



## British Life and Europe

### [Faculty Contact Information](#)

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Office Hour information:**

### [Course Information](#)

#### Course Description

This multidisciplinary course serves as the anchor of the study programme in London, offering students an opportunity to place what they are learning in their other courses into a larger, contemporary context with an emphasis on issues surrounding the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union. It also enables students to appreciate more of what they observe during their stay in Britain in regard to the underlying history, themes, and institutions of the UK.

#### Course Goals

The course provides a comprehensive examination of British life and multiculturalism past, present, and future. Students learn what makes Britain a nation outside the European Union via a range of topics on politics and monarchy, media and arts, and society and identifies some of the main ideas and forces that have influenced the process of Britain leaving the EU and examines the impact of these on British attitudes to national identity and BREXIT.

#### Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will:

1. Have an understanding of British sociology and the cultures of "Britishness"
2. Understand the "peoples of the United Kingdom" as an integrated whole i.e. more than the sum of the parts
3. Acknowledge the differences between US, British, and European cultures, and the collective relationships that individuals have with their own societies and businesses
4. Understand the importance of sustainability for an island nation
5. Think critically about politics, economics, and culture in relation to British and European Identity
6. Understand how Britain leaving the EU affects relations with the United States

### [Course Assignments, Grading, and Assessment](#)

Assignment	Percentage	Grading Requirements
Attendance and Participation	20%	
Sustainability Research Presentation	15%	Please see rubric on MyStudy
Media Critique	10%	Please see rubric on MyStudy

<b>Mid-Semester Test</b>	15%	Please see rubric on MyStudy
<b>Portfolio</b>	20%	Please see rubric on MyStudy
<b>Final Exam</b>	20%	Please see rubric on MyStudy

## Brief Assessment Overview

### Assessment 1: Media Critique (750 words)

#### **Due:**

Base your analysis on direct comparison of the exact SAME news story in two different media sources (i.e. two newspapers, two TV news broadcasts, two photographs, etc.). Look for a breaking news story where the facts are generally agreed but the interpretation is not. The idea is to compare the different coverage and engage in critical thinking, understanding how to identify sources and reading beyond the headlines.

### Assessment 2: Sustainability Assignment – Independent Group Field Research and Group Presentation

#### **Due:**

This requires you to research the UK's governmental as well as local responses to the climate emergency. What is being done to tackle the many challenges that climate change creates for sustainability? Has the UK set significant targets and is it on track to meet these?

In small groups you will conduct field research in a London neighbourhood (to be assigned in class). You will examine how local areas are meeting (or not), the challenges created by the environmental crisis, alongside the wider Sustainability issues of social justice and inclusion. You will choose two areas - Housing / Transport / Green and Recreational Space / Waste and Recycling - to focus your research on, and combine your Field observations with some additional research on your neighbourhood, and wider London and UK government targets and actions.

Questions to consider are:

- Does the UK in general and London in particular (via your Neighbourhood and wider research) appear to be meeting its environmental and sustainability targets?
- What examples of good practice did you discover?
- What challenges are not being met?
- How does what you have learned and experienced in the UK and London change or enlarge your own perspective on climate change and sustainability?
- How might these issues important in your personal and future professional life?

### Assessment 3: Mid-Semester Test

#### **Due:**

To be held in the usual classroom on the appropriate dates scheduled in advance. The questions and format of the exam will be determined by faculty as appropriate and will be based on the topics covered in classes, field trips, and readings from the text.

## Assessment 4: Portfolio of vignettes (1,500 words)

### Due:

During the term you will produce Vignettes/Journals in response to the themes and ideas studied, you may include scholarly and personal reflections and responses to the issues raised, consider the field trips and make connections with your home country. Each vignette should be 500 words maximum. This assignment requires you to expand and build on your experiential learning. Before your final submission you will compose a 500 word concluding evaluation of all the vignettes in response to 'what you have learned'. There is going to be considerable flexibility on the conclusion both in terms of approach and format. You may wish to consider an overall theme or sense of connection between your pieces – it's important to bear in mind that this concluding vignette will be drawing together both your written work and your experience as a whole. It will be an extension and development of your individual vignettes. You might like to consider how your experiences changed as your knowledge and confidence developed or how your understanding of the UK changed how you experienced the visits.

## Assessment 5: Final Exam

### Due:

To be held in the usual classroom on the appropriate dates scheduled in advance. The questions and format of the exam will be determined by faculty as appropriate and will be based on the topics covered in classes, field trips, and readings from the text.

## Grading

Alternative formats of the FIE Grading Rubric are available in the Student Resources area of MyStudy@FIE.

<b>Relevance</b>	<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	<b>Analysis, Critical Thinking and Integration of Experiential Learning</b>	<b>Scholarship and Style</b>
Questions are interpreted correctly;  Argument/thesis is clear and developed throughout;  Discussion is focused on topic of the questions;  Irrelevant content and discussion are not included	Recommended literature and/or research guidelines are used and interpreted appropriately;  Selection and use of evidence shows understanding and insight;  There is evidence of study beyond the recommended literature and that	Approach shows evidence of analysis and independent reasoning;  Originality in argument;  Evidence of critical insight and reasoned questioning of assumptions;  Integration of connections and experiences outside	Conclusions are well justified and complete;  Facts reported and statements made are accurate;  Writing is clear and fluent;  All sources are appropriate, accurately acknowledged and formatted in recognised style;

		introduced in the module	of the formal classroom	All work is the student's own
<b>A</b> 93-100 %	Totally appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Excellent and thorough thesis development	Comprehensive understanding and mastery of core evidence and extensive wider reading	Excellent analytical skills, outstanding evaluation of evidence, independent and original critical insight;  Meaningfully integrates experiential learning where appropriate	Exceptional fluency and accurate writing using appropriate language, conclusions are well-justified;  Accurate and thorough referencing
<b>A-</b> 90-92%	Almost wholly appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Very strong thesis	Very strong understanding of evidence and clear evidence of appropriate wider reading	Well-developed analytical skills, excellent evaluation of evidence, shows strong critical insight;  Effectively integrates experiential learning where appropriate	Almost wholly accurate and fluent writing using appropriate language, conclusions are full and justified;  Accurate referencing
<b>B+</b> 87-89%	Appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Good thesis throughout	Strong understanding of evidence and appropriate wider reading	Very good analytical skills, strong evaluation of evidence;  Shows critical insight;  Acknowledges and compares	Largely accurate and fluent writing using appropriate language; conclusions are justified;  Accurate referencing

			experiential learning and other perspectives	
<b>B</b> 83-86%	Largely appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Thesis is clear	Good understanding of evidence and some appropriate wider reading	Good analytical skills, good evaluation of evidence;  Shows critical insight;  Acknowledges and compares experiential learning and other perspectives	Largely accurate and fluent writing using appropriate language;  Conclusions are justified;  Accurate referencing
<b>B-</b> 80-82%	Mostly appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Thesis is underdeveloped but clear	Sound understanding of evidence and some wider reading	Sound analytical skills;  Sound evaluation of data;  Shows some critical judgement identifies experiential connections	Sound level of accuracy and written fluency and some use of appropriate language;  Conclusions are coherent;  Sound use of referencing conventions
<b>C+</b> 77-79%	Some appropriate interpretation and relevant;  Thesis is underdeveloped and lacks clarity	Evidence is largely understood and some wider reading	Sometimes inconsistent analytical skills;  Some evaluation of data;  Shows some critical judgement though often descriptive;  Identifies experiential connections	Sound level of accuracy and written fluency and some use of appropriate language;  Conclusions are coherent but not fully supported;  Sound use of referencing conventions

<b>C</b> 73-76%	May contain some misinterpretation and/or irrelevant material;  Thesis lacks clarity	Evidence is largely understood;  Limited reading beyond material introduced in module	Mostly inconsistent analytical skills;  Some evaluation of data;  Scant critical judgement mostly descriptive;  Identifies experiential connections	Some level of accuracy and written fluency and some use of appropriate language;  Conclusions are coherent but not fully supported;  Sound use of referencing conventions
<b>C-</b> 70-72%	Limited interpretation and relevance;  Thesis is inconsistent	Weak understanding of evidence;  Limited reading beyond material introduced in module	Mostly inconsistent analytical skills;  Some evaluation of data;  Lacks critical judgement;  Little integration experiential learning	Inconsistent written fluency;  Weak use of appropriate language;  Weak justification for conclusions;  Adequate use of referencing conventions
<b>D</b> 60-69%	Limited interpretation and relevance;  Lacks thesis	Weak understanding of evidence and limited, inappropriate wider reading	Inconsistent and weak analytical skills, poor evaluation of evidence, lacks critical insight;  Little integration of experiential learning	Inconsistent written fluency;  No justification for conclusions;  Inaccurate use of referencing
<b>F</b> 0-59%	Significant misinterpretation and irrelevant material	Lacks understanding of evidence and inappropriate or no wider reading	Lacks analytical skills, lacks evaluation of evidence, lacks critical judgement;  Lacks integration of experiential learning	Poorly written with little fluency;  No justification for conclusions;  Poor referencing;  Evidence of plagiarism or

				inappropriate use of AI
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### Policies specific to this course

- **Co-curricular Activities and Field Trips:** Field trips for your FIE courses have been planned to help students achieve the learning objectives of the course and are required. They take place during class time unless otherwise noted. Details about required visits appear on the class by class schedule below. Please note that any make up for missed co-curricular activities are at the personal expense of the student.
- **Late submission of work:** Written work may be submitted later than the due date only with express permission in advance of the due date from the course instructor. Late work will receive a 5% reduction in points for each 24-hour period handed in past the deadline, including each weekend day. Work submitted a week late will be marked at a C or lower. Any extensions made beyond the last class meeting must be requested in writing to the faculty and include any information on the circumstances that require the extension, the nature of work yet to be submitted, and the date by which the work will be received. If said work is not received by the agreed extension date, barring further exceptional circumstances, the work will not be given credit.
- **Late arrivals to class or site visit:** Please arrive on time. Lateness, particularly on days with co-curricular visits, results in missed course material. Faculty may use their discretion to mark a student as 'Absent' if they feel the student has arrived too late or left too early to be considered 'Present' for that session.
- **Trigger Warnings:** Some topics covered in class may expose students to past traumas and evoke a negative reaction. Sensitive topics can vary, such as sexual violence, death, racism, or xenophobia. I want this to be an inclusive space where every student feels comfortable; therefore, I will provide content warnings before lectures for sensitive subject matters. Content warnings are meant to give students a forewarning so they can prepare for their emotional safety. It is important to note that anything in the environment could be a trigger for someone's trauma, such as smell, sound, or texture; it is impossible to account for all possible triggers, and ask for grace as I do my best as an educator to warn students of potentially distressing content during lectures, assignments and/or discussions.

### Attendance and Participation

- Regular attendance is essential in order to pass a course. A class constitutes lectures, student presentations, discussions, seminars, co-curricular activities, tests, and examinations. In addition, under UK Home Office regulations class attendance is mandatory.
- Class attendance and participation is formally recorded and incorporated into a student's final grade.
- In addition to physical presence in class, a student's participation in a class is evaluated on the mastery of assigned course readings as reflected in a consistent, valid contribution to class discussions, in-class exercises, and in asking questions that enrich the on-going

discourse. Consistency and validity in participation is expected in every class. Limited participation will have a negative impact on a student's participation score.

- When unexpected events cause students to miss a class, it is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with the faculty member to notify them in advance, or as soon as is reasonably possible.
- Absence from class does not relieve a student of responsibility for assignments. Students bear the ultimate responsibility for all missed class material and assessment.
- If a student misses 25% or more of a course, then they may be awarded a failure for the course and/or not permitted to finish the course.
- [See the full attendance policy here](#)

### Required Readings

Upham, Martin (2017). *Britain Explained*. John Harper Publishing.

Students access a reading pack of contemporary articles on MyStudy@FIE that will be used throughout the course

Read Metro and/or Evening Standard each day during the work week. (Both available free from Gloucester Road Tube Station)

In addition, students need access to an MP3 player (via a smartphone is acceptable)

### Additional Resources and Readings

George, S (1998) *An Awkward Partner: Britain in the European Community*. Oxford University Press.

Glencross, A. (2016). *Why the UK voted for Brexit: David Cameron's Great Miscalculation*. Palgrave.

Klein, R (2006). *The New Politics of the NHS: from creation to reinvention*. Radcliff Macmillan.

Marr, A. (2009). *The Making of Modern Britain*. Macmillan.

Oakland, J. (2010). *British Civilization: An Introduction*. (7th Ed.). Routledge.

Rojek, C. (2007). *Brit Myth: Who do the British think they are?* Reaktion Books.

Sawyer, M. (2005). *The UK economy*. Oxford University Press.

Young, H. (1998). *This Blessed Plot: Britain and the EU from Churchill to Blair*. Macmillan.

### MyStudy@FIE

MyStudy@FIE is FIE's virtual learning environment based on the open-source platform Moodle. Students are required to access MyStudy@FIE for course information, readings, link to resources, assignment submissions and communication with faculty.



## FIE's Values in the Curriculum

A unique aspect to FIE's curriculum is our courses reflect an engagement with values of 1) knowledge and inclusivity, 2) ethics and human rights, 3) social and cultural engagement, and 4) sustainability. For information about each of these values and how each of FIE's courses aligns with them, please see [Our Values](#).

## Topics

- The Multiculturalism of the United Kingdom
- British Politics
- The Monarchy
- Britain and International Relations
- Artistic Britain
- Sustainability in the UK
- BREXIT and the EU

## Co-curricular activities

- **Parliament Tour:** Tour of the building and the two Houses (Lords & Commons) when not being used for debates. The building is a Victorian fantasy with extraordinary decorative motifs linked to UK history and government so it has a visual dimension regardless of the commentary. The requirement for BL classes is to discuss the tour the students went on during orientation using this worksheet as a discussion guide.
- **Brick Lane Tour:** The area is historically associated with the social deprivation of London's East End (garment workers, sex workers, dock workers, charitable missions, and low-quality housing) and has been the place of entry into British life for waves of foreign immigrants. French Huguenots gave way to Irish, Jewish to Bangladeshi settlers connected with the restaurant and clothing trades. As industry departed Brick Lane became an artistic hub, and in the last decade a global hotspot for street art. More recently – and controversially – the area has been rapidly gentrifying. A good field trip for sampling the sights, smells, cultures and tastes of an area very different from Kensington.
- Walking tours of relevant areas, such as the Cutting Edge Green tour, Silicon Roundabout Tour, Legal District Walking Tour
- Visits to industry such as Chelsea Football Club, Fuller's Brewery, Hiver Brewery, Wimbledon Tennis Club
- Viewing Andrew Marr *The Making of Modern Britain: Blair*

## Academic Integrity

By enrolling at FIE, you have joined an academic community and you are expected and required to act honestly regarding the work you submit for assessment in your courses. Academic integrity is closely related to the concept of good academic practice.

Any attempts to Cheat; Fabricate; Plagiarise; Collaborate without Authorisation; Participate in Academically Dishonest Activities; and/or Facilitate Academic Dishonesty will be viewed as a breach of this regulation.

[Please see FIE's Academic Integrity Policy in full.](#)

Most students do not have any problems understanding the rules and expectations about acting honestly at university. If you have any questions you must talk to your faculty or a member of FIE's Academic Team.

## Writing and Language Support

FIE's Writing Support Tutors are available to assist students of all levels of expertise with all phases of the writing process. Available year-round and to all students. To book an appointment or for more information visit [www.fie.org.uk/wst](http://www.fie.org.uk/wst).

Please note that FIE allows the use of a foreign language/English dictionary in exam situations for students where English is not their primary language UNLESS the use of the dictionary would give the student a significant advantage (e.g. where the exam is aimed at getting the students to define terms that might be found in the dictionary).

## Accommodations for Students

Students who wish to use academic accommodations at FIE can register to do so via FIE's Administration Team, by providing the appropriate supporting documentation. Students who have approved FIE academic accommodations should discuss them directly with their faculty member(s) within or around the first few class sessions, or via email. Exams are facilitated by FIE faculty and students should give 2 weeks' notice to faculty members if use of approved exam accommodations is required. The Administration team can assist students and faculty with liaison and facilitation as needed.

## Additional Policies and Resources

### Mental Health and Stress Management Support

FIE offers mental health support. If students wish to seek this support, including with FIE's counsellor, simply email [studentlife@fie.org.uk](mailto:studentlife@fie.org.uk). If you have a counsellor from back home that you are seeing, we strongly encourage you to maintain contact with them throughout your time studying abroad with FIE.

### Diversity and Inclusivity

FIE regards its housing and classroom facilities as safe spaces to live, study, and work with students, faculty, and staff who are understanding, supportive, and trustworthy. Inappropriate, derogatory comments and/or actions, harassment, bullying, victimisation and discrimination are

not tolerated. Any such behaviour will be investigated and dealt with appropriately. Students must be respectful of diverse opinions and of all class members regardless of personal attribute and use inclusive language in written and oral work.