

Syllabus

Autumn Semester
2008

Prof. Hoffmann

GOVERNMENT 103

Texts: Kesselman, Krieger, and Joseph, eds., Introduction to Comparative Politics
Joseph Nye Jr., Understanding International Conflicts
Fursenko and Naftali, One Hell of A Gamble (The Secret History of
The Cuban Missile Crisis)
Bob Woodward, State of Denial (Bush at War, Part III)

Topics

Basic Assignments:

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

Sept. 4-16 Democracies: Parliamentary and Presidential (U.K. and U.S)

Kesselman et. al., Comparative Politics, pp. 4-13, 20-21,
38-45, 49 (only the profile on Tony Blair), 61-94.

Articles assigned from newspapers, magazines, etc.

Section II. DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL CULTURES AND
IDEOLOGIES

Sept. 18-
Oct. 2 British Democratic Socialism versus American Liberalism,
British Conservatism vs. American Conservatism

Kesselman et. al., Comparative Politics, pp. 45-61.
David Leonhardt, "How Obama Reconciles Dueling Views on
Economy," New York Times Magazine, Aug. 24, 2008 (to be
distributed in class).
"David Cameron: A Conservative Economic Strategy, Speech,
March 28, 2008, Conservative Party Website, UK (to be
distributed in class).

Articles assigned from newspapers, magazines, etc.

Take Home Exam on Sections I and II - - - - Due on Oct. 7

Section III DICTATORSHIPS: POST-COMMUNIST AND ISLAMISM (CHINA
AND IRAN)

How Dictatorships Work

Oct. 7-23 Kesselman et. al., Comparative Politics, pp. 18-20, 22-24, 27-34,
419-77, 369-417.

Section IV DOMINANT DICTATORIAL IDEOLOGIES

Oct. 23-
Nov. 6 Justifications for Dictatorship

Kesselman et. al., Comparative Politics, 206-210.

Sue Ellen Charlton, Comparative Asian Politics, pp. 104-109 (to be
distributed in class).

Michael J. Sodaro, Comparative Politics, A Global Introduction,
pp. 316-320, 325-333.

Second take home exam on Sections III and IV - - - - due on Nov. 11

Section V. UNDERSTANDING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(World Politics)

Nov. 11-13 The Very Big Picture

Joseph Nye, Understanding International Conflicts, pp. 3-
12, 33-56, 115-150.

Nov. 13-
Dec. 9 Comparing 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis with the 2002-2008
Iraq War

Sodaro, pp. 140-144.

Fursenko and Naftali, One Hell of a Gamble, pp. 166-289.

Bob Woodward, State of Denial, pp. 77-85, 89-146, 119-226, 240-242, 480-491.

Articles assigned from newspapers, magazines, etc.

Take-Home Final Examination on Section V - - - Due During Final Exam Week

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.