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Office Hours: MW 2:00 - 4:00 PM
and by appointment

POLITICAL SCIENCE 425/525
British and Irish Politics
Spring 2006

DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH:

The course surveys the political culture, institutions, and policy process in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland. Contemporary Britain and Ireland are placed within an historical context that, for Britain, explores the effects of loss of Empire and declining status abroad and dramatic demographic, economic, and political changes at home after the Second World War. In the case of Ireland, the emphasis is on the struggle for independence, achieving economic growth, and membership in the EU. These transformations are reflected in the growing importance accorded to identity, be it an ethnic or regional identity, and the question of what it means to be “English” or “Irish” -- something that would have been unheard of a generation ago. During the course of the semester, students will examine not only what Britain and Ireland have become, but also how the people living there see themselves and define their public interests and political priorities.

The major themes of the course are: (1) continuity and change; (2) self-perception and multiculturalism; and (3) the need for comparisons. With regard to the first, politics and social developments will be examined in light of Britain’s strong sense of tradition and, in the case of Ireland, the impact of nationalism. The second theme relates to how increasingly multicultural societies see themselves, both in socio-cultural and political terms. The importance of drawing distinctions and making comparisons is the final theme. Comparisons need to be made between different parts of the United Kingdom, between Britain and Ireland, between the British Isles and Europe, and also between the two countries and the United States. With regard to the latter, one of the issues the course will cover is electoral reform, in that proportional representation is employed in both countries. Would such a move make elections in the United States more democratic? As stated earlier, the course will emphasize the evolutionary and, indeed, experimental nature of British and Irish politics, and asks the participants to think about how we deal with similar issues in our own country.

The course will stress student participation and discussion. The instructor will introduce each topic, but students will be expected to comment on and discuss the issues covered in the reading.

TEXTS:

Coakley, John and Michael Gallagher, eds., Politics in the Republic of Ireland,
4th ed. (Routledge, 2005). ISBN 0-415-28067

Judge, David, Political Institutions in the United Kingdom (Oxford University
Press, 2005). ISBN 0-19-924426-X

ADDITIONAL READING:

Other than the texts, most items listed on the syllabus can be accessed on **BLACKBOARD**. They are under Assignments in a folder entitled 'Assigned Reading' and organized by the date indicated on the syllabus.

A few items may be placed on electric reserve and are designated [ER]. They can be accessed at (<http://www.lib.muohio.edu/reserves/>). The password is 'POL425'.

The Economist, The New Statesman, The Spectator, and other British and Irish publications will serve as the principal sources for current examples of social and political developments. An extensive set of links to British and Irish newspapers, government agencies, academic institutions, and other organizations is available on **BLACKBOARD** under External Links in the 'General Information' folder.

BLACKBOARD:

Outside the classroom, **BLACKBOARD** will be used for announcements, posting assignments and other information, communicating between and hosting discussions among class participants, and transmitting grades. **You should check the site on a regular basis.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

Students are responsible for attending class sessions, reading the assigned material, submitting papers and assignments when due, and actively participating in discussions. There will be two in-class examinations, a mid-term and a final, with the latter only covering material from the last half of the course. The date for each examination is indicated in the schedule. Written assignments include several short postings on the 'Discussion Board' of **BLACKBOARD** and two essays (1500 - 1700 words each).

Should an extension or special arrangements be needed to satisfy any requirement, the student must request permission from the instructor in advance of the deadline.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance and participation is required. There are no university-recognized excused absences except for religious observances that require absence from a class session and other required class activities. Students must give written notification to the instructor within the first two weeks of class of the religious event that prohibits class attendance and the date that will be missed if officially known. While students may have a legitimate excuse for missing class, an excuse does not absolve one from the responsibility for material covered in class or any assignments. Students missing more than five (5) class meetings without an official excuse will be dropped from the course with a grade of F (see The Student Handbook, 2005-2006 ed., Undergraduate Regulations, Part VII: Class Attendance, Section 01.701.E).

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/MISCONDUCT:

Students violating the provisions of The Student Handbook, Part V: Academic Misconduct will receive a zero for the assignment in question.

GRADING:

The final grade would be determined as follows:

Discussion Board Postings	10%
Two Papers	30%
Mid-term	30%
Final	30%

The Plus/Minus Grading System will be used to report your final grade. The grading scale is as follows:

100-97	A+	79-77	C+
96-92	A	76-72	C
91-90	A-	71-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-82	B	66-62	D
81-80	B-	61-60	D-
		59-0	F

TENTATIVE TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:*

- Jan. 10 Why study Britain and Ireland? Course objectives and requirements
- Jan. 12/ “Land of hope and glory:” The rise and decline of British national identity
17 Lord Briggs, “Britain 1900,” History Today, December 2000, pp. 31-37
 Quinault, Roland, “Britain 1950,” History Today, April 2001, pp. 14-21.
 Parekh. Bhiku, “Defining British national identity, Political Quarterly 71:1 (January-March 2000), pp. 4-14.
 “How Anglo is America?” The Economist, November 11, 2004.
 Colley, Linda, “Britishness and otherness: An argument,” Journal of British Studies 31 (October 1992), pp. 309-329. [GRADUATE]
 Ascherson, Neal, “Britain rediscovered,” Prospect 109 April 17, 2005. [GRADUATE]
 “The ascent of British man,” The Economist, December 5, 2002. [RECOMMENDED]
- Jan. 19/ Irish independence and the post-colonial consolidation of politics
24 Coakley & Gallagher, chapters 1 and 2.
 O’Kelly, Ciaran, “Being Irish,” Government & Opposition 39:3 (July 2004), pp. 504-520.
 “A European country like any other,” The Economist, October 14, 2004.
 Crotty, William, 'The Changing Face(s) of Ireland,' Policy Studies Journal 28:4 (2000), pp., 779-783. [GRADUATE]
 Smith, Nicola, "The Irish Republic - a 'showpiece of globalisation'" Politics 22:3 (September 2002), pp. 125-134. [GRADUATE]

*Students will also be responsible for additional articles and documents posted on **BLACKBOARD** or distributed in class during the semester.

- Jan. 26 The Westminster model, but two different constitutions
 Judge, chapter 1 and pp. 23-32 and 221-238.
 Norton, Philip, "The Uncodified Constitution," pp. 63-82 in The British Polity. 4th ed.
 (Longman, 2001).
 Wilson, Richard, "Constitutional Change: A Note by the Bedside," The Political
 Quarterly 76:2 (April 2005), pp. 281-287.
 Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 3.
 Kelly, Richard, Oonagh Gay and Isobel White, "The Constitution: Into the Sidings."
Parliamentary Affairs 58:2 (April 2005), pp. 215-229. [GRADUATE]
- Jan. 31 The party system in Britain: A two party system?
 Judge, pp. 82-103.
 Lynch, Philip and Robert Garner, "The Changing Party System," Parliamentary Affairs
 58:3 (July 2005), pp. 533-554.
 Bogdanor, Vernon, "The Constitution and the party system in the twentieth century,"
Parliamentary Affairs 57:4 (October 2004), pp. 717-733. [GRADUATE]
 Dunleavy, Patrick, "Facing Up to Multi-party Politics: How Partisan Dealignment and
 PR Voting Have Fundamentally Changed Britain's Party System," Parliamentary
 Affairs 58:3 (July 2005), pp. 503-532. [GRADUATE]
- Feb. 2/
 7 Electoral competition and the 2005 UK General Election
 Norris, Pippa and Christopher Wlezien, "Introduction: The Third Blair Victory: How and
 Why?" Parliamentary Affairs 58:4 (October 2005), pp. 657-683.
 Phelps, Edward, "Young Voters at the 2005 British General Election," The Political
 Quarterly 76:4 (October 2005), pp. 482-487.
 Dunleavy, Patrick and Helen Margetts, "The Impact of the UK Electoral Systems,"
Parliamentary Affairs 58:4 (October 2005), p. 854-870. [GRADUATE]
 Whiteley, Paul, "The State of Participation in Britain," Parliamentary Affairs 56: 4
 (October 2003), pp. 610-615. [GRADUATE]

Essay 1 due on February 9

- Feb. 9 The party system in Ireland: Civil war politics
 Coakley & Gallagher, chapters 5 and 6.
 "Civil war politics," The Economist, October 14, 2004.
 Lutz, Karin Gilland, "Irish party competition in the new millennium: Change, or *plus ça
 change*?" Irish Political Studies 18:2 (Winter 2003), pp. 40-60.
- Feb. 14 Electoral competition and the 2002 Irish General Election
 Coakley & Gallagher, chapters 4 and 7.
 Garry, John, "The general election in Ireland, May 2002," Electoral Studies 23 (2004),
 pp. 155-160.
- Feb. 16 British cabinet system: government at the center
 23 Judge, chapter 3.
 Heffernan, Richard, "Exploring (an Explaining) the British Prime Minister," British
 Journal of Politics and International Affairs 7:4 (November 2005), pp. 605-620.
 Riddel, Peter, "Prime Ministers and Parliament," Parliamentary Affairs 57:4 (October
 2004), pp. 814-829. [GRADUATE]
 Theakston, Kevin, "Prime Ministers and the Constitution," Parliamentary Affairs 58:1
 (January 2005), pp. 17-37. [GRADUATE]

- Feb. 21 No Class (Switch Day)
- Feb. 28/
March 2 Scrutiny and legitimization: parliament and the monarchy
Judge, pp. 32-81.
Harvey, Adrian, "Monarchy and Democracy: A progressive agenda," The Political Quarterly 75:1 (January 2004), pp. 34-42.
Shaw, Malcom, "The British Parliament in International Perspective," Parliamentary Affairs 57:4 (October 2004), 877-889. [GRADUATE]
Judge, David, "Whatever Happened to Parliamentary Democracy in the United Kingdom?" Parliamentary Affairs 57:3 (July 2004), pp. 682-701. [GRADUATE]
- March 7 Mid-term examination**
- March 9 The Irish executive
Coakley & Gallagher, chapters 11 and 12.
- March 11/
19 Spring Break
- March 21 The Dáil and the parish pump
Coakley & Gallagher, chapters 8 and 9.
Collins, Neil, "Parliamentary democracy in Ireland," Parliamentary Affairs 57:3 (July 2004), pp. 601-612.
- March 23 No class
- March 28 Women in politics on both sides of the water
Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 10.
May, Theresa Rt Hon MP, "Women in the House: The continuing challenge," Parliamentary Affairs 57:4 (October 2004), pp. 844-851.
Storer, Jackie, "Women MPs speak up against sexism," BBC News, 9 September 2005.
Campbell, Rosie and Joni Lovenduski, "Winning Women's Votes? The Incremental Track to Equality." Parliamentary Affairs 58:4 (October 2005), pp. 837-853. [GRADUATE]
- March 30 Networks and Pressure groups and issues
Judge, pp. 103-116.
Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 13.
House, J.D. and Kyla McGrath, "Innovative governance and development in the new Ireland: Social partnership and the integrated approach," Governance 17:1 (January 2004), pp. 29-58.
"Tiger, tiger, burning bright," The Economist, October 14, 2004.
Grant, Wyn "Pressure politics: The changing world of pressure groups," Parliamentary Affairs 57:2 (April 2004), pp. 408-419. [GRADUATE]
- April 4/6 No class

April 11/ Devolution and Local Government
 13 Judge, pp. 163-197 and 205-220.
 Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 14.
 Bradbury, Jonathan and James Mitchell, "Devolution: Between Governance and Territorial Politics," Parliamentary Affairs 58:2 (March 2005), pp. 287-302.
 Mitchell, James and Jonathan Bradbury, "Devolution: Comparative development and policy roles," Parliamentary Affairs 57:2 (April 2004), pp. 329-246.
 [GRADUATE]

April 18/ Northern Ireland: neither in or out of the United Kingdom
 20 Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 15.
 Judge, pp. 198-205.
 O'Farrell, John, "Apartheid," The New Statesman 28 November 2005, pp. 14-16.
 Dixon, Paul, "Why the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland is Not Consociational," The Political Quarterly 76:2 (July 2005), pp. 357-367.
 [GRADUATE]

Essay 2 due on April 21

April 25 Britain, Ireland and Europe
 Coakley & Gallagher, chapter 16.
 Stephens, Philip, "Britain and Europe: An unforgettable past and an unavoidable future," The Political Quarterly 76:1 (January 2005), pp. 12-21.
 Smith, Julie, "A Missed Opportunity? New Labour's European Policy 1997-2005," International Affairs (London) 81:4 (2005), pp. 703-721.
 Baker, David, "Islands of the Mind: New Labour's Defensive Engagement with the European Union," The Political Quarterly 76:1 (January 2005), pp. 22-36.
 [GRADUATE]

April 27 Conclusion
 Judge, chapter 7.

May 5 Final Examination, Friday, 7:30 AM