

Subject:	INSTITUCIONS I SOCIETAT ANGLESES I NORD-AMERICANES
Code:	28466
Credits:	6
Semester:	2
Groups:	1
Teacher:	Felicity Hand
Tutorial:	Virtual
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

This course is an analysis of current society in Britain and the United States with special emphasis on the political systems, law, class and ethnicity. We will be concentrating on the late 20th, early 21st century so students will be expected to have a good grasp of the major historical events of each nation. Recent key events in British and American society including a number of landmark US Supreme Court cases will be examined at length.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will have an understanding of :

- * the British and American political systems,
- * the main controversies surrounding crime, capital punishment and freedom of the press,
- * the ubiquity of the law in American culture,
- * the territorial relationships between England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland,
- * the main issues surrounding class and ethnicity in contemporary Britain and the US.

SYLLABUS

United Kingdom.

The triumph of Parliamentary over royal power. The rise of mass democracy
 Devolution in N. Ireland, Scotland & Wales
 Elections and voting in Britain. Political parties
 Law and order. Crime and the police.
 Mass media. Princess Diana phenomenon.
 Multicultural Britain. Poverty & inequalities. Class & ethnicity.

United States.

US Constitution. The First Amendment. *Texas v Johnson* (1989)
 Presidency & Political Parties. Elections and voting.

African-Americans. Post-Civil Rights Movement. *Brown v Board of Education* (1954)
Law and order. The Fifth Amendment. *Miranda v Arizona* (1966).
The press. The Watergate scandal. *US v. Nixon* (1974)
Capital punishment. Gun control.
Multiculturalism. The growth of the Hispanic community.

ASSESSMENT

Short Essay: 25%
Final exam: 50%
Class participation & Tutorials: 25%

TUTORIALS The tutorials will be conducted virtually and will be used to help the students to prepare the short essay and discuss the texts in more depth. Students are expected to attend 2 personal interviews with the teacher during the semester.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / MATERIALS

Reading Packs

SECONDARY BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bogdanor, Vernon, *Devolution in the United Kingdom*, Oxford UP, 1999.
Budge, Ian et al., *The New British Politics*, 3rd edition. Pearson Longman, 2004.
Campbell, Neil and Alasdair Kean, *American Cultural Studies*, Routledge, 1997.
Cohen, David, *Chasing the Red, White and Blue*, St. Martin's Press, 2002.
Dawson, Ian, *Discovering the Past: Crime and Punishment Through Time*, John Murray, 1999.
Friedman, Lawrence M., *Law in America: A Brief History*, Random House, 2002.
Haseler, Stephen, *The English Tribe. Identity, Nation and Europe*, Macmillan Press, 1996.
Kureishi, Hanif, *My Beautiful Laundrette & The Rainbow Sign*, Faber & Faber, 1986.
Lerner, Gerda, *Why History Matters*, OUP, 1997.
Lively, Jack & Adam Lively (eds), *Democracy in Britain. A Reader*, Blackwell, 1994.
Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me. Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, New York: The New Press, 1995.
Marwick, Arthur, *Culture in Britain Since 1945*, Blackwell, 1993.
Mauk, David & Oakland, John, *American Civilization. An Introduction*, London: Routledge, 2002.
McKay, David, *American Politics and Society*, Blackwell, 1991.
Morley, David & Kevin Robins (eds), *British Cultural Studies: Geography, Nationality, and Identity*, OUP, 2001.
Nairn, Tom, *The Enchanted Glass. Britain and its Monarchy*, Hutchinson, 1988.
Oakland, John, *Contemporary Britain*, Routledge, 2001.
Paxman, Jeremy, *The English. A Portrait of a People*, Penguin, 1999.
Storry, Mike and Childs, Peter (eds), *British Cultural Identities*, Routledge, 1997.
Verney, Kevern, *Black Civil Rights in America*, Routledge, 2000.

OTHER COMMENTS

Students who sign up for the course should already have taken (or at least *be taking*) the two compulsory civilization courses (Història i cultura dels països de parla anglesa & La civilització americana a través dels seus textos) as a good grasp of the major historical events of the UK and the USA will be taken for granted.