Module No: POL315  
Credits: 20

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Office hours: See notice board  
Semester Examined: One

Module Organization

11 weekly two-hour seminars, Thursday 11:10 – 1:00 in Elmfield SR 101.

Please note – Week 7 is a READING WEEK.

Description

This module is concerned with illustrating the nature of the policy process, the way it may or may not have changed and who has power. The module aims at developing theoretical approaches to policy and therefore it begins by setting out a number of analytical approaches, which are then applied to case studies. The module will show how these approaches can illuminate the processes of policy making and decision making in Britain. The module will teach you how to use primary sources and to use various analytical approaches to evaluate your empirical material.

The reading list provided is only intended as a starting point. As many of the issues discussed are current there is little published in journals and academic books. Therefore you will have to use primary sources for essays and seminar presentations. You should examine government and House of Commons papers and newspapers such as The Times, The Guardian, the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph. Magazines such as The Economist, The New Statesman, Parliamentary Brief, Prospect and the Spectator are also useful. You should also pay attention to politics and policy journals including Public Administration, Political Studies, British Politics, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, Journal of Public Policy, Governance, Political Quarterly and Parliamentary Affairs (many are on-line journals and so can be accessed through MOLE). All are available in the library.

Objectives

- To encourage students to think analytically about the nature of the contemporary British political system and how this affects the policy-making process.
- To provide students with a number of different approaches to understanding what occurs within the ‘black box’ of British politics.
- To enable students to understand competing theoretical models of the British state.
- To encourage students to apply a series of case studies, specific to the British context, to theories of decision-making.
- To develop an understanding of major political events and how they have affected the evolution of the British state.
- To develop skills of argument and analysis within a small, discussion group environment.

Module Requirements:

- Attendance at all seminars
- Participation in all seminars, including oral presentations
- Submission of two copies of an essay
Module Assessment:

One 5,500 word essay 100%

A] Essays:

Essays should be **5,500 words maximum in length** and should be **word processed**. Essays must be **properly annotated** and submitted with a **bibliography** following the conventions set out in the Politics Department Undergraduate Handbook, whose general advice on essay writing you are also strongly recommended to consider. **Students must ensure that they adhere to the word limit set by the Module Leader for any piece of assessed work.** If students breach the upper limit specified, they are seeking to gain an unfair advantage. Moreover, meeting the stipulated requirements is one of the skills being assessed. For these reasons, failure to remain within the word limit may be reflected in the mark being reduced for the piece of work in question.

**Two paper copies** of the essay must be submitted in the black essay box in the Politics foyer on **Monday 16th January 2012 by 12pm**, after which the Department's standard penalties for late submission will automatically apply. In addition, you must also submit an **electronic copy via MOLE** by the same deadline. Note that waiting times for printing in computing suites can be considerable at busy times of the year. **Applications for an extension of the essay deadline above must be made in advance** on the application form provided by the Department Office, with accompanying documentary evidence as appropriate.

**Essay Titles:**

**Either:**

*Can any one theory of the state adequately explain the nature of power in British politics? Use examples to illustrate your answer.*

**Or:**

*Can any one theory of decision-making adequately explain the nature of decision-making in British politics? Use examples to illustrate your answer.*

**Study Hours:**

For a twenty-credit module, about twelve hours per week of private study are normally expected. (For guidance on study techniques see the Undergraduate Handbook.)

**General Regulations:**

Students should refer to the current Department of Politics Undergraduate Handbook for guidance on essay writing and other academic skills, for details of marking criteria, and for rules governing submission of assessed work and attendance. Please note that students are required to perform satisfactorily in all components of assessment (all elements of assessed coursework and examinations) before credits can be awarded for a module.

**Seminar Attendance:**

- Attendance at seminars is compulsory. It is your responsibility to ensure that you sign the attendance sheet.

**READING LIST**

**Core Reading**

Greenaway, J. Smith, S. And J Street, *Deciding Factors In British Politics: A Case Studies Approach* (Routledge 1992) (Note: the library only has a limited number of copies of
The following general texts are also of use:

- Hogwood, B. W. *From Crisis To Complacency: Shaping Public Policy In Britain* (Oxford University Press 1987)
- Hogwood, B.W. *Trends In British Public Policy* (Open University Press 1992)
Rose, R. *Understanding Big Government: The Programme Approach* (Sage 1984)
Smith, M.J. *The Core Executive In Britain* (Basingstoke, 1999)
Weir, S. & Beetham, D. *Political Power And Democratic Control In Britain* (Routledge 1999)

WEB-SITES:
Go to the relevant MOLE site for this course for useful web-links.

SEMINAR OUTLINE

(NOTE: KEY TEXTS FOR SEMINAR READING ARE IN BOLD AND DIGITISED READINGS ARE MARKED AS SUCH)

INTRODUCTION:

1. THE NATURE AND STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH STATE:
What is the British state - characteristic features of the structure of the state, e.g. the Westminster model, unitary nature, the European dimension, central vs local, implications of devolution.

For a basic introduction on the structure of the British state:
Mcauley, J (2003) *An Introduction To Politics, State And Society* London: Sage ch.1 And 2,
Smith, M.J. *The Core Executive In Britain* (Palgrave 1999) Ch.1.
W.H.Greenleaf *The British Political Tradition Vols.1,2 & 3.* (Methuen)
For An Overview Of The Changing Nature Of The State:
Kavanagh et al *British Politics: Continuities and Change* Oxford University Press 2006. Ch.17


There are also a number of recent reports into the legacy of New Labour’s changes to the core executive which are useful for this seminar.


For More On The European Dimension See:

Gamble Between Europe And America : The Future Of British Politics (Palgrave 2002)


A. Geddes The European Union and British Politics (Palgrave 2004)

D Dinan, Ever Closer Union? An Introduction To European Integration (Palgrave 1999)


S. George and I Bache Politics in the European Union (Oxford University Press)

S. George, An Awkward Partner: Britain In The EC (Oxford 1994)


D. Scott: Off Whitehall (Tauris 2004)
For More On Centre/Local Relations See:
C Gray, *Government Beyond The Centre: Sub National Politics In Britain* (Macmillan 1994)
D King And G Stoker, *Rethinking Local Democracy* (Macmillan 1996)
Pyper, R. And Robins, L. (2000) *United Kingdom Governance* Basingstoke: Macmillan Ch.10
R.A.W. Rhodes *Beyond Westminster And Whitehall* (Unwin Hyman 1988)

For The Territorial Dimension See:
J. Bulpitt *Territory And Power In The United Kingdom* (Manchester University Press 1983)
Kavanagh et al *British Politics: Continuities and Change* Oxford University Press 2006. Ch.17
Heffernan et al *Developments In British Politics* Palgrave Macmillan Ch. Territorial Politics In The Post-Devolution United Kingdom
Pyper, R. And Robins, L. (2000) *United Kingdom Governance* Basingstoke: Macmillan Ch.9
T. Nairn *After Britain : New Labour and the Return of Scotland* (Granta, 2000)
W Hutton, *The State We're In* (Vintage 1996)

COMPETING MODELS OF THE BRITISH STATE

2. MACRO-MODELS OF THE STATE – MARXISM

Seminar Topics:
What is Marxism? (Group C)
Provide a critique of Marxism? (Group A)
Case-study: The Foot and Mouth Crisis 2001 (Group B)

Reading:

**Marxism:**


Dryzek, J and Dunleavy, P. (2009) *Theories of the Democratic State* Palgrave Macmillan Ch.4
A G Jordan And J J Richardson, *Government And Pressure Groups In Britain* (Clarendon, 1987)
C Ham And M Hill, The Policy Process In The Modern Capitalist State (Prentice Hall 1997)

**Colin Hay Restating Social and Political Change** (OUP 1996)


**G. Taylor Chapter In Marsh, D & Stoker, G. (eds) Theory And Methods Of Political Science** (Macmillan 1995)

**Gamble A. et el. Marxism And Social Science** (Macmillan 1999)
Greenway, J. Smith, S. And J Street, Deciding Factors In British Politics: A Case Studies Approach (Routledge 1992) Ch.3
J Dearlove And P Saunders, Introduction To British Politics (Polity 2000)
M Hill (Ed), The Policy Process: A Reader (Prentice Hall, 1997)
Phoebe Hall et al, Change, Choice And Conflict In Social Policy (Heinneman 1975)
Poulantzas, Nicos. State, power, socialism. (New Left Books, 1978)
R Levitas (Ed), The Ideology Of The New Right (Polity, 1986)
W Grant, Pressure Groups, Politics And Democracy In Britain (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1995)

Case-study: The Foot and Mouth Crisis 2001
Andrew Rawnsley [2001] Servants Of The People (Penguin, 2001) [read the chapter entitled 'The Culling Fields'].

Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs web site on foot-and-mouth: http://www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth/
Foot And Mouth Disease - Lessons To Be Learnt: http://193.63.76.230/Report/Index.Htm
Michael Mills Chapter – ‘The Case of food and health and the Use of Network Analysis’ in Marsh, M. And Rhodes, R. Policy Networks In British Government (Oxford University Press 1992)
National Farmers Union: http://www.nfu.org/
Seldon, Anthony Blair (Fontana 2004) Ch.31


3. **MACRO-MODELS OF THE STATE – ELITISM**

Seminar topics:
- What is Elitism? (Group B)
- Provide a critique of Elitism (Group C)
- Case-study: Nuclear Power in Britain (Group A)

**Reading:**

Elitism:


C Ponting, Whitehall: Tragedy And Farce (Hammish Hamilton 1986)


E Etzion-Halevy, Bureaucracy And Democracy (Routledge1985)


J Dearlove And P Saunders, *Introduction To British Politics* Ch. 1 And 9.
Mark Evans Chapter In Marsh, D & Stoker, G. (Eds) Theory And Methods Of Political Science (Palgrave 1995).


N Harris, Competition And The Corporate Society (Methuen 1972)


Case-study: Nuclear Power in Britain in the Post-War Era

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.: http://www.bnfl.com/

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: http://www.cnduk.org/

D Burn, Nuclear Power And The Energy Crisis (Macmillan 1978)

D Collingridge, The Social Control Of Technology (OUP 1981)


Department for Business, Innovation and Skills http://www.bis.gov.uk/

Greenaway, J. Smith, S. And J Street, Deciding Factors In British Politics: A Case Studies Approach (Routledge 1992) Ch. 9


J Street In G Duncan (Ed), Democracy And The Capitalist State ( Cambrige 1989)


Ministry of Defence: http://www.mod.uk/


T Hall, Nuclear Politics The History Of Nuclear Power In Britain. - Harmondsworth : Penguin, 1986

4. MACRO-MODELS OF THE STATE – PLURALISM

Seminar Topics:
What is Pluralism? (Group A)
Provide a critique of Pluralism (Group B)
Case-study: The Ban on Fox Hunting (Group C)
Reading:

Pluralism


Dryzek, J and Dunleavy, P. (2009) *Theories of the Democratic State* Palgrave Macmillan Ch. 2

A G Jordan and J J Richardson, *Government and Pressure Groups in Britain* (Clarendon 1987)


M.J. Smith *Pressure, Power and Policy : state autonomy and policy networks in Britain* (Harvester Whetsheaf 1993)


W Grant, *Pressure Groups, Politics and Democracy in Britain* (Harvester Whetsheaf 1995)

Case-Study: The Coalition Government and the Big Society


Big Society Network (2011) [http://www.thebigsociety.co.uk/](http://www.thebigsociety.co.uk/)


Cameron, D. (2010b) *Big Society versus Big Government*, Speech April 19 2010

Cameron, D. (2010c) *PM’s speech at Civil Service Live* 8 July 2010


Conservative-Liberal Coalition (2010) *Conservative Liberal Democrat Coalition Negotiations Agreements Reached 11 May 2010*

David Cameron (2010a) ‘Prime Minister Letter to Cabinet Ministers Regarding Transparency’ 1 June 2010
http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/statements/transparency/pm-letter.aspx


The Observer (2010) *Welcome to the Ever-Diminishing World of the ‘Big Society’* 21 November 2010

5. MACRO-MODELS OF THE STATE – THE NEW RIGHT

Seminar Topics:
What is the New Right? (Group A)
Provide a critique of the New Right? (Group B)
Case-study: Privatisation (Group C)

Reading:
The New Right:


David Richards (2008) *New Labour and the Civil Service: Reconstituting the Westminster Model* Basingstoke: Palgrave Ch. 3


Colin Hay *Restating Social And Political Change* (OUP 1996) Ch.7

D Kavanagh *The Reordering Of British Politics* (Oxford 1997)


Gilmour, I. *Inside Right : A Study Of Conservatism* (Quartet Books, 1978)

Gilmour, I. *Whatever Happened To The Tories*? (Fourth Estate, 1997)
Hayes, Mark *The New Right In Britain: An Introduction To Theory And Practice* (Pluto Press, 1994)


King, Desmond *The New Right: Politics, Markets And Citizenship.* (Macmillan 1987)


Oakeshot, M. *Rationalism In Politics* (Liberty Fund 1991)


**Privatisation:**


D. Smith From Boom To Bust:*Trial And Error In British Economic Policy* (Penguin, 1992)

E. Dell The Chancellors: *A History Of The Chancellors Of The Exchequer, 1945-90.* (Harpercollins, 1996)


G. Maynard *The Economy Under Mrs. Thatcher* (Oxford 1988)


I. Gilmour *Dancing With Dogma: Britain Under Thatcherism* (Simon & Schuster, 1992)


M Dunn And S Smith, 'Economic Policy Under The Conservatives' In S Savage Et Al, *Public Policy In Britain* (Macmillan 1994)

M. Thatcher *The Downing Street Years* (Harper Collins 1993)

M.J. Oliver ‘Whatever Happened To Monetarism’ 20th Century British History 8/1997, Pp.49-73

N. Lawson *The View From Number 11: Memoirs Of A Tory Radical* (Bantam, 1992)


P. Stephens Politics And The Pound:*The Tories, The Economy And Europe.* (Papermac, 1997)

6. MESO-MODELS OF THE STATE – THE POLICY-NETWORKS APPROACH

Seminar Topics:
What is the Policy-Networks Approach? (Group B)
Provide a critique of the Policy-Networks Approach. (Group A)
Case-study: The Falklands War (Group C)

READING:
Policy-Networks:


A G Jordan And J J Richardson, Government And Pressure Groups In Britain(Clarendon, 1987)

A G Jordan 'Sub-Governments, Policy Communities And Networks: Refilling The Old Bottles', Journal Of Theoretical Politics, 2, 319-38.


D Marsh & R Rhodes Policy Networks In British Government (Oxford 1992)


M J Smith Pressure, Power And Policy: State Autonomy And Policy Networks In Britain And The United States, (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1993)


P Dunleavy *In British Journal Of Political Science* Vol 18, Pp.21-49


W Grant, *Pressure Group Politics And Democracy In Britain* (Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1995.)

W. Kickert et al. *Managing Complex Networks* (Sage 1997)

**Case-study: The Falklands War**


G M Dillon, The Falklands: Politics And War 'The Falklands War: The Full Story' In *The Sunday Times (Insight Team)*


Greenaway, J. Smith, S. And J Street, Deciding Factors In British Politics: A Case Studies Approach (Routledge 1992) Ch.5

Gustafson, Lowell *The Sovereignty Dispute Over The Falkland (Malvinas) Islands*. Oxford University Press, 1988


Lord Carrington, Reflect On Things Past (Collins 1988)


M Hastings And S Jenkins, *The Battle For The Falklands* (Joseph 1983)

Nott, John *Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Recollections Of An Errant Politician* (Politicos 2002)

Ponting, Clive *The Right To Know: The Inside Story Of The Belgrano Affair* (Sphere, 1985.)

Sir Nicholas Henderson In *The Economist* 12 November 1983


T Dalyell, *One Man's Falklands* (Cecil Woolf, 1982)

The Falkland Island Company: [http://www.the-falkland-islands-co.com/](http://www.the-falkland-islands-co.com/)


7. READING WEEK

8. THE BRITISH STATE TODAY: HOLLOWED-OUT OR FILLED-IN?

Seminar Topics:
What is the hollowing-out of the state thesis? (Group C)
What is the re-constituted [filled-in] state thesis (Group A)
What is the regulatory state thesis? (Group B)

Reading:
R.A.W. Rhodes *Understanding Governance* Basingstoke: Macmillan Ch.5

[HOLLOWING-OUT READING]


Falk, J (1992) *The End of Sovereignty* Edgar Elgar
Fukuyama, Francis *The End of History and the Last Man* (Harish Hamilton, 1992)


Ohmae, K. *The Borderless World* (Harper Collins 1994)


Strange, S. *The Retreat of the State* (Cambridge University Press 1996)

The Reconstituted State


Smith, M.J. (1999) *The Core Executive in Britain* Basingstoke: Macmillan

House of Lords Constitution Committee *Inquiry into the Cabinet Office and Central Government 2009*
http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_constitution_committee.cfm
David Cameron (2009) *Time to Transfer Power from the Central State to Local People*

**Regulation Reading:**

- Beck, Ulrich *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity* (Sage, 1992)
- Kavanagh et al *British Politics* Oxford University Press 2006.Ch.13

There are also a number of recent reports into the legacy of New Labour’s changes to the core executive which are useful for this seminar.


**COMPETING MODELS OF POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING**

9. **THEORIES OF DECISION MAKING: THE RATIONAL ACTOR MODEL AND BOUNDED RATIONALITY**

Seminar Topics:

- What is the Rational Actor Model? (Group A)
- Provide a critique of the Rational Actor Model and Explain Bounded Rationality. (Group B)
- Case-study: Conservative Trade Union Policy 1979-90 (Group C)

**READING:**

- **Rational Actor Model:**
  - J Greenaway Et Al, Deciding Factors In British Politics (Routledge 1992) Ch.2

Oakeshott, Michael. *Rationalism In Politics And Other Essays* (Liberty Fund, 1991)


B Jenkins And A Gray in *Political Studies* Vol 31, 1983, Pp.177-93


P Hall In *Comparative Politics* Vol 25, 1993, Pp.275-96


W G Scott In F Castles Et Al (Eds), Decisions, Organisations And Society (OUP 1976)

Y Dror In Public Administration Review Vol 24, 1964 [There Are A Number Of Relevant Articles In This Volume]

Y Dror, *Public Policymaking Re-Examined* (Chandler 1968)

Conservative Trade Union Policy 1979-90:


Bassett, P. *Strike Free: The New Industrial Relations in Britain* (Macmillan 1986)


Farnham, D 'New Labour and the New Unions' *Parliamentary Affairs* 49/4, 1996 (HD6667.M36)


Hutton, W *The State We're In* (Vintage, 1996).


10. THEORIES OF DECISION-MAKING: DISJOINTED INCREMENTALISM

Seminar Topics:
What is the Disjointed Incrementalism Model? (Group B)
Provide a critique of the Disjointed Incrementalism. (Group C)
Case-study: AIDS (Group A)

READING:
Disjointed Incrementalism:


J. Greenaway et al, Deciding Factors In British Politics (Routledge 1992) Ch.2

Y Dror In Public Administration Review Vol 24, 1964 [There Are A Number Of Relevant Articles In This Volume]

B Jenkins And A Gray In Political Studies Vol 31, 1983, Pp.177-93
C Weiss And M Bucuvalas, Social Science Research And Decision Making


P Hall In Comparative Politics Vol 25, 1993, Pp.275-96

S Lukes, Power: A Radical View (2nd ed.)


W G Scott In F Castles Et Al (Eds), Decisions, Organisations And Society

Y Dror, Public Policymaking Re-Examined (Chandler 1968)

AIDS:

J Greenaway et al, Deciding Factors In British Politics (Routledge 1992) Ch.4

Aids Information online: http://hiv-aids.medical-information.org/
AVERT UK: http://www.avert.org/

C Perrow & M F Guillen The AIDS Disaster (Yale UP 1995)

D Kirp & R Bayer ‘AIDS in the Industrialised Democracies’, Milbank Quarterly Special edition Vol.64, Supplement 1, 1986


David Feinburg *Queer and Loathing: rants and raves of a raging AIDS clone* (Viking 1994)

Department of Health:

**J E Campbell and W E Waters in British Medical Journal vol 294, 1987**

**J Mann The Global AIDS Policy Coalition**


**J. Lewis ‘AIDS’ Policy’ Lancet 14 May 1988**


K Wellings *Stopping AIDS, HIV, AIDS and the Mass Media*

M Fumento *The Myth of Heterosexual AIDS* (Regency Gateway 1993)

**N. Fowler Ministers Decide (Chapmans 1991)**

P Aggleton *Facing the Second Decade*

**P Day & R Klein ‘Interpreting the unexpected; the case of AIDS Policy making in Britain’ Journal of Public Policy, 9, 1990**


R. Goma *Action on AIDS in UK Communities* (Community Projects Foundation, 1990)

Social Security Committee *Problems Associated with AIDS*, HC 182, 1987

Susan Sontag *Illness as metaphor ; and, AIDS and its metaphors* (Penguin, 2002)

T. Fowler *AIDS and the Government*

Terrence Higgins Trust: http://www.tht.org.uk/

World Health Organisation *The Global Aids Strategy*

**11. THEORIES OF DECISION-MAKING: SABATIER’S MODEL OF POLICY CHANGE**

Seminar Topics:
What is Sabatier’s Model of Policy Change? (Group A)
Provide a critique of Sabatier’s Model of Policy Change. (Group B)
Case-study: Perspectives on Law and Order (Group C)

**READING:**

Sabatier Model:

J Greenaway et al, *Deciding Factors In British Politics* (Routledge 1992) Ch.2 [DIGITISED READING]


P Sabatier And H Jenkins-Smith (eds), *Policy Change And Learning: An Advocacy Coalition Approach* (Westview 1993)

P Sabatier And H Jenkins-Smith in *Journal Of Public Policy* Vo 14, 1994, Pp.175-203


B Jenkins And A Gray In Political Studies Vol 31, 1983, Pp.177-93


Hogwood, Brian W. and Lewis A. Gunn. - *Policy Analysis For The Real World.* (Oxford University Press, 1984)

P Hall In Comparative Politics Vol 25, 1993, Pp.275-96


S Lukes, Power: A Radical View (Macmillan 1974)


W G Scott In F Castles Et Al (Eds), Decisions, Organisations And Society (Penguin 1976)

Changing Perspectives on Law and Order 1950s-2010

Kavanagh et al British Politics Oxford University Press 2006. Ch.30

Geddes, A. Richards, D. Smith, M. And Mathers, M. (2011) ‘Analysing Policy Delivery: The Case Of Street Crime And Anti-Social Behaviour’ Public Administration [With M. Smith, A. Geddes And H. Mathers] [a version of this article can be found on MOLE]


Hall, S. in Soundings vol 1, 1995, pp.19-33

Hudson, B. Penal Policy and Social Justice (Macmillan 1993)


Labour Party (1964) Crime – A Challenge To Us All London: The Labour Party


Leishman, F. et al (eds), Core Issues in Policing (Longman 2000)


The Association of Chief Police Officers *www.acpo.police.uk*
The Liberal Democrats *www.libdems.org.uk*.
The Home Office *http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/*
The Howard league for Penal Reform *www.howardleague.org/*.
The Labour Party: *www.labour.org.uk*.

**12. ANALYSING THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT’S POLITICAL RESPONSE TO THE 2008 GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS**

**Seminar Topics:**
- Labour's response to the Crisis: A Marxist Interpretation (Group B)
- Labour's Response to the Crisis: A Disjointed Incrementalist Interpretation (Group C) (Group A)
- Labour's Response to the Crisis: a Rational Actor Interpretation (Group A)

**Reading:**


Wolf ‘The economic legacy of Mr Brown’ *Financial Times*, 13 May 2010