

An introduction to the British Constitution

Short syllabus and learning outcomes :

This course will focus on the specific nature of the British Constitution. The concept of Parliamentary sovereignty will be explored, as well as the specificities of an uncodified constitution with conventions and case law. The recent developments linked to Brexit will be analysed, in particular the relationship between Parliament and the executive and Parliament and the courts. The place of referendums in the constitution will also be questioned as well as that of devolution in an increasingly disunited kingdom. Throughout the course comparisons will be drawn with other Constitutions in operation in democratic countries.

At the end of the course, students should have gained some knowledge about British institutions and the current debate concerning the merits of written or unwritten constitutions. They will also gain the necessary skills to follow a course taught in English involving note-taking, reading and debating ideas and concepts in English.

10 Classes-

Class Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
9/9	Introduction Class in English : note-taking, vocabulary, study tools The British Constitution : key words UNCODIFIED and UNENTRENCHED
16/9	What is the British Constitution ? Constitutional texts, statutes, conventions and case law
23/09	No Class
30/9	Parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law
7/10	Constitutional conventions : when is a convention not a convention ?
14/10	Parliament and referendums
21/10	The executive : Prime minister and government
28/10	Devolution : constitutional issues in a disunited union
4/11&11/11	No Class
18/11	The Monarchy : past, present and future
25/11	The Constitution and the courts : debating the separation of powers
2/12	Revision and Debate : the merits of codified constitutions

Note taking techniques :

<https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/learning-skills-hub/note-taking>

video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAhRf3U50IM>

Bibliography :

Bogdanor, V., 2009. *The new British constitution*, Oxford : Portland (Or.) : Hart ., 2009

Dispo à l'arsenal RDC salle 2, https://archipel-univtoulouse.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1o3paed/33TOUL_ALMA21408726580004116

Loughlin, M., 2013. *The British Constitution a very short introduction*, Oxford : Oxford University Press ., 2013 https://archipel-univtoulouse.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1o3paed/33TOUL_ALMA21400399650004116

McConalogue, J., 2019. *The British Constitution Resettled*, Cham: Springer International Publishing AG

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Sumption, J. (2020) 'Brexit and the British Constitution: Reflections on the Last Three years and the Next Fifty', *Political Quarterly*, 91(1), pp. 107–115. doi:10.1111/1467-923X.12826.

Class materials :

- All powerpoints will be available on Moodle on the day of the lecture
- Specific articles and some extracts from the books in the bibliography will be used in class to study some aspects in greater detail and enhance students' mastery of technical vocabulary and syntax to speak about constitutional issues

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Enjoy the course !