

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**Academic School/Department:** Communications, Arts and Social Sciences**Programme:** Political Science**FHEQ Level:** 5**Course Title:** British Politics – Inside Parliament**Course Code:** PLT 5205**Course Leader:** Dr Eunice Goes**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 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, Britain's relations with Europe, the power of the media, gender debates and multiculturalism. The class combines theoretical and empirical approaches. Classes are supplemented by 10 sessions in the House of Commons with a Member of Parliament.

Pre-requisites: PLT 3100 or PLT 3105 or HST 3100 or HST 3105**Aims and Objectives:**

- To give students the opportunity to develop a detailed critical understanding of the working of British political institutions and how they relate with each other and with wider questions related to British politics and society
- Develop a detailed knowledge of British political institutions, political parties, and the main political debates
- Have a detailed understanding of the debates surrounding constitutional reform in the United Kingdom
- Develop a detailed understanding of how different institutions interact with each other.
- Have a detailed understanding of how the media influences and shapes British politics
- Develop a detailed understanding of important debates in contemporary British politics.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme

outcomes. 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

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

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrate a detailed understanding of British political institutions, practices and systems
- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues in British politics (ie constitutional reform, relations with the EU, the political influence of the media, gender politics, multiculturalism, immigration, political participation)
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- UK political institutions
- UK parliamentary norms and practices
- UK party system and party politics
- Elections and electoral politics in the UK
- Key issues 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.

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues,

addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group

