

Descriptif d'enseignement / Course descriptions

Cours en ligne pour le Semestre 1 de 3^{ème} année

The British Welfare State in the Coronavirus Crisis

Type de cours : Cours en ligne

Language of instruction : English

Professor

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Course description – Targets

The aim of the course is to take the current health crisis as an entry gate into wider and longer-term dynamics of the British welfare state : health service reform, healthcare staff shortage, State intervention in support of the economy, privatization of public services and consequences, etc. Besides, the current crisis also highlights key elements of the current British approach to international politics. In particular, the crisis management displayed by the British government needs to be analysed in light of the country's exit from the EU. Finally, the government's doctrine of « herd immunity » brings to the fore the notion of « British exceptionalism » which needs to be engaged with critically.

Online teaching method

The class will use Zoom and emails as main tools: I will teach some classes on the platform, and give instructions about reading and exercise by emails. Students may be asked to record short oral presentations on their phone or computer in order to create podcasts on the subject.

Assessment

Assessment will follow the same marking system as other English classes at Sciences-Po Lille : students will be given a competence-based assessment sheet, taking into account their oral production (podcast or short oral presentations on zoom), their oral understanding (answers to questions on audio documents), their written production and understanding (article synthesis). Given the teaching situation, English in interaction will not be assessed as such, although students may be asked to talk to each other on Zoom.

Course outline

- Introduction to the study of the British Welfare state in the Covid 19 crisis (short history of the WS, notion of crisis, key figures about the pandemic in the UK)
- The NHS in recent years and in the pandemic
- How supportive of the economy is the British State?
- Brexit and the virus
- Herd immunity and British exceptionnalism
- Taking race and gender into account to analyze the health crisis

Bibliography

No specific reading is expected in advance of the course, although following British news over the summer is highly recommended.