

The Impact of Brexit on the Political System of the United Kingdom

Nr. 14335 0710, SM Special Topics II (Comp. Pol. Econ. and Int. Relations)

Lecturer: Dr. Birgit Bujard

Time: Wednesday, 12:00 - 13:30

First Session: 10 April 2024

Place: Building 211, room S100

Registration via: [KLIPS](#)

Course description:

Brexit – the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union – tends to be considered mostly as a paradigmatic change in British foreign policy. But Brexit has also had and still has a massive impact on British domestic politics and the United Kingdom’s constitution and political system.

In this course we will take a closer look at the impact of Brexit on the UK constitution and political system, its political institutions, the party system, the different parts of the Kingdom as well as voting behaviour.

Prerequisites:

Basic knowledge of the political system of the United Kingdom is desirable. Students should be able to understand and articulate themselves in English as this course will be in English.

Relevance for the study programme:

This course will provide students with

- an understanding of the impact of an exogeneous shock on a political system.
- guidance in examining the literature critically and develop their own research ideas.
- the ability to connect theory and academic literature with current affairs and developments particularly in UK politics.
- an option to develop their oral presentation skills.
- an option to learn how to write a research paper.

Registration:

This course will be taught on a weekly basis. Registration for the course and the exam is via KLIPS.

Exam:

Participants are expected to

- give a presentation on one of the required readings (max. 15 minutes + 15 minutes discussion)
- submit a term paper (3500 words (+/- 5%))

Presentations on the required readings as well as term paper topics will be allocated in the first sessions.

Term papers are due to be handed in via Ilias. The deadline is **2 September 2024, 23:59 CET**.
References do not count against the word limit.

Grading:

- Presentation: pass or fail
- Term Paper: 100 %

In case of failure to submit/fulfil either of the two parts of the exam, the course will not be passed.
Late submission of the term paper is not accepted.

Reading assignments:

Alan Wager (2022). Brexit's impact on the political system of the United Kingdom, in: A. Lazowski & A. Cygan (eds.), *Research Handbook on Legal Aspects of Brexit* (p. 17-32). Cheltenham: Edgar Elgar.

Additional literature will be published later.

Schedule:

10 April 2024: Introduction: The 2016 EU referendum and its outcome

17 April 2024: Electoral shocks

24 April 2024: The Brexit split in the electorate – Leave vs. Remain

1 May 2024: no class (1st May holiday)

8 May 2024: The UK party system, party politics and Brexit

15 May 2024: Governing during the Brexit Process and post-Brexit: The executive

22 May 2024: no class (Pfingsten)

29 May 2024: Prime ministerial political leadership during and after Brexit: a tale of 5 prime ministers

5 June 2024: Parliament and Brexit: Whatever happened to parliamentary sovereignty?

12 June 2024: Brexit and devolution: A fractured British Union

19 June 2024: Scotland and Brexit: Another independence referendum?

26 June 2024: Northern Ireland and Brexit: Northern Ireland Protocol, Windsor Framework and another dividing line between Unionists and Nationalists

3 July 2024: Brexit and the constitution

10 July 2024: EU-UK relations after Brexit

17 July 2024: What's next?