

British Politics

Second year module

Lecturer: [Professor Colin Thain \(/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/profiles/thain-colin.aspx\)](https://schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/staff/profiles/thain-colin.aspx)

The first term introduces major theoretical approaches to the understanding of British politics and unpacks the core components of the British political system, such as the Constitution, Parliament, the Executive, Civil Service, Whitehall, voting and devolution.

The second term applies these fundamental understandings to issues and periods in British politics from the turn of the twentieth century onwards. In 2014-15 there will be special sessions on the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and the 2015 General Election.

Students will be given the opportunity to act in *The Audience*, a play about the role of the Monarch and her Prime Ministers. Attached to the module is a British Politics Forum, in which the students are given the opportunity to invite guest speakers to speak on topics relevant to the module.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module the student should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical appreciation of theoretical approaches and conceptual discussions relating to political governance and institutions in British politics
- Have an awareness of political developments in British politics during the 20th century and beyond
- Have an ability to place British political practices and events into a wider context of governance in the contemporary world

Assessment

- **Term Two:** 1 essay x 2,000 word assessed work (50%)
- **Term Three:** 2 hour examination (50%)