

Oxford University Summer Programme in History, Politics & Society 2009

Courses and Provisional Timetable

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.

Europe since the Cold War

Since 1989, Europe has undergone dramatic changes. The opening of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and the fall of Communism across Eastern Europe deep into Asia by 1991 coincided with the integration of most of Western Europe into the European Union (EU). The process has been fraught with delay and disappointments as well as achievements. On the fringes of the EU ethnic conflict has marred ex-Yugoslavia and parts of the old Soviet Union. The EU's success in avoiding conflict has made it a beacon for the displaced from elsewhere around Europe and in neighbouring regions. This course concludes with a review of foreseeable problems and potentials.

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.

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. 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 a tutor and lecturer at Oxford University, and is currently the acting Chairman of the European Business Circle (EuBC), a pan-European association of successful entrepreneurs and distinguished personages from business, politics and society.

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. It suggests 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 British Politics for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education for over 10 years, and is a member of Kellogg College, Oxford. He recently participated in an international research project on human rights based at the University of Bordeaux.

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 a 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	Europe since the Cold War Globalisation - Evolution or Revolution?	The European Union in Perspective	Europe since the Cold War Globalisation - Evolution or Revolution?	The European Union in Perspective	
11.15-12.45	Plenary lecture	Plenary lecture	Plenary lecture	Plenary lecture	Plenary lecture
14.00-16.00	Human Rights in Perspective	The Contemporary Middle East Warfare in the Modern World	Human Rights in Perspective	The Contemporary Middle East Warfare in the Modern World	
16.15-18.15	The Changing Face of Britain	Empire and Decolonisation in the Twentieth Century	The Changing Face of Britain	Empire and Decolonisation in the Twentieth Century	