BRITISH CULTURE

Class code
GLBL-UA 9105 Global Orientations: British Culture

Instructor Details
Clive Bloom

emails will be answered within 2 working days

Class Details
Spring 2014

Monday 6:30 – 8:00 pm (Students must be seated in their designated seats ten minutes before the lecture to be counted as present for the entire session.)

Classes will take place at the Beveridge Hall at Senate House (the lecture theatre where the NYUL Orientation was held). Please check each event as it is the responsibility of the student to make sure that they turn up on time and do not miss sessions. All talks are compulsory.

Prerequisites

Class Description
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 is 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 a trip to research an alternative essay.

Desired Outcomes
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 in London.

This is a pass/fail course. As well as the required attendance at ALL classes, there is one essay that will be assessed. You may choose to write on any of the questions below. 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. Additional readings and materials can be found on the NYU Classes course site.

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

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

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

3) 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.

4) ‘Write a critique of one aspect of globalisation from the readings posted on NYU Classes and relate it to at least one speaker’

5) ‘Is globalisation inevitable and is it desirable?’ You must refer to at least one speaker and one article from the readings posted on NYU Classes

ESSAY ALTERNATIVE: Choose an alternate question if you wish to write a paper related to one of the cultural excursions associated with the class. Papers should be double-spaced and at least 1000 words long. Students must discuss their views and relate them to the question. Where possible use reference material not found in the class. Discussion of what you learned on an excursion is expected.

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?

5. What are the themes of recent British theatre?

Failure to submit an essay results in failure of the class.
Expectations
This is a Pass/Fail Course. Nevertheless, you will be given an actual grade in brackets as a guide.

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.

Required Text(s)
REQUIRED READING WHICH MUST BE READ BEFORE THE RELEVANT CLASS

The following articles may be found on the London NYU Classes 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

Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L 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. Jeremy Paxman, The English. 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 FREE 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 topics.

Internet Research
British Newspaper websites can be accessed for use in essays.
Guidelines

Additional Required Equipment

NONE

Session 1  
MONDAY 27TH JANUARY 2014  
CLIVE BLOOM: This is Britain: An Introduction:  
Optional Visits:  
Walking Tour: Monumental London (Friday January 31st)

Session 2  
3RD FEBRUARY  
CLIVE BLOOM: The British Class System:  
Optional Visit: Kensington Palace (Friday February 7th)

Session 3  
10TH FEBRUARY  
CLIVE BLOOM: The British Media:  
Optional Visit: BBC Broadcasting House (Saturday February 15th)

Session 4  
17TH FEBRUARY  
S I MARTIN: Britain’s Black Community:  
Optional Visit: Walking Tours of Brixton (Saturday February 22nd)

Session 5  
24TH FEBRUARY  
JOE TUCKER: What Makes Britain Laugh?  
Optional Visit: “Cutting Edge” at the Comedy Store (Tuesday Feb 25th)

Session 6  
3RD MARCH  
JULIA PASCAL: British Theatre  
Optional Visit: Behind the Scenes at The National Theatre (Friday March 7th)

Session 7  
PART TWO  
10TH MARCH  
MICHAEL BINYON: British Foreign Policy  
Optional Visit: Houses of Parliament Visit (Saturday 15th March)

Session 8  
24TH MARCH  
PETER TATCHELL: Global Human Rights

Session 9  
7TH APRIL  
ADITYA CHAKRABOORTY: Britain and World Economics

Session 10  
NYU Symposium: topic to be announced
28TH APRIL

HAND IN ESSAY on 29TH APRIL

Classroom Etiquette

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

Required Co-curricular Activities

NONE

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

You might consider joining one of the cultural excursions associated with the course.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgments, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

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 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

The Turnitin 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.

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 ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment 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, 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.

### Late Submission of Work

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor. Late work should be submitted in person to a member of NYU London staff in the Academic Office (Room 308, 6 Bedford Square) during office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30). Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

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

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

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

### 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 guidelines which follow, and can only be obtained from the appropriate member of NYUL’s staff.

**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 for an absence due to illness**

1. On the first day of absence due to illness you should report the details of your symptoms by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including details of: class(es) missed; professor; class time; and whether any work was due including exams. Or call free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) to report your absences on the phone.

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 expeditiously at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://bit.ly/NuCl5K. You will need to log in to NYU Home to access the form.

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to Nigel Freeman or Donna Drummond-Smart on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

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

**Absence requests for non-illness reasons**

Absence requests for non-illness reasons must be discussed with the Academic Office prior to the date(s) in
question – no excused absences for reasons other than illness can be applied retrospectively. Please come in and see us in Room 308, 6 Bedford Square, or e-mail us at academics@nyu.ac.uk.

Further information regarding absences

Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark. 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.).

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. A copy is in your apartment and has been shared with you on Google Docs.

Grade conversion

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.