
Transforming society? Politics, economics and social policy

Start date Friday 8 April 2022 **End date** Sunday 10 April 2022

Venue Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge
CB23 8AQ

Tutor **Dr Nigel Kettley** **Course code** 2122NRX083

Director of ISP and LL Sarah Ormrod

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Tutor biography

Dr Nigel Kettley is Senior Lecturer and Academic Director for Education and Social Science at the Institute of Continuing Education. 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 in Economics and Sociology. 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 postgraduate students, and is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the *British Journal of Sociology of Education*. His major publications include *Educational Attainment and Society* (2007, Continuum) and *Theory Building in Educational Research* (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 Terrace Bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 Economic theories, political ideologies and social policy

22:00 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Social policy: Making social policy and changing society?

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Thatcherism: Monetarism, neoliberalism and social policy

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free time

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 New Labour: Policy aims, successes and failures

18:00 – 18:30 Free time

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 The Coalition: Policy aims, successes and failures

21:30 Terrace Bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast (for residents only)

09:00 – 10:30 Austerity, Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic: Recent developments in social policy

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 Transforming society? Summary, discussion and evaluation

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Course syllabus

Aims:

The course aims to:

1. Promote an understanding of the interconnection of economic theories, political ideologies and social policy as mechanisms for transforming society;
2. 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. Explore and critically evaluate examples of the social policy agendas of the Thatcher/Major, New Labour and Coalition government (2010-2015) considering the economic underpinnings of policy and the successes and failures of specific policy initiatives;
4. Critically reflect on recent developments in social policy including Brexit and the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Content:

Britain is undergoing rapid social and economic change, for example, in relation to the effects of austerity, the growth of populism, Brexit and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 (2010-2015) in terms of their social policy aims, successes and failures which, to varying degrees, altered social and economic life in Britain. You will also examine austerity, why Britain voted to leave the European Union (Brexit), how Britain left the EU and the current government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The course concludes with a 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 mechanisms for changing 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.

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

1. Differentiate and explain the main features of Keynesianism and monetarism, and understand the link between economic theory, political ideology and social policy;
2. Define social policy, understand 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 (2010-2015) governments;
4. Draw on historical evidence and emerging sources of research to reflect on the efficacy of Brexit and the current government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Alcock, C., Daly, G. and Griggs, E.	<i>Introducing Social Policy</i> . Second Edition. Chapter 5: Making Policy, pp. 66-82.	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, pp. 1-14.	2017. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
Outhwaite, W. (ed.)	<i>Brexit: Sociological Responses</i> .	2017. London: Anthem Press.
Williams, B.	<i>The Evolution of Conservative Party Social Policy</i> .	2015. Palgrave Macmillan.

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>

The London School of Economics and Political Science (2012-2021), Social Policy in a Cold Climate (SPCC) Data Explorer. All Reports on the Coalition and New Labour, available online at:

<https://casedata.org.uk/index>