

University of California, Los Angeles  
Spring Quarter, 2016.

Political Science 50  
Mr. Lofchie  
Ms. Vanessa Perez

Welcome to Political Science 50! We hope that you will find this class enjoyable and helpful. Political Science 50 has two goals; to introduce you to the political systems of Britain and France and to present three approaches for comparing political systems. These are: (1) The institutional approach, which emphasizes the importance of a country's political institutions; (2) the cultural approach which stresses a society's underlying norms; and, (3) the class analytic approach, which places emphasis on the importance of social class factors.

### **Class Schedule and Instructors**

Our class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 10 - 11:50 AM in Haines Hall A-2. 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 from 12 – 2; special appointments can be arranged via e-mail, [mike@ucla.edu](mailto:mike@ucla.edu).

Our course assistant is Ms. Vanessa Perez. Her e-mail address is [vkperez@ucla.edu](mailto:vkperez@ucla.edu). Her office hours will be posted during the first week of class.

### **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: Students are judged on the merits of their individual work. Every student who works hard has an excellent chance for a high grade. To do well, a student should attend class regularly, keep up with the class readings and plan to meet with the instructor or course assistant.

### **Examinations and Readings**

The mid-term is scheduled for Thursday of the 4th week of class, Thursday, April 21st.

The final examination will be held on the last day of class, Thursday, June 2nd.

The mid-term and final examinations will cover material from the lectures and readings.

The readings for this class are available on line in .pdf format. To access the readings, go to each week on the class web site, and – after you log on with your Bruin ID – you will be able to access the readings.

**Weeks 1 and 2, March 28 and April 4.**

The Institutional Approach and the British Constitution.

**Required Reading**

Charles Hauss, United Kingdom (2015).

**Week 3: April 11.**

The Cultural Approach and British Political Culture.

**Required Reading**

Harry Eckstein, "Leadership and Democracy in Britain." This is chapter 8, pp. 57 – 74, of his essay The British Political System, which appeared in Samuel Beer and Adam Ulam, Patterns of Government (New York: Random House, 1958).

**Week 4. April 18.**

The mid-term examination will be held on Thursday, April 21.

Students should devote this week to review the required readings and lecture materials.

**Following the Mid-Term.**

**Weeks 5 and 6, April 25 and May 2,**

The Class Analytic Approach to Britain and France

**Required Reading**

Barrington Moore, Jr., Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, Chapter 1, "England and the Contributions of Violence to Gradualism." and Chapter 2, "Evolution and Revolution in France."

**Week 7, May 9.**

History of the French Political System.

**Required Reading**

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

**Weeks 8 and 9, May 16 and 23.**

**Required Reading**

Charles Hauss, France (2015).

**Week 10, May 30.**

There is no required reading this week since the final exam will be held on Thursday. Students should be certain that they have completed all required readings in the course to prepare for the final examination.

**Reminder: The final examination will be held on Thursday, June 2.**