BRITISH POLITICS

Objectives and Approach
This is an introductory survey course on the politics of the United Kingdom (Great Britain). With the possible exception of the United States, no other country has had a greater influence on politics around the world. This course will examine this influence and its causes by examining the origins of the British tradition. The course will also survey British citizens and voters, political institutions, elections, political parties, media, and prime ministers, as well as various aspects of British policies, including its welfare state, political economy and relations with Europe and the world. The course will be supported by a Ted Blackboard account, where the syllabus, announcements, assignments, and lecture slides will be posted.

Course Assignments and Grading
Written assignments include (1) a paper, (2) an in-class midterm, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will consist of objective as well as essay questions. The paper will be based on a project explained and assigned in class. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your grade. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other assignments 25% toward your written course grade. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Class attendance is required, and participation will count for 10% of your course grade (with written assignments counting for 90%). Students who fail to complete one or more written assignments will not pass the course. Tests will be based on lectures and presentations as well as on readings. Incompletes or special exams will in accordance with UCSD policy be given only on the basis of timely petitions in pressing and properly documented cases.

Academic Integrity
Fair and effective education requires academic integrity. The General Catalog spells out the relevant UCSD rules. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism thus includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments as well as including passages in your work that have been copied more or less verbatim from unattributed sources. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and you are not allowed to collaborate with anyone in or outside this class. In-class tests will be closed-book, with no aids allowed. Any suspected violation of academic integrity will without exception be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for disciplinary action.

Teaching Assistant
Don Lee (dls017@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant. Office hours: T Th 2-3 and by app’t in SSB 446.

Books and Materials
The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore. All readings will also be placed on electronic or hard reserve at the Geisel Library. All readings are required. Avoid old editions of Jones & Norton.

Calendar
Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for February 3, and the papers will be due on March 3. The final examination will be given on Tuesday, March 17, between 11:30 and 2:29. All dates and class schedules are subject to change by announcement in class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Tuesday, January 6: Introduction: British Society and the Anglophone
Jones and Norton, chap. 3; Hannan, Introduction.
Thursday, January 8:  Political History: The Emergence of the United Kingdom
Hannan, chaps. 1-3.

Tuesday, January 13:  The Liberal Tradition and the British Constitution
Jones and Norton, chaps. 4 and 13; Hannan, chaps. 4-5.

Thursday, January 15:  The British Empire and the Commonwealth

Your political identity due

Tuesday, January 20:  The Crown and the House of Lords
Jones and Norton, chaps. 14 and 17.

Thursday, January 22:  The House of Commons
Jones and Norton, chaps. 9 and 15; Archer, entire.

Tuesday, January 27:  First Among Equals: The Prime Minister and Cabinet
Jones and Norton, chap. 18; Archer, entire.

First project due

Thursday, January 29:  Prime Ministers: Thatcher to Cameron
Jones and Norton, chap. 2.

Tuesday, February 3:  Midterm Exam

Thursday, February 5:  Ministers, Civil Servants, and Local Government
Jones and Norton, chaps. 19-20; Archer, entire.

Tuesday, February 10:  Political Parties and Elections
Jones and Norton, chaps. 7 and 11; Archer, entire.

Thursday, February 12:  Interest Groups and the Media
Jones and Norton, chaps. 8 and 10.

Tuesday, February 17:  The Policy Process
Jones and Norton, chap. 22.

Thursday, February 19:  Political Economy
Jones and Norton, chap. 25.

Tuesday, February 24:  The British Welfare State
Jones and Norton, chap. 24.

Thursday, February 26:  Nationalism and Devolution
Jones and Norton, chap. 12.

Tuesday, March 3:  Immigration
Jones and Norton, chap. 3.

Papers Due

Thursday, March 5:  Foreign and Defense Policy
Jones and Norton, chaps. 2 and 26.

Tuesday, March 10:  The United Kingdom and Europe
Jones and Norton, chap. 27.

Thursday, March 12:  The Future of the United Kingdom
Jones and Norton, Epilogue.

Tuesday, March 17:  Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)