



## SYLLABUS

### **OXE 388: POLITICAL PARTIES & ELECTIONS IN THE U.K. AND IRELAND**

Instructor: Priscilla Southwell

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Contact Hours: 40

Language of Instruction: English

LONDON, ENGLAND

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course centers on two crucial components of the U.K. and Irish political systems: political parties and elections.

We will also examine the topic of "Politics and Art," which will match up with our excursions to London art museums and attendance at theatrical performances. We will also examine the lives and works of Karl Marx & Frederich Engels when they lived in London, dovetailing with our visits to the British Museum and Highgate Cemetery.

Note: 'Political Parties & Elections' is designed to complement Andrew Whitehead's 'Contemporary British Politics' course." Students are required to sign up for both of these classes, as part of the GEO's 'Politics in London' summer program.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course aims to analyze political parties and elections in both the U.K. and the Republic of Ireland. It will provide students with the analytical tools to compare and contrast the electoral systems of both countries, as well as the more decentralized aspect of political parties. This class will also include weekly film showings and excursions.

#### **RULES AND PROCEDURES**

Attendance at all class sessions, films, and excursions is required. Students are also expected to be prepared for all classes and to contribute to discussions.

#### **FILMS AND EXCURSIONS:**

The course also includes weekly films and excursions. These include:

- A guided tour of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster and walk to 10 Downing Street (PM's residence)
- A visit to the British Museum, & Highgate Cemetery, with an emphasis on the years that Friedrich Engels & Karl Marx lived in London
- A visit to the Tate Britain and the Courtauld museums.
- A trip to Manchester or Cardiff, Wales
- Two plays, one of them at the Globe Theater

#### **POWERPOINTS:**

There will be two PowerPoints posted on Canvas; the first will material prior to the midterm exam, and the second one for the final exam.

#### **REQUIRED READING:**

On-line articles and book chapters and material on the PowerPoints

#### **METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)**

Your overall grade will be as follows:

- Midterm In-Class Exam - (40%)
- Final In-Class Exam - (50%)
- Class, Film, & Excursion Participation - (10%)

The exams will consist of identification and essay questions.

#### **COURSE OUTLINE**

This class will meet from 9:30-11:30 p.m. (approx..) three days a week, usually Tues, -Thurs, but may be adjusted due to excursions.

#### **WEEK ONE:**

Introduction

Recent Political Developments in the U.K. and Ireland.

Political Leaders in the UK and Europe

Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic in the UK & the EU

Recent Political Elections and Referenda in the U.K.

The "Troubles" in Northern Ireland & the "Northern Ireland Protocol"

Politics & Art: Controversial, Stolen & Displaced Pieces of Art

The British Museum, the Tate Britain and the Courtauld (in preparation for Friday and Monday's excursions)

Readings: <https://www.thecollector.com/controversial-artworks-of-the-20th-century/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-renews-its-commitment-to-return-nazi-looted-art-to-rightful-owners>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/elgin-marbles-parthenon-sculptures-athens-greece-british-museum-a7129806.html>

<https://bizfluent.com/info-7749946-role-art-government-politics.html>

Film: 'Pride' Tuesday, 4-6 pm.

Possible Play

Possible Excursion: British Museum.

**WEEK TWO:** Excursion: Tate Britain & Courtauld

The History of the U.K. and the EU

Contrast between U.S. & Europe; Political Parties in the U.K.

The U.K.'s & the U.S. Roles in the War in Iraq

Understanding the Brexit Vote and the Brexit Agreement  
Political Scandals; The Welsh Mining Disaster (1966); the  
Windrush Affair & Grenfell Fire

Reading:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-26515129>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/world/europe/britain-northern-ireland-trade-brexit-eu.html?referringSource=articleShare>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/09/edward-snowden-nsa-whistleblower-surveillance>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/world/europe/grenfell-towers-fire-london.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Films: "Aberfan" (in class), from The Crown, Season 3, Episode 3

"Official Secrets" Tuesday, 4-6 pm.

Possible Play

**MIDTERM EXAM (Thursday)**

**WEEK THREE:** Marx & Contemporary Politics: Marx & Engels in London; Non-mainstream Parties in the U.K.; The U.K.'s Multi-level Party System; Media & Politics; Manchester(or Cardiff and its significance for UK Politics

Readings: TBA

<https://www.theguardian.com/gnm-archive/2002/jun/06/1>

**Film: 'The Young Karl Marx' (in class)**

**Trip to Cardiff or Manchester**

**WEEK FOUR: Possible Excursion to Highgate Cemetery**

**Party Organization and Campaign Financing; Campaigns and Elections; The Republic of Ireland**

**Readings: TBA**

**Film: 'The Wind that Shakes the Barley' Tuesday, 4-6 pm.**

**FINAL EXAM (Wednesday)**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**Students who undertake this course can expect to gain a thorough knowledge of the formal and informal aspects of both countries' party and electoral systems.**

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY**

**The course introduces competing interpretations, drawing in particular on the fields of U.S. politics, comparative politics and history.**