

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: 21ST CENTURY BRITAIN  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **5515MEDCUL** (115011)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ5  
**Credit Value:** 12.00  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 36.00  
**Total Learning Hours:** 120  
**Private Study:** 84

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	23.000
Seminar	12.000
Tutorial	1.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	One Essay (2000 words). (Week 14)	70.0	
Presentation	AS2	One Presentation (15 minutes). (Weeks 8-10)	30.0	

### 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:

One essay (2000 words)	1	2	5
One presentation (15 mins)	2	3	4

## **Outline Syllabus**

*The Conceptual Framework: Elite theory, democracy and the British political "tradition".*

*The Historical Context: Economic Decline; End of Empire; Relations with Europe and USA; the role of the Welfare State.*

*The Breakdown of Consensus & the Impact of Thatcherism.*

*Old Labour, the New Labour Project and the "third way".*

*Landslides in the midst of apathy: Labour's electoral success and the growth of political disenchantment.*

*Britain on the Verge of Breakdown? Media versions of Britain, the state and politics.*

*Contemporary Issues I: the impact of the Credit Crunch on Politics and People.*

*Contemporary Issues II: The Politics of Protest and Identity; Civil liberties, Multiculturalism & the War on Terror.*

*Contemporary Issues III: The Welfare State in Crisis (yet again).*

*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.

## References

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Chadwick, A. and Heffernan, R.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2003
<b>Title</b>	The New Labour Reader
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Polity Press
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Dunleavy, P. (et al.)
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2006
<b>Title</b>	Developments in British Politics 8
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Macmillan
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Gamble, A.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1994
<b>Title</b>	Britain in Decline
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Palgrave Macmillan
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Holliday, I.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2000
<b>Title</b>	"Is the British state hollowing out?"
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Political Quarterly
<b>ISBN</b>	

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<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	McAnnulla, S.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2006
<b>Title</b>	British Politics: A Critical Introduction
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Continuum
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Stoker, G.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2006
<b>Title</b>	Why Politics Matters: Making Democracy Work
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Palgrave Macmillan
<b>ISBN</b>	

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### 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.