1. **Aim and Contents:** This Course looks at British history and politics from the point of view of institutional development and pragmatics. In other words, the institutions, which have formed the infrastructure of British political history and played a central role in the practice of politics in Britain, will be the main focus of the Course, and their origins, historical development, rights and privileges, and significance in the contemporary British political practice, will be studied within the context of this Course. In this respect, the institutions, which are the primary concern of the Course are the **monarchy, the Constitution, the parliament, the cabinet, the political parties, the electoral system, local administrations, the legal system, law enforcement, industrial relations and the trade unions**, and finally the **Church of England**. The Course will begin with a general introduction to the major characteristics of British history and politics, with particular emphasis on the relationship between general British political history and the development as well as significance of the quintessential political institutions. This will be followed by an in-depth study of each institution, mentioned above, from a historical and functional perspective. The study will be carried out in a seminar form, with the full participation of the students through presentations and discussions. Obviously, such an interactive study will upgrade the students’ reception and learning capacity immensely. The tentative Course schedule is as follows:

**Week I:** Introducing the Course-- the scope, pragmatics, and contents.

**Week II:** The major characteristics and interrelationship of British history, politics, and institutions.

**Weeks III-IV:** The origins, evolution, and powers of the British monarchy, with emphasis on Magna Carta [The Great Charter] and medieval monarchy, the Tudors, the Stuarts and the Hannoverians, and Victoria to Elizabeth II.

**Weeks V-VI:** The origins, evolution, and powers of Parliament; the structure and functioning of Parliament today.

**Weeks VII-VIII:** The historical and political evolution of the Constitution; the structure and powers of the Cabinet.

**Weeks IX-X:** The British political parties, and the electoral system.

**Week XI:** Local administrations: evolution, structure, and powers.

**Week XII:** The British legal system.

**Week XIII:** The British law enforcement system; industrial relations and the trade unions.
Week XIV: The Church of England.

2. Requirements: The following requirements must be met by the students fully and most efficiently.

- Each student will have to present papers on two different topics assigned by the Instructor. The papers will be graded as midterm examination performances. Papers must be the product of a serious and comprehensive research work, and they must be prepared according to the format and documentation principles described in *The MLA Style Handbook*.
- Attendance is absolutely required. No absence on any excuse will be regarded with tolerance. Especially, absence on the day of the paper presentation will be graded as a fail.
- Each student is expected to take part in the discussions to be held on each paper topic. No participation means no performance and, hence, a fail.

3. Evaluation: Each student’s performance will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper I</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper II</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 100%

4. Further Reading: The following material is suggested for further reading, and each student must read them in addition to the material related to their specific paper topics.


Panitch, L. *Social Democracy and Industrial Militancy: The Labour Party, the Trade


5. **Paper Topics:** The following topics are for paper presentations in the classroom. Each student will be assigned three different topics for presentation.

- An Historical and Political Analysis of Magna Carta.
- The Monarchy in Medieval England: Powers and Rights
- Henry VIII and the Principle of Supremacy
- The Stuart Idea and Practice of Monarchy: James I, Charles I, and Charles II, and
- A Political Analysis of The Bill of Rights
- The Monarchy from Victoria to Elizabeth II
- The Rise and the Development of the Medieval English Parliament
- The Tudor and Stuart Parliaments
- The British Parliament Today: Structure, Powers, and Functions
- The British Cabinet: the Past and the Present
- The British Constitution: Origins and Evolution
- The British Political Parties: Origins, Evolution, Structure, and Powers
- The British Electoral System: Origins and Evolution
- Local Administrations in Britain: Powers, Functions, and Organization
- The British Legal System
• History and Practice of Law Enforcement in Britain

• Industrial Relations and the Trade Unions in Britain: the Past and the Present

• The Church and the State in Medieval England: The Conflict of the Spiritual and Temporal Authority

• The Church and the State in Tudor England

• The Church of England Today: Organization, Powers, and Functions

Prof. Dr. Himmet UMUNÇ

07 October 2010, Beytepe Campus