

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: British Political History, 1832-1990
Status: Definitive
Code: **5002HIST** (114543)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2012

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Mike Benbough-Jackson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 54.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 186

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	26.000
Workshop	26.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1		50.0	
Exam	AS2	unseen examination	50.0	2.00

Aims

1. To explore the theme of 'nation, state and power' through an analysis of British political history from 1832 to 1990.
2. To evaluate key historical interpretations of political history during this period.
3. To examine the evolution of political leadership, foreign policy, political parties, pressure groups activity and the impact of government policy on society.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Make judgements on the nature of state power and explain its importance in change and continuity within Britain during the period.
- 2 Assess interpretations of British political history.
- 3 Demonstrate a knowledge and appraise the value of the part played by a 'mass electorate' in British politics.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

2500 word essay	1	2	
exam	1	2	3

Outline Syllabus

The Victorian state: the development of political structures, leadership, policy, parties and ideology; electoral change with a detailed examination of electoral reform; pressure group activity: Case studies of Women's suffrage, Chartism and the Anti Corn Law League; Development of ideology with particular reference to Gladstonian Liberalism and Peelite and Disrealian Conservatism

Development of state power in 20th century: the rise of the Labour Party, the decline of Liberal Party and the survival of the Conservative Party: British foreign policy and the origins of the Two World Wars; Inter-War politics; Churchill and the Second World War; the welfare state after 1945; Conservative dominance 1951-64; revival of Labour in 60s and 70s; Trade union power and the Thatcher 'revolution' 1979-1990

Learning Activities

The module consists of a comprehensive lecture programme, which is supplemented by the use of visual aids and individual student guidance sessions at which students can discuss course content, assessment and revision matters in greater detail on a one to one basis or in small study groups. Class work includes the evaluation of documents from the period and historical judgements.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Evans, E. J.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	The Forging of the Modern State
Subtitle	Early Industrial Britain, 1783-1870

Edition	
Publisher	Longman:Harlow
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Marwick, A.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	A History of the Modern British Isles, 1814-1999
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell:Oxford
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Pearce, M. and Stewart, G.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	British Political History, 1867-1990
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Routledge:London
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Black, J.
Publishing Year	2000
Title	Modern British History since 1900
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	MacMillan: Basingstoke
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	McKibbin, R.
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Parties and People, England, 1914 - 1851
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press: Oxford
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Harrison, B.
Publishing Year	2009
Title	Seeking a Role
Subtitle	The United Kingdom 1951 - 1971
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford University Press: Oxford

Notes

Although Britain did not experience any violent political revolutions or civil wars during the period covered by this module, there were cumulative changes which meant that the political landscape of 1990 was very different from that of 1832; gender alone does not separate the two Conservative leaders featured in this module's title. This year-long module considers key aspects of these incremental transformations from 1832 to 1990. During the module we will examine the development of political parties, leadership, policy, social reform and ideology. Political history cannot be considered in a vacuum; neither is it just the history of significant political figures like Robert Peel or Margaret Thatcher. Therefore the social, economic and cultural currents that flowed through political channels will also be highlighted.

The module is divided into two parts – roughly into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Over the first twelve teaching weeks we will examine how and why a country where, in 1831, only an estimated thirteen per cent of adult males could vote in parliamentary elections became one where, after 1884, in the region of sixty per cent of adult males were enfranchised. Even though the twentieth century witnessed extensions in the proportion of those entitled to vote in national elections, as the franchise was extended the impression of progress faded. As Keith Robbins observed, from the mid-twentieth century there was 'increasing concern about the structure and functioning of British government as a whole'. Why was there a shift from a fear of revolution in the early nineteenth century to apprehension about disillusion in the late twentieth century? Continuities will also be explored, and British political history with its lack of 'root and branch' change provides a good subject through which to explore continuity and change within the theme of 'nation, state and power'.