ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITISH POLITICS AND CULTURE

Class code V93.9701.001

Instructor Details
Clive Bloom
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emails will be answered within 3 working days

Class Details
SPRING 2011

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 Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre at SOAS (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
REQUIRED READING WHICH MUST BE READ BEFORE THE RELEVANT CLASS

PART ONE

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*

Class Description
We often hear that Britain is a global country and London is a global city, but what does this mean? This course is intended to introduce students to those global issues of the free market, migration, cultural homogeneity and democracy that are the keys to modern national identity. In the first part of the course these key ideas will be directed through a series of general readings and talks whilst the focus in the second part is on contemporary (global) Britain and the London scene. Both parts of the course are assessed.

The second part of the course will introduce students to the context of life in modern Britain through a series of themed talks by prominent figures in British society. 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 and the arts.

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.

Assessment

Components

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: GLOBALISATION

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 talk 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 TWO

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 lease 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.

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 similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to insure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. (Stern has a different grading policy that we follow in all Stern courses, please see below).

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:

There should be no more than

- 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work
- 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work
- 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work

Attendance Policy

NYU-L has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted. Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but 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 will not be considered.

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.

All absences due to illness must be reported on the first day of absence via phone (Freephone 0800 316 0469) or email (nyu.in.london@nyu.edu). Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Student Life. You will be asked to complete an Excused Absence Form (which can be obtained from NYU in London staff) and you will also need to produce a valid doctor’s note, having sought treatment for the illness within one week of your return to class.

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

Unexcused absences 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 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.

NYU-L 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 further details.

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### 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.

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### 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](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**

**PART ONE**

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

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**Further Reading (recommended).**

Copies in NYU-L course collection at Senate House Library

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**NO CLASS ON 16 MAY - HAND IN SECOND ESSAY**

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<th>Classroom Etiquette</th>
<th>Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 6 Bedford Square or at Birkbeck College. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Co-curricular Activities</td>
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