# UCL SUMMER SCHOOL

## POST-WAR BRITISH POLITICS: WINSTON CHURCHILL TO THERESA MAY

### Key Information

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<th>Key Information</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module code</td>
<td>ISSU0040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taught during</td>
<td>Session One: Monday 1 July - Friday 19 July 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module workload</td>
<td>45 teaching hours plus approximately 100 study hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module leader</td>
<td>Dr Florence Sutcliffe-Braithwaite</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>History, Faculty of Social &amp; Historical Sciences</td>
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<td>Credit</td>
<td>15 UCL credits, 7.5 ECTS, 4 US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Level 1, first year Undergraduate</td>
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<td>Pre-requisites</td>
<td>Standard entry requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>Presentation (25%)</td>
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<td>Essay (75%)</td>
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### Module Overview

Bringing together political science and history, this module will examine British politics since 1945. The module is not just narrowly about politicians and political intrigue, though: it’s about ideas and ideologies, social change, and political communication. We will start by examining the structure and institutions of British political life. We’ll examine the construction of the welfare state and postwar social democratic settlement, before looking at the big turning point in the 1970s as politics shifted towards a ‘neoliberal’ governing paradigm. We’ll think about how the Second World War, social change, the end of empire and the development of Europe transformed politics in the postwar period. We’ll think about the practice of politics, the role of ideas and idea-producers like think-tanks, campaigning and the media. There will be a strong focus on linking history and contemporary politics, and we’ll hear from people in the thick of current politics as well as visiting key sites in Westminster and Whitehall.

### Week One:

- The structure of British politics: democratic practice and elite institutions
- The end of the Second World War and the shaping of the social democratic settlement
- The end of empire and postwar social change
- The crisis of the 1970s

### Week Two:

- The Thatcher Revolution
- Blair’s ‘New Labour’ and Cameron’s Conservatives
- The European project
- Contemporary politics

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

- Ideologies
- Mass Media
- Campaigning

Module Aims
This module aims to give students a broad overview of postwar British politics: its structures, practices, ideologies, and developments over time. The module introduces students to historiographical and political science analyses of British politics, developing their ability to master such texts. It also requires students to think about primary sources for themselves, to analyse mass media, political propaganda, rhetoric, and government records. It aims to make students think about big categories like ‘social democracy’ and ‘neoliberalism’.

Teaching Methods
There will be a one-hour lecture, followed by a two-hour seminar, on most days. Preparatory reading for seminars will generally be from academic journals, and we will spend some time thinking about how best to tackle and digest such material. Seminars will involve significant amounts of work with primary sources: students will have to think about how we construct historical narratives and political science analyses out of the raw material of historical evidence. There will be outside talks and field trips each week, allowing students to see the Houses of Parliament, Thatcher’s private archive in Cambridge, and Churchill’s country house, Chartwell. We will hear from MPs, think-tankers, and activists about the recent history and practice of politics in Britain, getting an insider’s view of British politics.

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Have a broad understanding of the structure and development of postwar British politics, including how changes in society and in the wider world (in particular the end of empire and the development of the European project) impacted British politics.
- Have the ability to discuss the content and usefulness of the terms ‘social democracy’ and ‘neoliberalism’.
- Have developed the ability to think critically about the nature and limitations of primary sources as evidence for the construction of historical narratives and political science analyses.
- Have developed the ability to digest historical and political science texts, and analyse their arguments.
- Have developed and honed their essay writing skills: the ability to formulate a question, write in a scholarly style, construct and defend a coherent argument.

Assessment Methods

- 10-minute presentation (25%)
- 2,500 word essay (75%)
Key Texts