



History, Politics and Society University of Oxford 2010 Program Information

About the program

The program consists of:

- A daily lecture program given by leading scholars and distinguished speakers
- Study in small seminar groups
 - Applicants choose two courses from: British Politics, 1900-1945; The Changing Face of Britain; The Contemporary Middle East; Empire and Decolonisation in the Twentieth Century; The European Union in Perspective; Globalisation - Evolution or Revolution?; Human Rights in Perspective; Post-Communist Europe; Warfare in the Modern World
 - Each course has two two-hour meetings per week and classes usually contain no more than 12 participants.

Contact Hours

The program provides a minimum of 46.5 contact hours including:

- 22.5h of lectures (15 lectures of 1.5h each)
- 24h of seminar meetings

Who is it for?

The program is for graduate students, teachers in high schools and colleges, professionals with an interest in study at university level, senior undergraduates with at least 2 years' study at university level in a related academic discipline.

Level of the program

This is an intensive program taught at Master's level to an informed international audience. Non-native speakers of English are required to submit evidence of their English language competency with their application (IELTS 6.5 or equivalent)

Participants are expected to

- Undertake preparatory reading in advance of the program
- Attend all lectures and relevant seminar sessions
- Be actively engaged with their seminar topics
- Submit an assignment and/or present a paper for class discussion for each course taken
- Undertake approximately 96h of private study during the program

Certificates

All students who satisfactorily complete the program will receive an 'Attendance Certificate'. If seeking credit at your home institution you will also receive a 'Detailed Certificate' detailing contact hours, grades achieved, and private study hours.

Workshop Descriptions

British Politics, 1900-1945

British politics in this period witnessed great change: the impact of two world wars, the introduction of universal suffrage, the sudden arrival of the Labour Party as a governing force, and the rise (and fall) of trade union militancy. This course will examine the nature of these changes, as well as explaining the significant elements of continuity – such as the dominance of the Conservative Party in the inter-war years. There will also be an opportunity to reassess the role played by leading politicians such as Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald, Oswald Mosley and Winston Churchill.

Tutor: **Dr Tom Buchanan** is Reader in Modern History at Oxford University, and Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford.

The Changing Face of Britain

Britain has recently seen immense social change and life in the 21st century is very much unlike life in Britain a generation ago. This class will explore the main and most recent social shifts and examine both legislation and government policy that has sought to either accommodate or combat these changes. Main areas for discussion will be family life; educational shifts; trends in employment, poverty and affluence; crime and social order; and religious commitment. Where social problems are identified the class will include evaluation of recent policy and discussion of potential solutions.

Tutor: **Dr Amanda Palmer** is Director of Studies for Human Sciences at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, and Lecturer in Sociology at St Catherine's College, Oxford; she is also a public sector training consultant.

The Contemporary Middle East

During the past few decades, especially since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, the Middle East has been a focus of world attention. The Middle East is a mosaic of different religious, national and ethnic groups, including the Arabs, the Iranians, the Turks, the Israelis, the Kurds, etc. Its modern history has been shaped by the end of the period of Western colonialism and the emergence of independent states. The course will study various factors that have shaped the contemporary Middle East, including Islam, Islamic fundamentalism, nationalism, Arab-Israeli conflict, oil, invasion and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and Western influences.

Tutor: **Dr Farhang Jahanpour** teaches Modern History for Oxford University Department

for Continuing Education. He is a former Fulbright senior research scholar at Harvard University, and has taught online courses for Oxford, Yale and Stanford Universities.

Empire and Decolonisation in the Twentieth Century

Over the course of the twentieth century the largest empire in history, that many expected would last for a thousand years, all but disappeared. Britain ceased to be the global superpower that had been the arbiter of affairs from the Mediterranean to the South China Sea, and America rose in its place. This course seeks to explain the reasons for the fall of the British Empire and its consequences for the world today, examining major factors precipitating British decline, such as the Second World War, and applying a regional approach to the study of the retreat from empire.

Tutors: **Dr Ashley Jackson** is Senior Lecturer in Defence Studies, King's College, London, at the UK Defence Academy. **Dr Andrew Stewart** is Lecturer in Defence Studies, King's College, London, at the UK Defence Academy.

The European Union in Perspective

In 2007 the European Union (EU) increased by 2 states to 27, with applications from 4 others. Its population (480 million) makes it the world's third largest market. It is also the world's most comprehensively integrated trading bloc, some of its institutional actors driving forward the process of economic expansion and political integration. In 2009 the Lisbon or reform treaty was ratified by all 27 member states paving the way for the EU's first president. This course will explore the EU's complex evolution. It will examine topical issues affecting the EU in the twenty-first century, specifically the single market and the single currency, the efficacy of the eastwards enlargement, and the EU's role as a global economic and political actor.

Tutor: **Dr Stuart Kewley** is Project Manager for the Europaeum at Oxford University, and Managing Director of the Eurasia Consortium.

Globalisation – Evolution or Revolution?

To what extent do we live in a 'globalised' world, and how helpful is the concept of 'globalisation' for understanding the contemporary international system? This course will introduce students to the discipline of Global Political Economy (GPE) which allows us to address these and other key questions about the world today. Through an historical approach, this course moves beyond the examination of the dominant and classical theoretical perspectives of political economy: mercantilism, liberalism, Marxism. It offers a framework of analysis and addresses contemporary political, economic and societal developments including ongoing controversies surrounding such notions as 'globalisation' and 'global governance'.

Tutor: **Dr Christian Glossner** is Teaching Fellow and Assistant Lecturer in Political Economy and European History at Oxford University. He previously held a Europaeum Research Fellowship at the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Études Internationales (IUHEI) in Geneva, and worked for the Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN) of the European Commission in Brussels. He has published widely and is the author of *The Making of the German Post-War Economy*.

Human Rights in Perspective

Human rights are supposed to be universally applicable to all human beings. Critics, however, insist that they are political and not universal. This course considers the evidence in support of these conflicting views. In particular, it explores the political and philosophical principles underpinning the rights of individuals – civil, political and human. The suggestion will be that, while most rights are not universal, the general principles underpinning them are. These principles first emerged within the doctrine of natural rights and gave rise to a diversity of specific rights in different countries. We will consider how these specific rights influenced the development of human rights codes, and how this affects the supposed universality of human rights.

Tutor: **Dr Christopher Nock** has taught on behalf of Oxford University Department for Continuing Education for over 10 years, and is a member of Kellogg College, Oxford. He recently completed his contribution to an international research project on human rights based at the University of Bordeaux.

Post-Communist Europe - The Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since 1989

The collapse of Communism across Eastern Europe, and then in the Soviet Union itself, brought dramatic changes to a Europe moving beyond Cold War divisions. This course will concentrate on what happened to the old Eastern bloc after 1989. This will involve understanding interactions between east and west, as well as the influence of the United States. What has changed and what has not since the fall of the Berlin Wall? The course will consider the legacy of the Communist past and how different societies have tackled the issues raised by it. Post-Communist conflicts will be considered, as will the implications of the influences of the EU and NATO on the post-Soviet space.

Tutor: **Mark Almond** has taught History at Oriel College, Oxford, for more than 20 years and is a Visiting Professor of International Relations at Bilkent University, Ankara.

Warfare in the Modern World

The twentieth century has undoubtedly been the most sanguinary in recorded human history. This course will examine the origins, course and results of several regional and civil wars and will set them in their political, economic, religious and ideological contexts. It will also explore the phenomena of guerrilla insurgencies and various military responses to this type of warfare. Clausewitz remarked that “every age had its own kind of war”: we will pick out the threads of our present kind of war – asymmetric or fourth generation warfare - and explicit comparisons will be drawn, where appropriate, with the contemporary situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tutor: **Dr Mark Radford** teaches Modern History for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education and is Senior Researcher in Irish History for Melbourne University. He has served in a number of counter-insurgency roles as a soldier and paramilitary policeman.

Provisional Seminar Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
09.00-11.00	Globalisation Post-Communist Europe	European Union	Globalisation Post-Communist Europe	European Union	
11.15-12.45	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
14.00-16.00	Human Rights	British Politics Warfare	Human Rights	British Politics Warfare	
16.15-18.15	Changing Face	Empire and Decolonisation Middle East	Changing Face	Empire and Decolonisation Middle East	

Accommodation

Students for this program will be accommodated in Exeter College. More information is available from the AIM Overseas website: www.aimoverseas.com.au