The Economic and Political History of Britain since 1945

Seven lectures of 1.5 hours each.

Course content

Lecture 1

Lecture 2
Government industrial policy and the changing structure of the British economy: 1979-date; privatisation.

Lecture 3
British macro-economic policy: 1945-1979; primarily the consensus concerning Keynesian demand management, and its subsequent failure.

Lecture 4
British macro-economic policy: 1979 to 2008; the new consensus over Monetarist and supply-side policies.

Lecture 5
The sub-prime mortgage crisis and its propagation to the British economy via the banking system.

Lecture 6
‘Austerity’ economics: the management of high budget deficits and high levels of accumulated national debt.

Lecture 7
Why Britain was never committed to European unification.
Three seminars of 1.5 hours each.

1 The changing structure of the British industrial economy since 1945.

2 The changing macroeconomic structure of the British economy and the 2008 Great Recession.

3 The economic and political history of Britain’s relationship with European unification, and why Britain chose to leave the European Union.

Reading list

The full course notes constitute the essential reading (provided electronically or in hard copy to all students).

The following textbooks & papers are categorised in accordance with the principal themes which they detail:

Reading for Lectures 1 and 2.


Reading for Lectures 3 and 4.


**Reading for Lectures 5 and 6.**


**Reading for Lecture 7.**


