



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## Community Classroom

### Why Brexit?

October 22 – November 19, 2019

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#### Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the relationship between British political developments and European integration. Such an exploration helps illuminate why Britain held a referendum in the first place, why a small majority of voters voted for leaving the EU, and why the political leadership is struggling to design an exit strategy.

Students do not need any prior knowledge.

#### Instructor

**Paulette Kurzer** is a Professor of Political Science in the School of Government and Public Policy. Her specialty is European politics and she has published widely on the impact of European integration on economic policy, housing markets, and consumer protection.

#### Time and Location

10 a.m. -12 p.m. in the meeting room in the historic side of the **Dunbar Pavilion, 325 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Tucson, AZ 85705.**

#### Readings

All the readings will be made electronically available to registered students.

#### Schedule

##### **OCTOBER 22 - Week 1: Postwar British Politics and the Emergence of the EU**

British leaders declined to join the EU, though they changed their minds in the early 1960s. By that time, de Gaulle led France and he blocked UK membership.

The readings and lecture focus on the 'postwar consensus' and the logic behind the rejection of EU membership and the subsequent change of heart.

D. A. Gowland and Arthur Turner. *Reluctant Europeans: Britain and European Integration 1945-1998*. New York : Longman 2000 (pp. 1-8; 69-83).

## **OCTOBER 29 - Week 2: The end of the politics of consensus and the relaunching of the EU**

The election of Mrs. Thatcher as the Conservative prime minister in 1979 brought about extensive economic and social reforms (liberalization and deregulation).

The EU launched the Single Market in 1986, which was also a project of liberalization and deregulation. Thatcher loved the Single Market and was a strong advocate of pan European liberalization and deregulation, until she wasn't!

The readings and lecture look at the rise of Euroscepticism and Thatcher's negotiations with the EU.

David Gowland, *Britain and the European Union*. Routledge, 2017. (pp. 93-106; 111-26). START AT **'Megaphone diplomacy': Thatcher and renegotiation, 1979– 1984.**

## **NOVEMBER 5 - Week 3: "New Labour" and the onset of the global financial crisis**

Tony Blair was elected in 1997, the first Labour government in 18 years. Like leaders of the Conservative party, he refused to join the single currency (in effect since Jan. 2001) and viewed the City (financial services) as critical for British prosperity. However, the Labour party introduced state reforms and granted greater autonomy to Scotland and Wales.

The readings and lecture cover Labour's continuation of questioning the EU and the rise of a Scottish identity.

David Gowland, *Britain and the European Union*. Routledge, 2017. (pp. 251-60).

O. Daddow (2013). Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and the Eurosceptic Tradition in Britain. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 15(2), 210–227.

Carol M. Glen (2008). Regionalism in the European Union: The Case of Scotland. *Contemporary European Studies* 2: 59-70.

## **NOVEMBER 12 - Week 4: The return of the Conservative party and the 'Europe' question**

David Cameron led the Conservative party to power by 'suppressing' any discussion of Europe or EU membership in 2010.

However, the impact of austerity due to the financial crisis pushed many voters into the hands of anti-establishment political parties such as UKIP. The latter campaigns on leaving the UK.

The readings and lecture cover austerity policy and its impact on the social welfare state and the rising popularity of UKIP.

David Gowland, *Britain and the European Union*. Routledge, 2017 (pp. 303-326).

R. Ford and M. Goodwin Understanding UKIP: Identity, Social Change and the Left Behind. *The*

*Political Quarterly* (2014), 85: 277-284.

**NOVEMBER 19 - Week 5: The Referendum and Brexit**

The referendum passed as English Labour party voters in depressed districts, together with older, traditional English Conservative voters voted in favor of leaving the EU.

As this was 'unexpected,' the UK government was unprepared on how to extricate itself from the EU.

The Conservative party is divided between Remain and Leave MPs, paralyzing the prime minister who above all tries to keep the Conservative party together. The Labour party is mostly in favor of Remain, but its top leadership consists of euro skeptics.

Ailsa Henderson, et.al. "How Brexit was made in England," *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 2017 (19): 631–646.

Patrick Diamond, "Brexit and the Labour Party," *Routledge Handbook of the Politics of Brexit* Patrick Diamond, Peter Nedergaard, and Ben Rosamond, eds. Routledge, 2019. Pp. 167-78.

TBA.