UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

Brexit: Political Tensions, Economic Challenges

Key Information

Module code: ISSU0079
Taught during: Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019
Module workload: 45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours
Module leader: Dr Filipa
Department: Division of Medicine
Credit: 15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US
Level: Level 1, first year undergraduate
Pre-requisites: Standard entry requirements
Assessment: Team project (75%), Team presentation (25%)

Module Overview

The UK’s departure from the EU is a historical event, with global political and economic implications. This course will give students a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of Brexit: Why did British people come to this unexpected decision? Will the British economy survive the shock of leaving the EU? Could this be the beginning of the end for the European Union? In the process, students will learn about UK and EU politics, economics and political economy. The module will include team work on multimedia projects, such as a hypothetical campaign for the next country that considers leaving the EU. The module will also include visits to the European Commission’s Representation to the UK and the headquarters of the pro-EU campaign, as well as talks by representatives of organisations on both sides of the Brexit campaign, such as the European Movement and Change Britain.

Week One

- Brexit: what happened?
- The UK political system and the “Three Brexiteers”
- The EU: How does it work?
- Political Economy: our tool to understand Brexit

Week Two

- Politics of Identity: Why don’t (some) Brits feel European?
- Politics of the Media and the Brexit campaign
- Public choice: Politicians and Brexit – a tale of selfishness?
- Impact of Brexit on the British economy

Please note that this module description is indicative and may be subject to change.
Week Three

- Impact of Brexit on the EU and world economy
- Brexit and the EU budget
- Brexit negotiations: what happens next?
- Future of the EU: The beginning of the end?

Module Aims

The main aims of the module are for students to understand how science is funded, communicated and regulated, and to evaluate how these structures have developed historically and operate in the modern world to meet global challenges. Additionally, an overarching aim is to develop students' abilities for deep thinking, critical analysis and debate through innovative teaching methods and learning environments.

Teaching Methods

The module is taught via a combination of lectures, discussion seminars, and teamwork. Each day, a one-hour lecture is followed by one hour of discussion, then one hour of guided teamwork. Team projects consist of a hypothetical campaign for a future country that would consider leaving the EU. The project, constructed as a report commissioned by a pro-EU or anti-EU organisation, includes a section on political economy analysis, a section on campaign planning, and the creation of either a Facebook page or a short film. Students are asked to give a team presentation on their project at the end of week 2; the feedback from that presentation will be helpful to finalize the team project, which will be submitted at the end of the course. Reading lists will be available online via the UCL library site. Students will be directed towards class materials, further support and discussion forums on UCL’s virtual learning environment Moodle.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Have gained a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of Brexit
- Have acquired a broad knowledge of EU and UK politics
- Have acquired a broad knowledge of EU and UK economics
- Have developed the ability to use methodological tools from political economy, politics and economics in their essays
- Have developed and honed their writing skills, presentation skills and teamwork skills

Assessment Methods

- Group project (75%)
- Group presentation (25%)

Key Texts


Module Leader
Dr Filipa Figueira is a Teaching Fellow in Economics and Politics at UCL’s School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES). Her main interests are the European Union and Political Economy. In relation to the European Union, particular interests include "Brexit" and its political, institutional and economic implications; the role of Central and Eastern European Member States in the EU; Subsidiarity and EU Competences; the EU budget; the Eurozone. Her work on Political Economy explores innovative ways in which the disciplines of Economics and Political Science can be combined. Previously, Filipa Figueira lived in Brussels, where she worked in the think-tank Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) and in the Council of the European Union. She has lived in six EU countries and speaks seven European languages.