



**Boston University British Programmes**  
**CAS PO 358**  
**Issues in Contemporary Politics**  
**Professor Terry Sullivan**  
**Elective B**

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course aims to examine some of the most important and controversial issues in contemporary politics. It will focus on the origins of these issues and will analyse the diverse methodological and theoretical positions taken in explaining and understanding them. It will also draw on empirical illustration of the various issues from the international terrain. Furthermore, it will inform you of the main agents and actors involved in contemporary events and we will discuss the range of possible futures.

The choice of topics is somewhat eclectic but it is designed to discuss issues of contemporary importance. Despite the diversity of topics, the course is designed to enable you to achieve a critical understanding of different approaches to the study of politics together with knowledge of, and sensitivity to, the complexity and diversity of politics in different societies. In some cases there will be talks by specialist guest lecturers.

On successful completion of the course you should be able to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of some of the vocabulary of politics and the languages of political debate and confrontation. You should be able to analyse critically a range of theories, concepts, and methods employed in the discipline and evidence judged by these perspectives. You should, in addition, be able to engage in an informed assessment and criticism of these positions. Above all, you should be able to adopt an independent, critical and reflective approach to some important political issues confronting contemporary societies.

### **COURSE CHRONOLOGY**

<b>Session 1</b>	<b>The Legitimacy of Violence and War and the War on Terrorism.</b>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Terrorists and Anti-Terrorist Policies</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Justice, Crime and Punishment in Britain</b>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Fascism and the Extreme Right Today (Guest Speaker)</b>
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>Northern Ireland: A Lasting Solution? (Paul Cousins)</b>
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Refugees and Asylum Seekers (Guest Speaker)</b>
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Women and Islam: The Case of Iran</b>
<b>Session 8</b>	<b>Secrecy and the Security Services in Britain</b>
<b>Session 9</b>	<b>The Politics of Ethical Controversies</b>
<b>Session 10</b>	<b>Final Examination for time &amp; place please consult timetable at</b>

BU exam website.

### **The Boston University Code of Student Responsibility.**

All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism available in the **Academic Code of Conduct**. Students are advised that the penalty against students on any Boston University program for cheating in examinations and for plagiarism may be expulsion from the program or the university or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee of student academic conduct or by the Dean.

### **How the Course is Assessed.**

**One 1500 word essay on one of the topics covered in the course followed by a two hour final examination on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. You must not answer an exam question on the same topic chosen for the paper. Please hand in your paper when you attend the examination**

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

The following Boston University table explains the grading system that is used by faculty members on Boston University's British Programmes.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Honour Points</b>	<b>Usual%</b>	<b>Definition</b>
A	4.0	93-100	Excellent
A-	3.7	89-92	
B+	3.3	85-88	
B	3.0	81-84	Good
B-	2.7	77-80	
C+	2.3	73-76	
C	2.0	69-72	Satisfactory
C-	1.7	65-68	
D	1.0	60-64	Low pass
F	0.0	Unmarked	Fail

### **Grading Criteria**

**A** An exceptional grade that is only given to work that shows a consistent and outstanding level of insight and expression. This type of essay shows a rigorous and persuasive attention both to matters of detailed explication and to wider questions of evaluation. Crucially, this type of essay will also show real independence of thought expressed in fluent and well-written English.

**A-** A grade that is given to work that shows a commanding grasp of the central issues and also demonstrates an ability for close textual analysis combined with attention being paid to the larger implications of the analysis (whether this involves aesthetic, moral, political, or other considerations.) An appreciable degree of background reading and intelligent use of that reading is often shown at this level, and allowance is given here for the odd weak points and infelicities in phrasing

**B+, B, B-** This range of grades indicates descending levels of competence and

thoroughness. On the whole, the B essay is less polished than the A essay, but a B+ essay will certainly still have to show commendably detailed stretches of analysis, a clear grasp of the central issues and some discussion of the implications of a student's close reading of any given text(s). Work within the B grades often shows evidence of reading in the secondary literature (critical commentaries and background reading) but also often shows an overdependence on such sources over and against making intelligent, critical and discrete use of that reading. The sharpening and exercising of your own critical responses is the target to aim for, and, whereas many essays in the B range show a good understanding of the ground gone over in class there is less evidence here of really independent analysis and appreciation. The difference between a B+, a straight B, and a B-, typically involves the frequency of spelling mistakes, awkwardness or solecisms in expression, or clumsiness in the exposition of your analysis or argumentation.

**C+,C,C-** These grades indicate unsatisfactory work. Such essays may suffer from being too vague and generalised or else being excessively narrow in coverage; they may be seriously marred by errors of fact or errors of interpretation; they may involve only a crude repetition of areas covered in class without any demonstration of real intellectual engagement with the issues. The differences between a C+, a straight C, and a C- reflect the various degrees of inadequacy of organisation and presentation. Essays that are riddled with errors in spelling, punctuation and syntax, or are chaotic in argument and exposition, will fall into the lowest range.

**D** A marginal pass can be given where some but not all the elements of the course have been completed satisfactorily.

**F** The failing grade indicates the work is seriously flawed in one or more ways:

- \*Obvious lack of familiarity with the material
- \*So poorly written as to defy understanding
- \*So brief and insubstantial that it fails to properly address the subject
- \*Material presented is not relevant to the assignment
- \*Demonstrates evidence of plagiarism

### **Boston University's code of student responsibilities**

The value of any grade, credit, honour or degree received by a student presupposes that all work submitted by a student is his or her own. A student who uses or relies upon the work of others or who, except under conditions expressly permitted by the instructor, furnishes assistance to another student, violates the standards of the University. Students must insist upon academic honesty and integrity from their fellow students and must report promptly any case of alleged academic conduct. Failure to do so is a violation of this code.

Plagiarism can take many forms, including the reproduction of published material without acknowledgement, or representing work done by others as your own. This includes the increasingly common practice of purchasing and downloading work from Internet 'paper mills'. You should be extremely careful when submitting work for this course that all work is correctly sourced. Print outs of web sites that have been used in research may be required by the lecturer in cases of a grade dispute and all web site

based reference material should be kept by the student until after the end of the semester.

Your grades will be based on the following criteria: the relevance of your answer to the topic chosen, clarity of expression and continuity, explicit evidence of having read the main information and arguments in the required and supplementary reading. In addition, extra credit will be given for the strategic use of up-to-date illustrative material from the press or other media that you may have gathered during the course.

### **How the Course is Taught.**

There will be lectures and specialist talks by expert guest lecturers. You will be encouraged to participate in interactive discussions during lectures. In most lectures detailed handouts will be distributed so that more time can be devoted to listening and discussing and less to writing.

### **Required Reading.**

Given the eclectic nature of the course there is no prescribed text. However, you are required to read in some depth from the recommended reading list. The B.U. library carries copies, and in some cases multiple copies, of all texts listed. In addition, you are encouraged to seek out and purchase new and up-to-date works that you may come across, following guidance from your lecturers. You are all expected to be on top of current events and you really must purchase and read a **“serious” broad sheet British newspaper or weekly magazine** from which you should keep a folder of cuttings, where relevant, on all the topics covered in the course. Please bear in mind that websites, whilst informative, are no substitute for sustained arguments found in academic books. It may be that you have covered some of this material previously and students have been known to submit old papers. You are expected **not** to do this. One measure of you working appropriately will be the references you use.

**Poor attendance** without a valid reason will result in a pro-rata reduction of the final grade.

### **Bibliography.**

In addition:

H. LaFollette(ed)	Ethics in Practice (section on Justice and Punishment)
D. Rose	In the Name of the Law

### **Terrorism and Modern Warfare.**

T. Rockmore	The Philosophical Challenge of September 11 <sup>th</sup>
J. Sterba (ed)	Terrorism and International Justice
M. Reichberg (ed)	The Ethics of War (New, arriving March 2006)
F. Fukuyama	After the Neo-Cons: America at the Crossroads
T. Garton-Ash	Free World.
J. Schell	The Unconquerable World.

F.Halliday	The World at 2000
B.White, et al (eds)	Issues in World Politics(chs 6,7,8,9).
I. Stewart	War, Culture and the Media.
R.Gilpin	War and Change in World Politics.
J.Cooley	Unholy Wars.
P. L. Bergen	Holy War.
G. Kepel	The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West.
C.McInnes & G.D.Sheffield	Warfare in the Twentieth century
H.Strachan	European Armies and the Conduct of War.
R.Connaughton	The Nature of Future Conflict
G. Vidal	Dreaming War.
P.Singer(ed)	Applied Ethics
P.Singer(ed)	A Companion to Ethics
J.P.Sterba(ed)	Morality in Practice
J.P.Sterba	Ethics: The Big Questions.
B.Magas	The Destruction Of Yugoslavia
E. D.Weitz	A Century of Genocide
A.L.Hinton (ed)	Genocide.
G. Martin	Understanding Terrorism
S. Talbot	The Age of Terror
J. F. Hoge & G.Rose	How Did it Happen?
F. Halliday	Two Hours that Shook the World.
L. Mylroie	The War Against America.
J. Burke	Al Qaeda: Casting a Shadow of Terror
J.Gray	Al Qaeda and What it Means to be Modern
J. K. Frey (ed)	Violence, Terrorism and Justice.
P. Wilkinson	Terrorism and the Liberal State..
A. P. Schmid	Western Responses to Terrorism.
T. Bjorgo	Terror from the Extreme Right.
J. Hainsworth	The Extreme Right in Europe and the USA.
N.Chomsky	Power and Terror
B. White (ed)	Issues in World Politics (ch.9).
C. Harmon	Terrorism Today
B. Hoffman	Inside Terrorism.
H. Lafollette (ed)	Ethics in Practice (Third edition only 2006, Chs 64 to 67)

### **Justice, Crime and Punishment Today.**

**There are informative chapters on the English legal system in any of the following:**

I. Budge, I Crewe,	
D. McKay, K. Newton	The New British Politics (Third edition 2004)
P. Dunleavy et al	Developments in British Politics Number 7 (2003)
Bill Coxall, Lynton Robins and Robert Leach	Contemporary British Politics
H. Barnett	Britain Unwrapped
Bill Jones	Politics UK ( 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition).

S. Ludlam	New Labour in Government
T. Enright	The British Political Process: An Introduction.
J. Morrison	Reforming Britain
P. Joyce	Law, Order and the Judiciary.
A. Mitchell	Farewell My Lords.
L. Pye	British Politics: Ideas and Concepts.
A. Heywood	Politics.
P. Norton	The Constitution in Flux.
P. Hennessy	The Hidden Wiring.
M. Moran	British Politics and Society.
C. Pilkington	Issues in British Politics.

### **Fascism and the Extreme Right Today**

R. O. Paxton	The Anatomy of Fascism
R.J. Evans	Fascism: A Very Short Introduction.
B. White	Issues in World Politics, (ch.8).
J. Kellas	The Politics of Nationalism and Ethnicity.
E. Kedourie	Nationalism.
E. Gellner	Nations and Nationalism.
S. Hood	Fascism for Beginners.
A.E. Ansell	New Right, New Fascism
R. Griffin	The Nature of Fascism.
K. von Beyme	Right Wing Extremism in Contemporary Europe.
G. Harris	The Dark Side of Europe.
P. Hainsworth, (ed)	The Extreme Right in Europe and America.
M. Schmidt	The New Reich: Penetrating the Secrets of Today's Neo-Nazi Networks.
Evans Foundation	Europe's New Racism.
N. Goodrick-Clarke	Black Sun: Aryan Cults, Esoteric Nazism and the Politics of Identity
G. Frazer	Zhirinovsky: The Little Black Book.
T. Bjorgo	Racist Violence in Europe.
T. Bjorgo	Terror from the Extreme Right.
G. Ford	Fascist Europe.
P. Merkl	Encounters With the New Radical Right.
P. Merkl	The Revival of Right Wing Extremism in the 1990's.
J. Marcus	The National Front and French Politics.
C. Fisher	The Rise of the Nazis.
P. Morgan	Italian Fascism.
J. Solomos	Race and Racism in Contemporary Britain.
S. Sagger	Race and Politics in Britain.
H. Goulbourne	Race relations in Britain Since 1945
B. Coxall and L. Robins	Contemporary British Politics, PP 65-8
I.W. Hannaford	Race: The History of an Idea in the West.
K. Malik	The Meaning of Race
T. Grundy	Memoir of a Fascist Childhood.
R. Pearce	Fascism and Nazism.
A.J. Grand	Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany.

H-G.Betz & S.Immerfall	The New Politics of the Right.
P.Hainsworth	The Politics of the Extreme Right.
M.Durham	Women and Fascism.
P.Brooker	Non-Democratic Regimes
H.G.Betz et al	The New Politics of the Right.
M.Hughey	The New Tribalisms: The Resurgence of Race.

### **Northern Ireland.**

J.McGarry &	Explaining Northern Ireland.
B.O'Leary	Northern Ireland
P.Dixon	Northern Ireland 1921-1994.
P.Bew	A Pocket History of Ulster.
P.Barton	The Course of Irish History.
T.W.Moody	The Government of Northern Ireland.
R.J.Lawrence	The Government of Northern Ireland
N.Mansergh	Northern Ireland since 1945.
S.Wichert	Ulster: Conflict and Consent.
T.Wilson	The Irish Question and British Politics.
D.G.Boyce	The Edge of the Union
S.Bruce	Policy and Government in Northern Ireland.
D.Birrell	The Troubles.
T.Pat-Coogan	The Enemy Within.
M.Dillon	The Shankill Butchers
M.Dillon	The Dirty War.
M.Dillon	Northern Ireland: The Choice.
K.Boyle	Facets of the Conflict in Northern Ireland.
S.Dunn	Twenty Years On.
M.Farrell,(ed)	Ireland: Why Britain Must Go.
P.Foot	N. Ireland and its Neighbours Since 1920.
S.Gillespie	Northern Ireland.
B.Hadfield,(ed)	Northern Ireland.
D.Keogh	Before the Dawn: An Autobiography.
G.Adams	Devolution and British Politics (chapters 6,7).
M. O'Neill	The New British politics (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition ch.10).
I. Budge et al	Irish America and the Ulster Conflict.
A. Wilson,(ed)	Politics UK, (Chapter 30)
B.Jones	Contemporary British Politics (PP 291-7)
B Coxall & L. Robins	Developments in British Politics, No 6 (Chapter 7)
P.Dunleavy(ed)	Developments in British Politics No.& Chapter 10.
J.Fisher (ed)	Central Debates in British Politics (Chapter 4)

### **Migration, Refugees and Asylum Seekers.**

L. Schuster	The Use and Abuse of Political Asylum in Britain and Germany.
P. Legrain	Immigrants: Your Country Needs You.
C. Moorhead	Human Cargo

M. J. Gibney	The Ethics and Politics of Asylum
S.Cohen	No One is Illegal
T.Hayter	Open Borders
J.Harding	The Uninvited: Refugees at the Rich Man's Gate (Profile, 2000).
S.Castles & M.Miller	The Age of Migration.
B.White,(ed)	Issues in World Politics,(ch 10).
B.Joly	Haven or Hell: Asylum Policies and Refugees in Europe.
B.Barry & R.Goodwin	Free Movement: Ethical Issues in Transnational Migration.
A.Dummett	Subjects, Citizens, Aliens and Others.
T.Kushner	Refugees in an Age of Genocide.
L. Schuster & L.Schuster and J.Solomos	Asylum, Refuge and Public Policy: Current Trends and Future Dilemmas in the UK(offprint).
A. Bloch and L.Schuster	Asylum and Welfare: Contemporary Debates(offprint).
UNHCR	The State of the World's Refugees.
H. Lafollette (ed)	Ethics in Practice (PP 571-633)

### **Women and Islam: A Case Study of Iran**

S.M. Okin	Women in Western Political Thought
I.Whelehan	Modern Feminist Thought.
V. Bryson	Feminist Political Theory.
A. Davis	Women, Race and Class.
J. Hill-Collins	Black Feminist Thought.
H. Mohanty	Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism.
Charles	Feminism: The State and Social Policy
Payne	The History of Islam
Coote & Pattulo	Power and Prejudice (Equal Citizens)
S.S. Ali	Human Rights and International Law: Equal before Allah Unequal before Man
L. Ahmed	Women and Gender in Islam: The Historical Roots of a Modern Debate.
H. Afshar	Islam and Feminism: An Iranian Case Study
Women in Iran	<a href="http://www.womeniniran.org/english.htm">www.womeniniran.org/english.htm</a>
United Nations	<a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a>

### **Secrecy and the Security Services**

P. Todd & G. Bloch	Global Intelligence: The World's Secret Services
I. Budge et al	The New British Politics (3 <sup>rd</sup> ed. ch.21)
P. Hennessy	The Secret State
P.Wright	Spycatcher
I. Budge et al	The New British Politics chapter 21
D.Vincent	
S.Dorill	M. I. 6 and Fifty Years of Special Operations.

M.Hollingsworth	( <a href="http://cryptome.org/mi6-sd36.html">http://cryptome.org/mi6-sd36.html</a> )
A.Rogers	Defending the Realm
A.Cavendish	Secrecy and Power in the British State
J.Adam	Inside Intelligence.
P. Sands	The New Spies.
	Lawless World: America and the Making and
	Breaking of Global rules.
MI 5	<a href="http://www.mi5.gov.uk">http://www.mi5.gov.uk</a>
MI 5/6	<a href="http://www.five.org.uk/security.html">http://www.five.org.uk/security.html</a>
Political Studies Association	<a href="http://www.fas.org/irp/world/uk/index.html">http://www.fas.org/irp/world/uk/index.html</a>
CIA	<a href="http://www.odci.gov/cia/information/info.html">http://www.odci.gov/cia/information/info.html</a>

### **Moral Controversies and Politics**

H.Lafollette (ed)	Ethics in Practice (Excellent collection on most issues)
M. Cohen	101 Ethical Dilemmas
J. Glover	Causing Death and Saving Lives
J. Glover	Choosing Children
M. Warnock	An Intelligent Person's Guide to Ethics
P. Sterba	Morality in Practice.
P. Sterba	Ethics: The Big Questions
n. White	A brief History of Happiness
M. Timmons	Conduct and Character
J.E. Gracia (ed)	Classics of Western Philosophy
R. L. Arrington	Western Ethics: A Historical Introduction
G. Graham	Eight Theories of Ethics
A. MacIntyre	A Short History of ethics
P.Kitcher	Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities.
B.Rollin	The Frankenstein Syndrome.
P. Singer & H. Kuhse	Embryo Experimentation.
R. Billington	Living Philosophy.
P. Singer	Practical Ethics.
P. Singer,(ed)	A Companion to Ethics(excellent on religion and ethics)
P. Singer,(ed)	Applied Ethics.
J. Nuttal	Moral Questions.
E. Bond	Ethics and Human Well Being.
J. L. Mackie	Ethics.
B. Williams	Morality.
B. Appleyard	Brave New Worlds: Genetics and the Human Experience.
M. Ridley	Genome: The Autobiography of a Species.
D. Koehn	Rethinking Feminist Ethics