

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

Preliminary Syllabus

WS 2024/25, No. 14335 0712, SM Special Topics II (Comp. Pol. Econ. and Int. Relations)

Lecturer: Dr Birgit Bujard

Time: Tuesdays from 15 October 2024, mostly 14.00 – 15.30, 22 October, 26 November 2024 & 7 January 2025, 12.00 – 15.30

First Session: 15 October 2024

Place: Building 211, room 3.40

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. We will look at the 2016 EU referendum and the question why voters voted the way they did, the Brexit process between the UK and the EU and how the outcome impacted on the UK’s political system and domestic politics. We will also take a look at the 2024 general election and current political developments in the UK.

This course does not cover the economic implications of Brexit on the UK or the EU or UK foreign policy.

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 (mostly) 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. 10 minutes + 10 minutes discussion)
- submit a term paper (3500 words (+/- 5%))

Presentations on the required readings will be allocated in the first session. Term paper topics have to be proposed by **20 December 2024, 23:59 CET**. In order to do so students need to hand in a draft of 1 to 2 pages by that date via email to the course instructor.

Term papers are due to be handed in to the instructor via email. The deadline is **Friday 21 February, 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.

UK in a Changing Europe (2024). Brexit and the State. London: UK in a Changing Europe.
<https://ukandeu.ac.uk/reports/brexit-and-the-state/>

Gianfranco Baldini/Edoardo Bressanelli/Emanuele Massetti (2022). Back to the Westminster Model? The Brexit process and the UK political system, *International Political Science Review*, 43(3), p. 329-344.

Schedule:

Please note that session structure and literature might still be adapted until the beginning of the course.

15 October 2024, 14.00 – 15.30: Introduction: What is Brexit and how did it come about?

22 October 2024, 12.00 – 15.30: The EU referendum in the UK and the Brexit process between the UK and the EU and state of EU-UK relations

Andrew Glencross (2016). The EU Referendum Campaign, in: Andrew Glencross. *Why the UK voted for Brexit. David Cameron's great miscalculation*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 35-46. (will be discussed on 17 April)

Simon Usherwood (2021). 'Our European Friends and Partners'? Negotiating the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 59(S1), pp. 115-123.

Additional literature:

Andrew Glencross (2016). The Unfinished Business of Brexit, in: Andrew Glencross. Why the UK voted for Brexit. David Cameron's great miscalculation. London: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 47-60. (will be discussed on 17 April)

Federico Fabbrini (2023). Review and reform: Options for deepening EU-UK cooperation in a renewing Europe. Brexit Institute Working Paper, No. 01-2023.

29 October 2024: no class

5 November 2024, 14.00 – 15.30: The Brexit split in the electorate – Leave vs. Remain

Maria Sobolewska/Robert Ford (2020). Brexitland awakened: Identity politics and the EU referendum, in: Maria Sobolewska/Robert Ford: Brexitland. Identity, Diversity and the Reshaping for British Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 217-249.

Sara B. Hobolt (2016). The Brexit vote: a divided nation, a divided continent, Journal of European Public Policy, 23(9), pp. 1259-1277.

12 November 2024, 14.00 – 15.30: The UK party system, party politics and Brexit

Richard Hayton (2022). Brexit and party change: The Conservatives and Labour at Westminster, International Political Science Review, 43(3), p. 345-358

Alan Wager (2022). Brexit's impact on the party system, in: Loussouarn, Sophie: Brexit and its Aftermath. London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 28-41.

19 November, 14.00 – 15.30: Parliament and Brexit: Whatever happened to parliamentary sovereignty?

Meg Russell (2021). Brexit and Parliament: The Anatomy of a Perfect Storm, Parliamentary Affairs, 74(2), 443-463.

Richard Rose (2020). The Failure of Parliamentary Government, in: Richard Rose (ed.). How Referendums Challenge European Democracy. Brexit and Beyond. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 191-207.

Additional literature:

Thomas G. Fleming/Lisa James (2024). Parliamentary Influence on Brexit Legislation, 2017-2019, Parliamentary Affairs, 77(1), 25-45.

26 November 2024, 12.00 – 15.30: The executive and prime ministerial political leadership during and after Brexit: a tale of 5 prime ministers

Richard Rose (2020). Policy-Making in a Bounded Democracy, in: Richard Rose (ed.). How Referendums Challenge European Democracy. Brexit and Beyond. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 171-189.

Chris Byrne/Nick Randall/Kevin Theakston (2021). Theresa May's disjunctive premiership: Choice and constraint in political time, British Journal of Politics and International Relations, 23(4), 699-716.

Additional literature:

Richard Rose (2020). A New Prime Minister Meets Old Constraints, in: Richard Rose (ed.). How Referendums Challenge European Democracy. Brexit and Beyond. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 209-224.

03 December 2024: no class

10 December 2024, 14.00 – 15.30: Brexit and the constitution

Christopher Kirkland/Sagar Deva (2023). Weakness not crisis: Brexit and the UK constitution, *British Politics*, 18(4), 603-622.

Andrew Blick (2022). Brexit and the British Constitution, in: Loussouarn, Sophie: Brexit and its Aftermath. London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 13-27.

17 December 2024, 14.00 – 15.30: Brexit and devolution: A fractured British Union

Kevin Morgan/Richard Wyn Jones (2023). Brexit and the death of devolution, *The Political Quarterly*, 94 (4), p. 625-633.

Mark Sandford/Kathy Gormley-Heenan (2020). 'Taking Back Control', The UK's Constitutional Narrative and Schrodinger's Devolution, *Parliamentary Affairs*, 73 (1), p. 108-126.

Additional literature:

Nicola McEwen/Mary C. Murphy (2022). Brexit and the union: Territorial voice, exit and re-entry strategies in Scotland and Northern Ireland after EU exit, *International Political Science Review*, 43(3), p. 374-389

7 January 2025, 12.00 – 15.30: Scotland and Brexit: Another independence referendum?

Michael Keating (2018). Brexit and Scotland, in: Patrick Diamond/Peter Nedergaard/Ben Rosamond, *The Routledge Handbook of the Politics of Brexit*, London and New York: Routledge, p. 40-48.

John Curtice (2022). Brexit and Scotland: Unfinished Business? in: Loussouarn, Sophie: Brexit and its Aftermath. London: Bloomsbury Academic, pp. 42-56.

Additional literature:

John Curtice (2020). High noon for the Union. The 2021 Scottish election. *IPPR Progressive Review*, 27(3), 223-234.

14 January 2025, 14.00 – 15.30: Northern Ireland and Brexit: Northern Ireland Protocol, Windsor Framework and another dividing line between Unionists and Nationalists

Katy Hayward (2021). Northern Ireland: Demographics and Divisions. DCU Brexit Institute Working Paper No. 19-2021.

David Phinnemore/Lisa Whitten (2021). Northern Ireland and Brexit: a unique challenge in unique circumstances, in: Michael Holmes/Kathryn Simpson (eds). *Ireland and the European Union*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 166-181.

21 January 2025, 14:00 – 15.30: The UK general election 2024

28 January 2025, 14:00 – 15.30: Current developments in UK politics