

# POLITICAL SCIENCE 147B: BRITISH POLITICS

Professor James Adams  
670 Kerr Hall  
email: jfadams@ucdavis.edu  
Office hours: M 2:30-4:30pm

## Teaching Assistants

Isaac Hale  
666(!) Kerr Hall  
email: idhale@ucdavis.edu  
Office hours: W 3:15-5:15pm

Yuhui Li  
585 Kerr Hall  
email: yhhli@ucdavis.edu  
Office hours: F 9:15-11:15am

This course surveys British politics since World War II, with special emphasis on the following areas: Britain's unwritten constitution; current debates over social and economic policies; the British party system; public opinion, voting behavior, and elections.

Examinations. The midterm and final examinations (closed book) will consist of short-answer identifications as well as longer essay questions. Approximately one week before each examination we will distribute study questions to aid student preparation.

Grading. The final class grade will be based on the examinations, in the following proportions: midterm, 40%; final examination, 60%.

All of the readings are on reserve at the library. The following books are available at the bookstore:

Philip Norton (2010), *The British Polity* (5<sup>th</sup> edition)

Russell Dalton (2013), *Citizen Politics in Western Democracies* (6<sup>th</sup> edition)

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

1. INTRODUCTION (September 24)
2. HOW IS BRITAIN GOVERNED? (September 29-October 1)  
Norton, Chapters 1, 4, 8.
3. THE RISE AND FALL OF THE POSTWAR SETTLEMENT (October 6-13)  
Norton, chapters 2-3  
  
Additional readings to be assigned.

4. BRITISH POLITICAL PARTIES: 1945-2005 (October 15-29)  
Norton, chapter 6.  
Dalton, chapter 7.

Optional reading. James Adams, Lawrence Ezrow, and Zeynep Somer-Topcu. 2011. "Is anybody listening? Evidence that voters do not respond to European parties' policy programmes." *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 370-382 (to be posted on the class web site).

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

Note: There is no class lecture on Thursday, November 5

5. THE BRITISH PUBLIC COMPARED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC (November 10-17)  
  
Milazzo, Caitlin, James Adams, and Jane Green. 2012. "Are Voter Decision Rules Endogenous to Parties' Policy Strategies? A Model with Applications to Elite Depolarization in Post-Thatcher Britain." *Journal of Politics* (to be posted on the class website).  
  
Adams, James, Jane Green, and Caitlin Milazzo. 2012. "Has the British public depolarized along with political elites? An American perspective on British public opinion." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(4): 507-530 (to be posted on the class web site).
6. BRITISH ELECTIONS: THE 2010 AND 2015 ELECTIONS (Nov. 19-December 1)  
Dalton, chapters 8-10 (also review chapter 7).  
Norton, chapter 5.

Additional readings to be assigned.

