

Course Description:

This course looks at the historical development of the British political system from the time of the Glorious Revolution in 1689 to the present. Emphasis is placed on the gradual development of the system of “Crown-in-Parliament” over the course of the eighteenth century, and the subsequent challenges to, and reforms of, this system in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, you:

- understand the nature of the British political system, and the notion of an evolving British Constitution,
- can analyse the present challenges to the British Constitution, and the changes which have been carried out in the past.

Contents:

Central topics which are covered are:

- The emergence of a radical challenge to the political system from the 1760s onwards
- The subsequent three great reform acts of the nineteenth Century
- Devolution, constitutional reform and the effect of Britain’s EU-membership in the twentieth century

References:

- a. Anthony King, The British Constitution
- b. Ann Lyon, Constitutional History of UK