

<b>Course description</b>
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<b>Descriptif du cours</b>
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**Department :** English

**Instructor (s):** Feirouz Chekili; Hadhami Hached; Hatem Sebai

**Academic year:** 2021-2022

**Level:** First year

**Course title:** Introduction to Modern Britain

**Course Description:** The course investigates issues that have triggered modern political debates and shaped contemporary British politics. It also covers questions including the controversies over the relevant powers of the British political institutions and the controversial relationships between them, the constitutional reforms, the changing party system and devolution.

**Course outline:**

Introduction

- Introducing the UK
- Historical union of the British Isles

Chapter 1: from Absolute Monarchy to Parliamentary Democracy

- The British monarchy
- Decline of monarchy and rise of parliament
- The future of monarchy

Chapter 2: the British Parliament

- Britain's unwritten constitution
- Parliament (house of Lords/house of Commons)
- Her Majesty's Government

Chapter 3: Political Parties and Elections

- The British party system: historical background
- Britain's main political parties
- Elections in Britain

#### Chapter 4: Devolution

- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

**Course objectives:** The course aims at introducing first year students to the political system of the UK.

**Method of presentation and evaluation:** The course is based on a set of lectures coupled with TD classes where students are exposed to a focused study of a variety of relevant texts. Assessment is achieved through DSs and a final exam.

#### **References:**

- Adams, I. 1993. Ideology and Politics in Britain Today. (XB11672)
- Brenman, O. 2001. Political Issues (XB9166)
- Coxall, B. 1989. Contemporary British Politics. An Introduction (XB11958)
- Denver, D. Christopher, C. and Jones, R. 2001. Elections and Voters in Britain.
- Foreman, F.N. & Baldwin, N.D.J.. 1991. Mastering British Politics (XB12331)
- Leach, R. 2002. Political Ideology in Britain (XB12335)