Liverpool John Moores University

Title: 21ST CENTURY BRITAIN
Status: Definitive
Code: **5503EDSP**   (116086)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2016

Owning School/Faculty: Education
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Diane Grant	Y

Academic Level:	FHEQ5	**Credit Value:**	12	**Total Delivered Hours:**	36
Total Learning Hours:	120	**Private Study:**	84		

Delivery Options
Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	23
Seminar	12
Tutorial	1

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	2,000 Word Essay	70	
Presentation	AS2	15 Minute Presentation	30	

Aims

To examine the effectiveness of political institutions and structures in Britain in the light of social, cultural and economic change since the 1970s and 1980s.

To evaluate the continuing role of ideology in British politics and to examine a range of social and political issues (such as public service delivery, civil liberties and human rights, and multiculturalism)

To examine new social forces and political change in the light of Britain's political tradition and contemporary debates over the nature of democracy.

To explore changing attitudes towards politics and the effectiveness of political action through the study of the media and selected texts.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

1   Comment on the significance of new social forces and conflicts, and examine their impact on political processes in the light of the British political tradition.
2   Critically assess the effectiveness of contemporary political institutions and the nature of governance in the light of an examination of selected contemporary issues that have generated political division and media debate.
3   Discuss the effectiveness of political parties in shaping contemporary political discourse in the light of debates over ideology.
4   Identify reasons for the decline in conventional political participation, particularly in relation to electoral turnout, and political alienation amongst young people.
5   Consider the ways in which the mass media cover politics and political issues, utilizing notions of media bias and cultural hegemony.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay 2000 words   1   2   5

Presentation   2   3   4

Outline Syllabus

1) The Conceptual Framework: Elite theory, democracy and the British political "tradition".
2) The Historical Context: Economic Decline; End of Empire; Relations with Europe and USA; the role of the Welfare State.
3) The Breakdown of Consensus & the Impact of Thatcherism.
4) Old Labour, the New Labour Project and the "third way".
5) Landslides in the midst of apathy: Labour's electoral success and the growth of political disenchantment.
6) Britain on the Verge of Breakdown? Media versions of Britain, the state and politics.
7) Contemporary Issues I: the impact of the Credit Crunch on Politics and People.
8) Contemporary Issues II: The Politics of Protest and Identity; Civil liberties, Multiculturalism & the War on Terror.
9) Contemporary Issues III: The Welfare State in Crisis (yet again).
10) Conclusions: British Politics & the Future: Modernisation, modernity & the limits to change

Learning Activities

Lectures. Seminars involving student presentations where appropriate, and group discussion. Individual tutorials. Group work where appropriate. Individual student research, including use of the internet, and library research. Essay planning and writing.

Notes

21st Century Britain will offer a broad survey of the contemporary state of politics and society, and will invite students to undertake a critical analysis of popular representations of politics in the mass media. Students will also examine the socio-political make-up of contemporary Britain from a variety of perspectives, with particular reference to four themes: democracy and power; participation and disengagement; ideology and change; and models of politics and governance.