

Course Syllabus
PSC 473: *Politics and Media in England*
Summer 2006

Syracuse University
Division of International Programs Abroad

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Prerequisites: None

Objectives: The primary goal of this six-credit course is to provide students with access to the thinking and beliefs of individuals who are involved in media, politics and economics in Great Britain. In this sense the course is different from those found in a university curriculum that relies on written texts. We will use articles and books, and lectures on history, theory and practice are vital parts of the course. But our primary resources are in-depth discussions with activist intellectuals and practitioners. These individuals, who are often key figures in government and in the opposition to government, or from think tanks, the media, and universities, are not distant surveyors of data and argument. They typically have strong convictions drawn from intimate involvement in practice, and want to convince students (and others) of the rightness of their views by communicating their understandings of political/social realities. The goal of the course is to use the best instructional frameworks available to absorb and critique the views offered by the individuals we interview. Issues for summer 2006 include the succession issue within the Labour Party, the reinvention of the Conservative Party, security versus civil liberties post 7/7/05, Education Policy, Enlargement of European Union, globalization, ethnic cleavages, the continuing war in Iraq, and a broad range of topics in the media (broadly conceived to include print, television, radio and film).

Description: The seminar begins with 30-35 hours of lectures on British politics and media in the first week. At the end of this week we usually travel to Oxford as guests of the Oxford Union for one of their debates. Then, for the next four weeks, the group interviews individuals, roughly eight interviews per week for a total of thirty-two. Some of the interviews take place in the Palace of Westminster in committee rooms that are closed to the public. Others are held in the editorial boardrooms of leading newspapers, and in the offices of prominent intellectuals and academics. Some take place in the Syracuse University center in Bloomsbury area, London's university quarter.

The formal reading material for the course consists of one textbook – *Contemporary British Politics* (4th edition) by Bill Coxall, Lynton Robins, Robert Leach (Palgrave Macmillan 2003) - and relevant articles drawn from academic journals, magazines and newspapers (these to be distributed to students in London before the first-week of lectures). All students are encouraged to buy and read as much as possible in the textbook before leaving for London, and while in London to read at least two newspapers a day and follow current events on television.

Requirements and Evaluations: All undergraduate students are given an examination on Tuesday June 13 (1-3 PM) A final exam is given on Friday July 7. The course grade in PSC 473 (Politics and Media in England) is based on the two exams and contributions to the interview sessions.

Dates of the Course:

May 30, 2006 (Program begins)

June 5 - June 9 (lectures on British institutions, trip to Oxford Union, diagnostic exam)

June 13: First Exam

June 14 - July 6 (in-depth interviews with speakers)

July 7 -- final exam and end-of-term program dinner

More information about the course can be found at:

<http://faculty.maxwell.syr.edu/mborouje/courses/PSC473-Summer06.htm>

**Politics and Media Speaker Schedule
SUMMER 2006 - as of 19th June**

WEEK ONE

Date / Time	Speaker	Location	Topic	Directions / Notes
Wed 14 June 5:00	Simon Heffer	Daily Telegraph Canary Wharf	Political Background: - The future of the conservative party	Contact:- Pat Ventre 0207 538 5000
Thur 15 June 09:00	Lembit Opik MP	House of Commons	Northern Ireland: - Is power-sharing in Northern Ireland sustainable?	Room N, Portcullis House 0207 219 3000
Thurs 15 June 12:00	Lord Kilcooney	European Parliament	Northern Ireland: - The future of Northern Ireland politics?	European Parliament, Queen Anne Gate, Westminster 020 7227 4300
Thurs 15 June 4:00	Lord Norton	House of Lords	Constitutional Reform	0207 219 3000

WEEK TWO

Date / Time	Speaker	Location	Topic	Directions / Notes
Mon 19 June 09:30	Michael White	Faraday House	Political Background: - What will be the Blair Legacy?	020 7278 2332
Tue 20 June 09:30	Frank Dobson MP	Faraday House	Delivery of public services: - Can the market deliver high quality public services? A view from the left.	020 7219 3000
Tues 20 June 12:00	Madsen Pirie	Adam Smith Institute	Delivery of public services: - There is no longer any serious alternative to the market as a supplier of public services in Britain	020 7222 4995
Wed 21 st June	Daniel Hannan MEP	Faraday House	Britain & Europe: - The case for withdrawal from the EU.	Contact Margaret:- 01372

3:00				453678
Thur 22 nd June 10:00	George Jones	Faraday House	The job of being political editor	
Fri 23 June 10:00	Prof. Shamit Saggar	Faraday House	British Society: - The position of Muslims in British society today	Needs PowerPoint set-up Contact Sally: - 01926 822186

WEEK THREE

Date / Time	Speaker	Location	Topic	Directions / Notes
Mon 26 June 10:00	Taylor Downing	Faraday House	The future shape of television in the UK	020 7490 8996
Tue 27 June 11:00	Prof. Robert Reiner	Faraday House	Law & Order: - Neo-liberalism as a cause of crime	020 7955 7240
Tue 27 June 1:30	Gillian Reynolds	Faraday House	The challenge for BBC radio in the future	020 7538 5000
Wed 28 June 10:00	Charles Reiss	Faraday House	Reporting/writing about politics in the UK and how you see the political process you're your perspective	07803 853 459
Wed 28 June 16:00	Ed Pilkington	Faraday House	Editing the Guardian Newspaper	020 7278 2332
Thur 29 June 10:00	Amina J Taylor	Faraday House	Black journalism in the UK	Send reminder a week before 07956 57 0865
Thur 29 June 2:00	Peter Hitchens	Faraday House	Law & Order: - Crime and the decline of traditional values	Daily Mail: - 020 7938 6000

WEEK FOUR

Date / Time	Speaker	Location	Topic	Directions / Notes
Mon 3 July 10:00	Donna Mitchell	Advertising Standards Authority Mid City Place, 71 High Holborn, WC1V 6QT	The role of the Advertising Standards Authority	020 7492 2222
Mon 3 July 2:00	Raymond Snood	Faraday House	The changing relationship between broadcasting and print media in the UK and how it is likely to change in the future	020 7005 2000
Tue 4	Lord Hugh Dykes	Faraday House	Britain & Europe: -	0207 219

July 11:00			Why Britain's future lies in Europe.	3000
Tue 4 July 4:00	Sir David Bell	Pearson plc, 80 Strand, London, WC2R 0RL	Producing a global newspaper based in the UK	Contact Julie: - 020 7010 2226