

Assignment (assigned August 25, due September 01, 2009):

1. Sign up for RSS feeds of BBC UK and WalesOnline; begin to familiarise yourself with the politics of the UK and of the regions; what are the hot issues? What expectations do journalists have for politicians?
2. Locate, download and familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure for the following:
 - a. UK Parliament (on the course page)
 - b. European Parliament
 - c. EU Committee of the Regions
3. And one of the UK regional administrations:
 - a. Scottish Parliament, and
 - b. Northern Ireland Assembly, and
 - c. National Assembly for Wales
(You don't need to read these standing orders in their entirety; just access them, and have them available for reference and use during this course)
4. While you are on the UK Parliament website, look for information on the structure and organization of the Parliament: What parties are represented? How many Members of Parliament (MPs) are there from each party? What party is in Government at present? What party is in opposition? What other significant parties are there? What are the names of the major party leaders?
 - a. Also look at images of the debating chamber of the House of Commons. How is it structured physically and socially?
5. While you are on the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh Assembly Government websites, look for images of the debating chamber. How is it structured physically and socially?

Type answers to the following questions and turn them in on Tuesday, September 01, 2009:

1. Who is the Prime Minister of the UK?
2. Who is the Leader of the Opposition in the UK?
3. Who is the leader of Wales: What is his/her title? What is his/her name?
4. What are the names of the leaders of the opposition in Wales and what parties do they represent?
5. How many Assembly Members (AMs) are there in the National Assembly for Wales? How many AMs are there from each party?
6. What is the structure of the Government in Wales?
7. What are the Government departments in Wales? What are the names and party affiliations of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers currently?
8. List five differences that you can see between the National Assembly for Wales and the UK Parliament.
9. Describe in your own words, in a short paragraph, what Cris Shore means by "cultural politics".
10. Write down summaries of two significant political stories from the BBC UK and two significant political stories from WalesOnline. In a couple of sentences for each summary, describe the cultural politics that you see operating.