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.

United States.
Presidency & Political Parties. Elections and voting.
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:**

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.