

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School / Department:</b>	Humanities & Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Political Science
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	British Politics - Inside Parliament
<b>Course Code:</b>	POLS 5102
<b>Total Hours:</b>	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
<b>Credit</b>	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce students to the main political institutions in the United Kingdom (the monarchy, the executive, parliament, political parties and electoral systems) and to important debates in contemporary British society, such as constitutional reform, the political impact of Brexit and Britain's role in international affairs, the power of the media, gender debates and the political management of ethnic and cultural diversity. The class combines theoretical, empirical, and active-learning approaches (the course includes visits to political institutions like Parliament and the Supreme Court provided they are accessible at the time the course runs). The course is co-taught with a Member of Parliament. Some of the sessions led by the MP take place in the parliamentary estate.

**Prerequisites:**

40 Credits

***It is not possible for students to take this course if they have previously taken PLT 5205 The British Parliament and Politics.***

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To help students develop a critical understanding of British political institutions, political parties and main political debates and how these relate both to each other and to wider questions in British society
- To help students develop a critical understanding of important debates in contemporary British politics, for example constitutional issues, Brexit, migration, and the representation of ethnic minorities in political institutions.
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organisations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of the British parliament, parties and politics
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

**Programme Outcomes:**

5AII; 5BI; 5CI; 5DII

A detailed list of the programme outcomes can be found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with theories and concepts used to analyse and explain British political institutions, practices and systems.
- Demonstrates a critical understanding of core problems and issues in the study of British politics.
- Demonstrates the ability to formulate and communicate arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources and/or data
- Demonstrates a range of well-developed skills and practices that are relevant to the workplace

**Indicative Content:**

- UK political institutions
- UK parliamentary norms and practices
- UK party system and party politics
- Elections and electoral politics in the UK
- Debates about national identities
- Key debates in British politics
- Key debates in political science in a British context

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

**Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

**Indicative Text(s):**

- Garnett, M., Dorey, P. and Diamond, P. (2023) *Exploring British Politics*. 6th edn. UK: Routledge.
- Heffernan, R., Hay, C., Cowley, P. and Philip, M. (2016) *Developments in British Politics 10*. UK: Palgrave.
- Jones, B., Norton, P. and Hertner, I. (2021) *Politics UK*. 10<sup>th</sup> edn. UK: Longman.
- Willet, J. and Giovannini, A. (2024) *An Introduction to UK Politics: Place, Pluralism and Identities*. UK: Sage.
- Webb, P. and Bale, T. (2021) *The Modern British Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

See syllabus for complete reading list.

**Change Log for this CSD:**

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
First edition	November 2024	
Course Description Update	February 2025	