browse the web or check their email. Students caught doing so will lose participation points.

**Late/Missed Assignments:** Missed assignments will result in a zero without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Students will be penalized for late assignments; 20% of the grade for each day late without a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency. Make-up quizzes and exams can be arranged with the instructor with a university-approved medical excuse or family emergency.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students requiring accommodations should discuss such matters with the instructor at the outset of the course. Students requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center on campus (706-542-8719, <http://www.drc.uga.edu>).

*As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.*

**Readings and Course Schedule:** *The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapters</b>
January 6	Understanding and Analyzing British Politics	1-2
January 7	Historical Context, Economy, and Society	3-4
January 8	The Constitution and the Executive	6-7
January 9	Parliament and the Judiciary	8-9
January 10	Local Government and Devolution	11-12
January 13	Political Parties	14-16
January 14	The Media, Elections, and Electoral Systems	5, 17
January 15	Voting and Participation	18-19
January 16	The UK and the European Union	13, Online Brexit Chapter ( <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ubfadpe">https://tinyurl.com/ubfadpe</a> )
January 17	Final Exam/Final Report Due	

## Final Report

Each student will complete a research report on one British Prime Minister (PM). This report will be due at the start of the final examination period for the seminar on January 17.

The following provisions govern this assignment:

- a. Each student will select a PM from the list below in consultation with the instructor. Students should complete this step no later than January 8th.
- b. The final research paper should be approximately 7-10 pages (inclusive of all materials; 10 pages max.).
- c. Please use 1-inch margins, use 12-point font, number the pages, and double space the text.
- d. Students should primarily (>50%) use academic sources and primary documents (e.g., government documents/papers, speeches, etc.), not merely websites. Please use a common citation format (APA, MLA, APSA, etc.) consistently throughout the paper.

### *Prime Ministers:*

Robert Walpole	Frederick Robinson	Stanley Baldwin
Spencer Compton	Arthur Wellesley	Ramsay MacDonald
Henry Pelham	Charles Grey	Neville Chamberlain
Thomas Pelham-Holles	William Lamb	Winston Churchill
William Cavendish	Robert Peel	Clement Attlee
John Stuart	John Russell	Anthony Eden
George Grenville	Edward Smith-Stanley	Harold Macmillan
Charles Watson-Wentworth	George Hamilton-Gordon	Alec Douglas-Home
William Pitt the Elder	Henry Temple	Harold Wilson
Augustus FitzRoy	Benjamin Disraeli	Edward Heath
Frederick North	William Ewart Gladstone	James Callaghan
William Petty	Robert Cecil	Margaret Thatcher
William Cavendish-Bentinck	Archibald Primrose	John Major
William Pitt the Younger	Arthur Balfour	Tony Blair
Henry Addington	Henry Campbell-Bannerman	Gordon Brown
William Grenville	Herbert Asquith	David Cameron
Spencer Perceval	David Lloyd George	Theresa May
Robert Jenkinson	Bonar Law	Boris Johnson
George Canning		

### *Grading Rubric:*

20% Prime Minister's background (pertinent details about pre-office life, political career, etc.)

40% Prime Minister's accomplishments in office (specification, detail, development)

20% Research (use of sources, thoroughness)

20% Grammar, spelling, and organization