

UVI Politics/Social Sciences Four Week Course, Summer 2020

Being spared the chore of revision and exams this year we'll instead have the opportunity to read, discuss and write about some of the big questions in British and American politics.

For those interested in Philosophy there are also two tasks from **Mr Bembridge** in a separate document as an alternative choice for you.

You can pick one of three topic areas to focus on:

A. The reshaping of Politics

To what extent have the debates around Brexit AND OR the emerging consequences of the coronavirus crisis reshaped British AND OR world politics?

B. Populism and the longer term polarisation of American Politics

To what extent does public support for Trump and Sanders merely reflect a longer term polarisation in the US?

C. Enter the PSA/FT blog competition:

Does the public expect too much of UK politicians? Full details are here: <https://www.psa.ac.uk/student-blog-competition> N.B. The deadline is Friday 8th May (12:00noon GMT)

We'll meet regularly through Teams/Zoom to discuss what you're doing – and any other interesting developments in Politics

I'll be in touch via Teams to fix a weekly time, in one of the slots previously occupied by your Politics lesson.

We'll break the work up in to these tasks:

1. Review of sources, literature & videos:

Watch/read at least four of the items selected for your chosen topic OR anything else you find which is relevant and of academic quality – **PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF OTHER SOURCES** for me to check. Write a short review of each (about 300 – 400 words) to include:

- a. Outline summary, including details of the main writer(s)
- b. The main argument ...
- c. ... and counterarguments
- d. An evaluation as to how the source contributes to & challenges you in answering the main topic question.

Please keep a bibliography (eg using the bibliography tool on the references tab of word)

2. **An essay in response to the main question**, drawing on your material from the literature review and including argument, counter argument and evaluation as you have been doing at A-level. (1,500 – 2,000 words)

Please use footnotes (eg using the footnotes tool on the references tab of word)

3. **A three minute presentation**

Write notes for **a three minute presentation** so you can tell us about your topic, reading and conclusions. No technology or power points needed, just you enthusing us all, via Teams or Zoom with your key conclusions and the arguments on which they are based.

Deadlines and Milestones

w/b Mon 20th April: Choose one of the three topics above BEFORE our scheduled lesson, think about it and be ready to talk about THREE issues which you think will be involved.

w/b Mon 4th May: Submit your **Review of sources, literature & videos**

w/b Mon 18th May: Be ready to give your presentation during the scheduled class and submit your completed essay by 5pm on Thursday 21st (the penultimate day before half term)

Some suggested reading, but please add your own:

See Mrs Wong's library pages on how to access some of these for free, especially:

<https://ifawkes.fireflycloud.net/library/usefulonline-resources/usernames-and-passwords-for-online-resources>

There is information there about how to access the London Review of Books (LRB), Times Literary Supplement (TLS) and Politics Review – all included in my suggestions below.

A. The reshaping of Politics

To what extent have the debates around Brexit AND OR the emerging consequences of the coronavirus crisis reshaped British AND OR world politics?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ii5697SWI5s> VIDEO BBC Newsnight on the changes in British Politics, January 2020

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v42/n07/david-runciman/too-early-or-too-late>
Prof David Runciman on political timing and the pandemic

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/31/how-will-the-world-emerge-from-the-coronavirus-crisis> What changes might flow from the pandemic?

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/podcasts-and-videos/videos/lrb-films-interviews/from-tocqueville-to-trump> VIDEO: Prof David Runciman on 2016 and threats to democracy

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/may-at-10-anthony-seldon-review-anne-mcelvoy/> Anne Mcelvoy on Theresa May's Brexit premiership, reviewing Anthony Seldon's book

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/all-out-war-tim-shipman-unleashing-demons-craig-oliver-bad-boys-of-brex-it-aaron-banks-brex-it-club-owen-bennett-review-james-obrien/> James O'Brien writing at the end of 2016 reviewing various books on the referendum including Tim Shipman's 'All Out war'

B. Populism and the longer term polarisation of American Politics

To what extent does public support for Trump and Sanders merely reflect a longer term polarisation in the US?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nAiX5CVqV4> VIDEO: A defence of a newly inaugurated Donald Trump, BBC Newsnight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3l2e0hPL-M> VIDEO: What W Virginians want from Trump, BBC Newsnight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNXV3rNpxLI> VIDEO: Why does Bernie appeal to the young? ITV

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PjNIBV-_s8 VIDEO: The case for Bernie Sanders, Vox

'Is the era of bipartisanship in the USA over?' Bennett & Lemieux, Politics Review Feb 2019

'US Political Parties: The source of dysfunction in US government?' Singh Politics Review November 2015

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/jan/14/fire-and-fury-michael-wolff-inside-trump-white-house-review>

Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House by Michael Wolff – review by Peter Conrad

C. Enter the PSA/FT blog competition:

Does the public expect too much of UK politicians?

This is potentially a very broad question, so you will need to think carefully about how to define and limit it, then research and read accordingly for the competition.

'Parliament: How effective are backbench MPs?' Kelso Politics Review November 2016

'The House of Commons: A rejuvenated institution?' Moxon Politics Review November 2014

'What determines the PM's power?' Cooper Politics Review September 2019