

Transforming society? Politics, economics and social policy

Start date 8 June 2018 **End date** 10 June 2018

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge

Tutor Dr Nigel Kettley **Course code** 1718NRX071

Director of Programmes Emma Jennings

For further information on this course, please contact

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To book See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography

Nigel has had a wide-ranging teaching and research career in the fields of sociology, education studies, research methods and teacher education. Before joining the Institute of Continuing Education in 2007, he was a Research Associate in the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, and earlier still an MPhil and PhD student at Wolfson College.

Before returning to study in 1997, he was a lecturer in a Further Education college. He is an active researcher in the areas of widening participation, educational attainment and lifelong learning more generally with a particular focus on issues of gender, social stratification and theory formation.

Nigel teaches on a variety of courses for the Institute, supervises PhD students for the Faculty of Education, and is Senior Lecturer and Academic Director for Education and Social Science courses at the Institute. His major publications include *Educational Attainment and Society* (2007, Continuum) and *Theory Building in Educational Research* (2010/2012, Continuum). He is also a Fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge and a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00	Dinner
20:30 – 22:00	Session 1: Economic theories, political ideologies and social policy
22:00	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 2 Social policy: Making social policy and changing society?
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 3 Thatcherism: Monetarism, neoliberalism and social policy
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Free
16:00	Tea
16:30 – 18:00	Session 4 New Labour: Policy aims, successes and failures
18:00 – 18:30	Free
18:30	Dinner
20:00 – 21:30	Session 5 The Coalition: Policy aims, successes and failures
21:30	Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30	Breakfast
09:00 – 10:30	Session 6 Austerity, Brexit and Beyond: Future developments in social policy
10:30	Coffee
11:00 – 12:30	Session 7 Transforming society? Summary, discussion and evaluation
12:45	Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To promote an understanding of the interconnection of economic theories, political ideologies and social policy for the transformation of society;
2. To define social policy, consider the complexity of the policy making process and examine how the effectiveness of specific social policy initiatives is to be judged;
3. To explore and critically evaluate examples of the social policy agendas of the Thatcher/Major, New Labour and Coalition governments considering the economic underpinnings of policy and the successes and failures of specific policy initiatives;
4. To make academically informed speculations about future social policy directions in the age of austerity, populism and Brexit.

Content:

Britain is undergoing rapid social and economic change, for example, in relation to austerity, the growth of populism and Brexit. This course explores the intersection of politics, economics and social policy to explain recent social transformations. Topics covered will include an introduction to economic theories, including Keynesianism and monetarism, and an analysis of the intersection of economic theories and political ideologies as a route to understanding how governments make social policy and, potentially, transform society. Subsequently, you will explore the meaning of social policy, the details of the policy making process and how the effectiveness of specific policy reforms might be evaluated.

A critical review will be provided of Thatcherism, New Labour and the Coalition government in terms of their social policy aims, successes and failures which, to varying degrees, altered social and economic life in modern Britain. You will also examine austerity, why Britain voted to leave the European Union (Brexit) and potential future developments in social policy. The course will conclude with an open discussion of the material covered in the sessions, an evaluation of research into social policy and consideration of divergent public responses to governments' various policy initiatives. Therefore, you will reflect on both the intended and unintended consequences of governments' social policies as a mechanism for transforming society.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be taught using highly interactive seminar-style sessions, which draw on students' knowledge and experience to illustrate key ideas in relation to politics, economics and social policy.

PowerPoint presentations will be used to guide sessions. Class discussion and interaction will be encouraged. Copies of PowerPoint presentations and all resources used in teaching sessions will be made available to students.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Differentiate and explain the major features of Keynesianism and monetarism, and understand the link between economic theory, political ideology and social policy;
2. Define social policy, explain the social policy making process and evaluate methods used to assess the effectiveness of specific social policy initiatives;
3. Critically evaluate the economic foundations and examples of the social policies of the Thatcher/Major, New Labour and Coalition governments;
4. Draw on historical evidence and research sources to reflect upon potential future developments in social policy in the age of austerity, populism and Brexit.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

Author	Title	Publisher and date
*Alcock, C., Daly, G. and Griggs, E.	<i>Introducing Social Policy</i> . Second Edition. Chapter 5: Making policy.	2013. London: Routledge.
Bochel, H. (ed.)	<i>The Conservative Party and Social Policy</i> .	2011. Bristol: Policy Press.
Clarke, D. H., Goodwin, M. and Whiteley, P.	<i>Brexit: Why Britain Voted to Leave the European Union</i> .	2017. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Cloke, P. J. (ed.)	<i>Policy and Change in Thatcher's Britain</i> .	1992. Oxford: Pergamon.
Greve, B. (ed.)	<i>Handbook of Social Policy Evaluation</i> . Chapter 1: Introduction.	2017. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
Outhwaite, W. (ed.)	<i>Brexit: Sociological Responses</i> .	2017. London: Anthem Press.

*Recommended.

Website addresses

Ruth Lupton et al. (2015) *The Coalition's Social Policy Record: Policy, Spending and Outcomes 2010-2015*. Available online at:
<http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/sites/default/files/files/RR04.pdf>

Ruth Lupton et al. (2013) *Labour's Social Policy Record: Policy, Spending and Outcomes 1997-2010*. Available online at:
<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/spcc/rr01.pdf>

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 23 June 2017