

Module code: MOD004691	Version: 3 Date Amended: 09/Mar/2023
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1. Module Title
The Era of Thatcher and Blair

2a. Module Leader
Richard Carr

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
6

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	BA (Hons) History BA (Hons) Politics BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

On this module you will consider and contrast the long term effects of Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair on British politics since the 1970s. Firstly, you will study how Thatcher deviated away from One Nation Conservatism of the 1950s and 1960s, the diagnosis she made of how a society (and government) should function, and the reasons for her electoral triumph in 1979. You will then go on to consider her time in office through the lens of both her core supporters on the one hand and the British left on the other. You will have the opportunity to analyse the effect of Thatcher's policies on class relations in the UK, and the story of privatisation and reforms to the City of London. The popular platform of Right to Buy, share ownership and moving the low paid out of paying income tax will also be considered.

You will also analyse how her legacy in office continue to shape British politics. In doing so, you will look at how she influenced subsequent leaders such as John Major, Gordon Brown and, principally, Tony Blair. You will consider how Blair not only learned from Thatcher, but looked across the Atlantic to Bill Clinton and the New Democrats, too. You will consider charges that Blair was a 'Thatcherite,' as well as arguments for and against the legacy of New Labour. Throughout, you will have the opportunity to access primary source material via the Margaret Thatcher Foundation online archive (<http://www.margaretthatcher.org/archive/>) and the Reagan online archive (<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>).

6b. Outline Content

- Critical study of aspects of Thatcher and Thatcherism from 1975 onwards. - Topics include: One Nation post-war Conservatism; Thatcher's closeness to the economic ideologue Friedrich von Hayek and the development of her free market views; the causes and effects of the 1979 election result; the Anglo-American relationship during the 1980s; the reaction of the British left to her time in office; her views on class and equality, and the post 1990 Premierships of Major, Blair and Brown. - The theory underpinning Thatcher's views, as well as the opposition to her programme that emerged. - Key features of the global story of shifting politics in the west in the 1980s as the cold war came to a close. - The media myths and interpretations surrounding Thatcherism - and where issues have been exaggerated or underplayed by her friends or foes. - Beginning to distinguish between what Thatcherism was/is in theory in practice

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

N/A

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Show a critical understanding of how Thatcherism emerged and what its central tenets were/are
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and evaluate the key figures in the rise of Thatcherism, the Thatcherite ideology, and politicians who have adopted/contested its core principles
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Demonstrate clear critical comprehension as to how British politics in the post 1979 era differed from the post-war years
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Analyse and synthesise the major points of conflict and consensus between Thatcherites and her political enemies after 1979

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	12	1-4	Lecture 1hr X 12 weeks
Other teacher managed learning	12	1-4	Seminar 1 hr x 12 weeks
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Student managed learning of written, IT, visual & material sources
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-4	80 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Essay 2500 words

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	1-4	20 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)

Recording of a five minute podcast detailing a key issue of relevance to the module content.

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

- (a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
- (b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]