

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the British political system. It presents different aspects of the United Kingdom as a constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy. The focus of the course is on a) the evolution of the British political system over centuries and b) how this evolution impacted contemporary Britain.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This course is lecture-based. Attendance is **optional**. Attendance in the TD sessions is **compulsory**.

WEEKLY READINGS & ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

Each week, a group of students is expected to analyze a specific theme related to the main subject. This includes: a) an oral (ppt) presentation and b) submission of ~~app~~ **paper**. The students are expected to present and discuss the material in the TD session.

QUIZ: A quiz is expected.

FINAL EXAM: There will be a final exam at the end of the semester, which will include a varied assessment (short answers, matching, gap-filling, MCQ, True/false pattern, Identifications...)

ASSESSMENT:

- a) Final exam (50%)
- b) TD (50%)

TD SESSION GRADING: Students will be graded on the following:

Attendance:	5 pts
Oral presentation:	5 pts
Paper:	5pts
Quiz:	5 pts

TD Sessions

I/Presentation (5pts)

1. The British Political System: An Overview

Theme 1: Constitutional Monarchy and Absolute Monarchy

Theme 2: The Rule of Law in Britain

2. The Sovereign: Role, Significance, and Appeals for Reform

Theme 1: Elizabeth I: Achievements and Legacy

Theme 2: Queen Victoria: Achievements and Legacy

3. The British Constitution: Its implications on governance in the UK

Theme 1: Magna Carta Libertatum

Theme 2: Habeas Corpus Writ

4. The British Bicameral Parliament: Significance and Challenges

Theme 1: Reforming (the Removal of) the House of Lords: A Debate

Theme 2: Unicameral Vs. Bicameral Legislatures: A Comparison

5. From Inception to Execution: How a Bill Becomes a Law

Theme 1: Common Law in Britain

Theme 2: Civil Law in Britain

6. First-Past-The-Post: Analytical Study

Theme 1: Proportional Representation System

Theme 2: Additional Member System (AMS).

7. The Structure of the Judicial System in Britain

Theme 1: Supreme Court: Structure and Appointments

Theme 2: Barrister Vs. Solicitors

8. Checks and Balances in the British Political System

Theme 1: Separation of Powers

Theme 2: Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (separating judiciary from the legislature)

9. Devolution in Britain

Theme 1: Brexit and Devolution

Theme 2: Devolution Vs. Federalism

II/ Paper (5 pts):

For the paper, respect the following format:

- Margins: Left: 3.5 cm; Top, Right, Bottom: 2.5 cm
- Pagination: Top Right
- Spacing: double (throughout all the text—including bibliography)
- Justification: Left

Length: 3-4 pages

Sources: A maximum of 4 sources (books, articles, documents...) is required.

Paper Grading: Students will be graded according to the following:

Format :	2 pts
Citation Style (MLA) :	1 pt
Originality:	1 pt (avoid plagiarism and cite correctly)
Relevance of the sources used:	1 pt