

AP Comparative Government & Politics Syllabus

Mrs. Stallings

Kelly.Stallings@pisd.edu

AP Classroom Code: 9ZJ3XZ

Google Classroom: 4cmwfc

Online Textbook: MyPoliSciLab.com

Online Course ID:

Access Code:

The AP Comparative Government & Politics course is based on the design of college-level introductory Comparative Government courses that focus on the comparative study of fundamental comparative concepts, political systems, processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. This effective, one semester course will involve the study of political science theory and methodology as well as the analysis of six specific countries: United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. Throughout the semester students will study these respective countries, the components that are universal to all political systems, and will become aware of the interconnections between the citizenry and state policies. This course will give students a critical perspective of the working of these government systems.

Course Requirements:

READING: In order for students to be successful, it is essential that students complete all assigned reading prior to class. The reading materials are focused on the fundamental comparative concepts as well as separate country analysis. The readings, class lessons, and discussions will help draw comparisons among the countries. **It is essential that you remain up to date on the assigned readings from the text and the supplementary articles.** The required reading, along with lectures, and class discussion will figure prominently in your formal evaluation on quizzes, examinations, and writings.

TEAMWORK: Throughout the semester students will be asked to present a variety of material through group presentations and discussions. Each country covered will entail a group presentation. Teamwork for the presentations is a course requirement and it is expected that all students will contribute to the team effort. Establishing a positive attitude and rapport within the team has been proven to be a key to success and will greatly assist in the management of the amount of reading and work that is required.

GRADING:

60% - Major grades (tests, essays, projects, current events journal)

40% - Daily grades (vocab, map, and reading quizzes; discussions, small presentations, etc.)

Current Events:

Students will be expected to read the news! Reliable media sources, such as AP News, *The Economist*, or other approved periodicals, will be used to write weekly short entries on a digital bulletin board (padlet). *The Economist* is available with subscription or access to 4 free articles a month. Each entry should discuss one particular political/social issue about an assigned country or the country we are currently studying. **Note the source, article's title, author, and date in your entry.** Briefly review the content of the article and give a short political analysis of the piece by either:

- comparing the country to the political systems we are learning in class **or**
 - relating the article to the key concepts in Comparative Politics **and**
 - discussing the political implications for that particular country
- And list 3-5 comparative terms that could be applied to the article.

The journal will be a major grade for the 1st grading period. This means that you will have at least **five digital entries**. Do not wait until the due date to read your articles and write up your analysis. For each entry, keep in mind these concepts as you discuss the significance of the article:

- **Sovereignty, Authority, and Power:** political culture, communication, socialization, supranational, nations and states, supranational governance, state building, legitimacy, stability, constitutions, belief systems as sources of legitimacy (religion, ideology), governance and accountability
- **Political Institutions:** levels of government, executives, legislatures, institutional relations, elections, electoral systems, political parties, party systems, elite recruitment and leadership, bureaucracies, military and coercive institutions, judiciaries
- **Citizens, Society and the State:** cleavages and politics (ethnic, racial, class, gender, religious, regional), civil society, media roles, political participation (forms/models/trends) including political violence, citizenship and social representation
- **Political and Economic Change:** revolution, coups, war, trends and types of political change (democratization), trends and types of economic change (privatization), relationship between economic and political change, globalization and fragmentation, regionalism
- **Common Policy Issues:** economic performance, social welfare (education, health, poverty), civil liberties, civil rights, and freedoms, environment, population and migration, economic development, domestic and international factors influencing policymaking and implementation.

EXAMINATIONS: Formal evaluations may consist of multiple choice and/or short answer tests. Students should be prepared each unit for the possibility of taking either format. The structure of the tests will be similar to that of the AP exam. After the first unit, students must be prepared for the tests to be comprehensive, meaning that any information covered during the semester (including current events) will be considered fair game. Also, after the first unit, students may be required to respond to free response style questions, which, in addition to requiring students to display knowledge of the subject matter, will serve to prepare them for the format of the AP exam.

THE NATIONAL EXAM: The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam will be **Wednesday, May 3, 2023**. The exam administered by the College Board lasts for two hours and 30 minutes. The exam is graded on a 1-5 scale and consists of two parts:

- 55 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes (50% of AP grade)
The multiple-choice section includes individual, single questions as well as sets of questions. Questions focus on the core countries of the course: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. You'll be asked to:
 - Describe, explain, and compare political concepts and processes
 - Compare political concepts and processes of the course countries
 - Analyze data in graphs, charts, table, maps, or infographics
 - Read and analyze text passages
- 4 question free response section in 90 minutes (50% of AP grade)
 - 1 conceptual analysis question: You'll define or describe a political concept and/or compare political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, or behaviors.
 - 1 quantitative analysis question: You'll analyze data to find patterns and trends and reach a conclusion.
 - 1 comparative analysis question: You'll compare political concepts, systems, institutions, processes, or policies in two of the course countries.

- 1 argument essay: You'll write an evidence-based essay supporting a claim or thesis.

MAKE-UPS & TUTORIALS: Make-up tests and quizzes are the student's responsibility. Make-ups & tutorials are available by appointment in room A203. Make-ups for missed assessments must be completed within two weeks of your return to school. Any assignments due on the day of your absence must be turned in the day of your return. We will have an in-class review the day before each unit test.

MATERIALS: It is suggested but not required that you purchase a spiral notebook for note taking purposes. Number 2 pencils and black pens are required on test days. Not required, but useful, is a review book. This resource can be used as review for unit tests and in preparation for the national exam. One we recommend is: *Ethel Woods, AP Comparative Government and Politics: An Essential Coursebook*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity. Students who violate the Honor Code or fail to uphold these standards will be subject to punishment, including, but not limited to, loss of credit on any assignment affected by the violation. A consistent disregard for academic integrity may result in removal from the course.