Welcome to Political Science 50! We hope that you will find this class enjoyable, relevant, and rewarding. Political Science 50 has two goals; to introduce you to the political systems of Britain and France and to present some approaches for comparing their political systems. We also plan to discuss some of the underlying causes of today’s turbulent politics.

Class Schedule and Instructors

Our class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 – 9:50 AM in Perloff Hall 1102.

The instructor in this class is Professor Michael Lofchie. His office is in Bunche Hall 4347. Professor Lofchie will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, following class, mike@ucla.edu.

The course assistant is Ms. Denisha Johnson-Yates; djohnsonyates@yahoo.com.

We strongly urge students to take advantage of Ms. Johnson-Yates’ generous and accessible office hours, as follows:
Monday 2:30pm-4:00pm at Untitled Cafe
Friday 10:30am-12:30pm at Kerckhoff Café

Grading

The grading in this class is on a “33-66” basis. That is, the mid-term counts 33% of the final grade and the final examination counts for two-thirds of your grade.

Is There a Curve?

There is no pre-determined grade distribution. We intend for every student to do well in this class. To attain a high grade. To do well, a student should attend class regularly, keep up with the class readings, including relevant portions of the PowerPoint slides, and plan to meet with the instructor or course assistant.

Examinations and Readings

The mid-term will take place on Thursday of the 4th week of class, April 26.

The final examination will take place on the last day of class, Thursday, June 7.
The mid-term and final examinations will cover material from the lectures and readings. The final examination is not cumulative; it will not include material from the 1st half of the class.

**Required Readings**

All of the readings for this class are available on line. To access the readings, log on to the class web site with your Bruin ID.

[https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/18S-POLSCI50-1](https://moodle2.sscnet.ucla.edu/course/view/18S-POLSCI50-1)

You will be able to access the readings on a week-by-week basis.

**Weeks 1 and 2, April 2 and 9.**
The Institutional Approach and the British Institutions.

**Required Reading**

Patrick O’Neil, United Kingdom (2018).

**Week 3: April 16.**
The Cultural Approach and British Political Culture.

**Required Reading**


**Week 4, April 23.**

The mid-term examination will take place on Thursday, April 27. We will devote a part of Tuesday’s class to a review of key issues. Students should devote this week to review the required readings and lecture materials.

**Following the Mid-Term.**

**Weeks 5 and 6, April 30 and May 7,**
The Class Analytic Approach to Britain and France

**Required Reading**

Week 7, May 14.
History of the French Political System.

**Required Reading**

Michael Lofchie, The History of French Regimes, 1643 to present.

**Weeks 8 and 9, May 21 and May 28.**
French Political Culture and Institutions

**Required Reading**


**Week 10, June 4.**

There is no required reading this week since the final exam will take place on Thursday. Part of Tuesday’s class will be devoted to a review of key materials. Students should complete all required readings in the course to prepare for the final examination.

Reminder: The final examination will take place on Thursday, June 7.