

Syllabus

Autumn Semester
2010

Prof. Hoffmann

GOVERNMENT 103

Texts: O'Neil, Fields, Share, Cases In Comparative Politics
Alfons Heck, A Child of Hitler
Morris Fiorina, Culture War? The Myth of a Polarized America
Sheldon Stern, The Week the World Stood Still, Inside the Secret
Cuban Missile Crisis
Bob Woodward, Plan of Attack

Topics

Basic Assignments:

Section I. DEMOCRACIES: HOW THEY WORK
(Comparative Politics)

Sept. 7-21 Democracies: Parliamentary and Presidential (U.K. and U.S)

O'Neil et. al., Cases in Comparative Politics, pp. 1-12, 31-57,
75-99.

Articles assigned from newspapers, magazines, etc.

Section II. DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL CULTURES AND
IDEOLOGIES

Sept. 23- British Democratic Socialism versus American Liberalism,
Oct. 7 British Conservatism vs. American Conservatism

O'Neil et. al., Cases In Comparative Politics, pp. 57-71, 99-107, 110-111.
Fiorina, Culture War?, pp. 1-77, 187-209.

Articles assigned from newspapers, magazines, etc.

Some Useful Information:

The dates listed above show each time-period during which we shall be reading the material for that section. There is no need to do all of the reading for a section before the start of that time-period, but all of that reading should be finished before we go on to the next section. At the end of many of the classes, the most pertinent readings for the next class will be announced. To keep ourselves up to date on pertinent matters the class will also be assigned articles from newspapers, magazines, journals, etc., when they become available, and will be used for class discussions. Students will then be responsible for those articles on the next exam along with the other assigned readings.

The written work of the class will include three take-home tests. They should all be sent to the instructor via e-mail.

The “cut policy” here will be as follows. One or two missed classes will incur no questions or penalties, and will be regarded as your own private matter. But each subsequent absence will result in a grade deduction for the course. If you must miss a class for reasons such as illness, a family emergency, or a job interview, please let the instructor know, preferably in advance, and usually no objection will be raised.

If you find that you are going to be slightly late to a class, please come anyway. But people will want you to slip in unobtrusively.

All private business should be taken care of before or after class. When a class is in session, no one should leave the room for any reason except a genuine emergency.

For information on government department policies – please see the sheets to be distributed in class in future weeks.