We often hear that Britain is a global country and London is a global city, but what does this mean? In recent years Britain has undergone striking changes in its social makeup, political outlook and cultural activities. Rapid change also brings tensions around housing, the National Health Service and education all of which are increasingly facing pressures from immigration, larger numbers of unemployed and the economic squeeze. The most recent census suggested Polish was the second is spoken language in Britain. So what is happening and why and how does it affect you as a visiting student.

This course is intended to introduce students to ideas formed by global and local issues and focus on concerns regarding politics, the media, migration, the free market, foreign policy, cultural homogeneity and democracy that are the keys to modern national identity. In the first part of the course local and national ideas will be looked at through a series of lectures and talks whilst the focus in the second part is on contemporary Britain in the global world. Both parts of the course are assessed.

The main objectives of the course are to give students access to interesting figures in British politics and culture; to make students aware of the unique characteristics of British culture and to examine the reasons for the far-reaching changes in British society over the last thirty to forty years. The course in based around a series of lectures by figures from British politics, culture, economics and the arts.

The series of lectures and guest speakers is intended to give students a rounded view of contemporary Britain, but it is always better to see things in action so we have organised a series of trips to coincide with a number of the taught sessions. These exciting opportunities are designed to give students a real flavour of British culture, but are organised on a first come basis and are all optional. Students may use to trips to research an alternative SECOND essay. This option is not available with essay one.

It is expected that students will have read all the background material and be able to discuss and be assessed in the general issues of globalisation.

It is expected that students will become aware of changes in British society

Students will become able to participate in current debates about British culture.

Students will be enabled to make the most of their experience of British culture during their period of study.
This is a pass/fail course. As well as the required attendance at ALL classes, there are two parts to the assessment. Both parts MUST BE PASSED. The professor reserves the right to reassess anyone who fails part one. You may not be reassessed for part two.

**ESSAY QUESTIONS**

**PART ONE: BRITAIN AS AN ISLAND**

Either:

Write a short paper on one of the following topics:

‘What are the most important issues facing British society today?’

‘What, if anything, makes British culture distinctive?’

Papers should make explicit reference to at least 2 talks from the course. Papers should be double-spaced and at least 1000 words long. Discussion of the speakers’ views is a necessary condition for passing the course, but not sufficient. Students must discuss their views and relate them to the question and where possible use reference material not found in the class.

Or:

How does the British Media reflect current Concerns and Issues?

Select, copy and attach to your paper three articles from British national (or London) newspapers (may be obtained online or the BBC online). The articles must relate to at least two talks from the course. Write a short paper explaining why you selected these articles and how they relate to specific talks. Papers should be double-spaced and 1000 words long. Students must discuss the views of the speakers and explain how they relate to the articles.

**PART TWO: GLOBALISATION AND BRITAIN**

Either

‘Write a critique of one aspect of globalisation from your reading and relate it to at least one speaker’

‘Is globalisation inevitable and is it desirable?’ You must refer to at least one speaker and one article from your reading

Papers should make explicit reference to at least 1 lecturer from the course. Papers should be double-spaced and at least 1000 words long. Discussion of the speaker’s views is a necessary condition for passing the course, but not sufficient. Students must discuss their views and relate them to the question and where possible use reference material not found in the class.

**PART THREE (additional questions for students who wish to refer to a visit only)**

‘What have you learnt about British culture through your visits?’

1. Does the monarchy still have a role in Modern Britain?
2. Consider the impact of the BBC on British culture. You may refer to one particular programme or series
3. What do you consider the significance of immigration to Britain?
4. Is there such a thing as a British sense of humour?
Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

Pass/Fail

These grades are a GUIDE ONLY FOR GETTING THE BEST OUT OF YOUR ESSAY. Although the class is pass/fail this will be based on applying the criteria below to an essay that intellectually engages with the subject and puts forward an argument.

Grade A: Well researched and originally argued essay, the student understanding the question and applying theoretical and conceptual issues in the answer. Good grammar and spelling and an excellent bibliography.

Grade B: A good attempt at the question showing understanding and a reasonable application of background research and reading. Reasonable use of quotations, good spelling and grammar and a properly presented bibliography. Marked by occasional lapses of English and a tendency to become general.

Grade C: Some general research and an attempt at argument. Nevertheless mostly narrative essay which misses some essential elements of the question.

Grade D: Lacking in research and argument. Mostly narrative essay with poor spelling and grammar and lack of attention to essential details. Nevertheless, an attempt to answer the question, although in a vague and general manner.

Grade F: Lacking in research and argument. Misunderstanding of the question set. Mostly narrative essay with poor spelling and grammar and lack of attention to essential details. Unacknowledged quotations and mistakes.

**Grade conversion**

NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:

A=94-100
A-=90-93

B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83

C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73

D+=67-69
D=65-66

F=below 65

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).
Grading Policy

NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.

Attendance Policy

NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill–health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with the guidelines that follow.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes – or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

Absence reporting

1. On the first day of absence you should report the details of your illness by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk
2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.
3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/absence
4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to David Crout (freshmen) or Nigel Freeman (non-freshmen) on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes (Freshmen) or Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (non-freshmen) prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.

3% will be deducted from the student’s final course mark for each unexcused absence. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.). In the past, students have asked about early departure from the program at the end of the semester. This will not normally be allowed. Under no circumstances will we allow a student to take a final exam at any time other than it has been scheduled - neither before the other students in the class, nor afterwards. Students have been informed not to make return travel plans before the end of the exam week. Exams may not be held during your regularly scheduled class meeting. Please do not make plans during the exam period until you
know the exact times of your exams. NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance.

Late Submission of Work

(1) Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

(2) Late work should be submitted in person to the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs in office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

(3) Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

(4) Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

(5) Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission (see section 12 below) and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class.

Electronic Submission

All students must submit an electronic copy of their written work to www.turnitin.com. This database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it. The database is managed by JISC (Joint Information Systems Council) and has been established with the support of the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website http://www.turnitin.com
2) Click ‘New Users’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrollment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact academics@nyu.ac.uk if you have misplaced these.
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:
1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Required Text(s)

REQUIRED READING WHICH MUST BE READ BEFORE THE RELEVANT CLASS

The following articles may be found on the London Blackboard site under Academics - ‘Global Readings’

- Pankaj Mishra, “Benares. Learning to Read,” from Temptations of the West.
- Saskia Sassen, “Global Cities and Survival Circuits,” Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy
- Anthony Appiah, “Cosmopolitan Contamination,” from Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers

Further Reading (recommended), Copies in NYU-L course collection at Senate House Library

Students should think about looking around for useful books on British culture. Students might think about: Andrew Marr, A History of Modern Britain ; David Miles, The Tribes of Britain; Anthony Seldon, Blair Unbound; Bill Bryson, Notes from a Small Island; John O’Farrell, A Utterly Impartial History of Britain ; Clive Bloom, Violent London; Peter Ackroyd, London: the Biography; Stephen Inwood, A History of London . Best place to go is Waterstone’s at the corner of Gower Street.

Students may pick up the Evening Standard newspaper, the Metro, the Stylist, City AM and Time Out for FRI at any underground station. These will prove very useful in conjunction with our lectures and with the essay topics and keep you up-to-date with events in Britain.

There are additional readings, articles, videos and other resources posted on NYU classes for each of the topic
Internet Research Guidelines

British Newspaper websites can be accessed for use in essays.

Additional Required Equipment

None

Session 1
MONDAY 16th September

PART ONE

CLIVE BLOOM: This is Britain: An Introduction:
Optional Visit: Buckingham Palace. September 21 (TBC)

Session 2
MONDAY 30th September

CLIVE BLOOM: The British Class System:
Optional Visit: Lacock & the Cotswolds. October 5 (TBC)

Session 3
MONDAY 7th October

CLIVE BLOOM: The British Media:
Optional Visit: BBC Broadcasting House: October 11 (TBC)

Session 4
MONDAY 14th October

S I MARTIN: Britain’s Black Community:
Optional Visit: Walking Tours of Brixton: October 18 (TBC)

Session 5
MONDAY 21st October

JOE TUCKER: What Makes Britain Laugh?
Optional Visit: “Cutting Edge” at the Comedy Store – October 22 (TBC)

Session 6
MONDAY 28th October

SYMPOSIUM TBA Location: Beveridge Hall, Senate

HAND IN FIRST ESSAY

Session 7
MONDAY 11th November

PART TWO

MICHAEL BINYON: British Foreign Policy

Session 8
MONDAY 18th

HAKIM ADI: The New Global Imperialism
November

Session 9
MONDAY 25th November

PETER TATCHELL: Global Human Rights

Session 10
MONDAY 2nd December

ADITYA CHAKRABOORTY: Britain and World Economics

HAND IN SECOND ESSAY on TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER

Classroom Etiquette

Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 6 Bedford Square or at Birkbeck College. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular Activities

NONE

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

PLACES TO GO

1. Camden market: A hip fashion, arts and crafts and clubs area with its busiest days on Saturdays and Sundays. Many punk bands started at Camden Lock and the whole place has an exciting feel. Nearest underground Camden Town or Mornington Crescent.

2. Brick Lane: This is the heart of the East End and Jack the Ripper did his deeds just around the corner. Now it is the centre of the Bangladeshi community with the whole street filled with Indian Restaurants (try chicken tikka masala; vindaloo is the hottest). The other end has clubs and bars. Visit the Whitechapel Art Galley in Mile End Road and walk down Princelet Street and other streets going towards Spitalfields for the feel of the 18th century. Go on Sunday to Petticoat Lane Market. Nearest underground: Aldgate East.

3. Greenwich: despite the recent loss from a fire of the Cutty Sark (now being restored) there is a terrific arts and crafts indoor market, the National Maritime Museum, Painted Hall and the Observatory where you can stand on either side of the East/West Meridian. Nearest Underground Greenwich Cutty Sark

4. Southend: A very working class and very vibrant seaside town on the Thames. Go on Saturday night and eat fish and chips whilst watching the cars cruise. Nearest train: Liverpool Street Station Mainline.
5. Whitstable: A very upmarket fishing village on the North Kent coast. Superb shops and restaurants but you have to book ahead. Very picturesque harbour. Try booking the Crab and Winkle or the Oyster Company or have a walk along the coast to Tankerton. Loads of atmosphere. Nearest Station from Victoria Mainline (but check first)

6. Mudlarking on the Thames: London is 2000 years old and most of it is buried beneath the Strand in the Thames. The River is tidal and the riverbank has a number of stairways that allow you to get down and kick around (or dig around) in the silt. It is easy to find clay pipes or bits of Tudor and Roman pottery or even oyster shells from fast food takeaways (18th century style). You will need heavy boots, a little box and a trowel. Just join the Thames Path by the Tower of London.

7. Ely - Norfolk. For those who are more adventurous this is a superb Norman town with a spectacular cathedral in a lovely setting. Nice tea rooms near the river and antique centre. Station: from Liverpool Street mainline.

8. Rochester and Gravesend: both important towns in the history of England. Visit Rochester the castle and Cathedral and Dickens Museum and Gravesend for the grave of Pocahontas and a walk along the Thames before it reaches the sea. Train: Charing Cross or Victoria.

9. Rye: This is a superb medieval town in East Sussex where Henry James made his home. Wonderful atmospheric and near to Camber Sands which has been designated one of the top 10 beaches in the world. Train: Charing Cross

10. Islington, Upper Street and Roseberry Street: Fantastic area for clothes, clubs, antiques and restaurants. Lots of buzz and excitement and Sadlers Wells is in the Roseberry Street. Nearest underground: Angel

11. The Museum in Docklands. Oldest warehouse in the world. Fantastic exhibits of long lost East End including Jack the Ripper exhibition. Surrounded by Canary wharf, great bars and shopping. DLR to East India Quay. Also the Museum of London: nearest underground St Paul’s.