

Soc 499, London 2007

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**The mission of the British Studies Program offered by the University of Southern Mississippi and its consortium partners is to provide students and faculty with the opportunity to live and learn in London, a British center of life, culture, and commerce, and to study social, economic, political, and artistic institutions throughout the United Kingdom.**

## **BRITISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

### **“Scholars”**

The general objective of the Sociology course is to explore social institutions in British Culture and Society and to compare those institutions to American culture and society.

A series of lectures by British experts in London and a number of field trips provide the student with an opportunity to develop an overall appreciation and understanding of British Culture and Society. The London lectures will cover such crucial aspects of British Society as family, government, education, stratification, religion, the legal system, the court system, military, youth, arts, sports, economic development, and social change.

Field trips to places such as Canterbury, the British Museum, Oxford University, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, the National Gallery, City of London Museum, Blackfriars Court, City of London financial district and the docklands, the Imperial War Museum, Wimbledon and Cambridge University will give students an understanding, knowledge, and appreciation of British Culture and Society from an observational perspective.

Reading: Students are required to read a daily newspaper (Times, etc.) to be aware of current events, issues, and concerns in British Culture and Society.

Reading: British Culture and Society (handbook developed by Dr. Kenneth L. Clinton)  
(A series of articles about British Culture and Society)

Reading and Reference: Active Sociology (current edition) by Shaun Best, Longman Publishers

or

Another basic introduction to Sociology text that focuses on British Culture for advanced students.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** This course is designed to meet the academic needs of students with a background in sociology as well as students that have had only one course in Sociology. A great deal of emphasis will be placed on the term paper and the selection of reading material in order to meet different needs and interest.

- to help student develop a sociological perspective of British Culture and Society
- to introduce students to basic sociological terms and concepts and apply them to British Culture and Society.
- to help student develop critical thinking skills and the ability to analyze thoughts and ideas from several theoretical perspectives.
- to introduce students to a variety of social institutions (government, family, religion, education, etc.) and to compare and contrast them with American social institutions.
- to introduce students of current issues and concerns in British Culture and Society.
- to introduce students to basic research process and methods.
- to introduce students to basic theoretical perspectives in order to analyze society (conflict theory, functional theory, symbolic interaction theory).
- to help students understand the major area of social change in British Culture and Society.
- to help student develop an understanding that historical events, such as war, play a major role in understanding current society and culture.

**These objectives will be assessed via a test, papers, and a research paper.**

**Topics to be covered in class are:**

**Sociological Theories and Concepts**

**Sociological Research Methods (Observation)**

**Growth of the cities and towns in England**

**British Government and Politics**

**The British Monarchy: Tradition and Challenges**

**Education In Great Britain**

**The Family in British Society**

**Women and Social Change (Issues of today)**

**Young People in Britain**

**Religion in Britain**

**The British Legal and Court System**

**Civil Liberties in Britain Today**

**British Military Today**

**Art and Culture**

**Business and Culture (Wimbledon: Tennis)**

**War and Social change in British Culture**

**Possible Field Trips:**

**House of Parliament**

**Canterbury Cathedral**

**The British Museum**

**Oxford University**

**Westminster Abbey**

**St. Paul's Cathedral**

**The National Gallery**

**The Imperial War Museum**

**City of London**

**East End**

**Docklands**

**Cambridge University**

**United States Cemetery (Cambridge)**

**Museum of London**

**Alfriston and South Downs**

**Wimbledon Tennis and Croquet Club**

**Stratford-on-the Avon**

**Blackfriars Court (London)**

## **REQUIREMENTS and ASSESSMENT**

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Students are required to attend all scheduled course lectures, field trips, and other activities. For every scheduled event missed 10 points will be deducted from the final point count.
2. **RESEARCH:** Students are required to write a research paper or to write a field observation report (8-12 typed pages) on some aspect of British society. Either must be completed by September 15. Five points will be deducted for each day late. Topics must be approved by the instructor. Details of the paper will be provided in London.
3. **LECTURE, READINGS, FIELD TRIPS:** Students are required to keep a class journal on all field trips, daily activities, and take a final exam on all field trips, lecture material, and readings.
4. **FINAL GRADE:** The final grade is based on the following elements:
  - (a) on the final exam score which is an essay test, (180 points)
  - (b) six field trip journal reports (30 points)
  - (c) class journal of daily activities (15 points)
  - (d) and a research paper or field observation report (75 points).

\*Class participation is important and will be used in final grade assignment.

\*300 total points

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**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)** If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office of Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Mailing address: 118 College Drive #8586, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001; Telephone (601) 266-5024; TTY: (601) 266-6837; Fax: (601) 266-6035.