

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SYLLABUS

Ms. Bookman

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

The object of this course is to introduce students to the broad field of comparative politics as well as to teach students the specifics about the conduct of politics in various countries. This course will look at politics in three very different kinds of settings: advanced industrial societies, communist or former communist systems and developing or Third World countries. Six countries will be used in order to help further comprehension of these settings: Great Britain, Russia, China, Nigeria, Mexico, and Iran. By looking at more than one country within each setting, students will see the substantial variations that exist within as well as across different categories of political systems. Throughout the course, students will look successively at different aspects of these systems – their historical backgrounds, political cultures, interest groups, party systems and elections, political structures and leadership recruitment processes and the policy making processes – in order to compare the attributes and performance characteristics of these general systems.

This course follows the College Board guidelines and is the equivalent of an introductory-level college course in comparative politics. The course objectives are broken down using the College Board “Scoring Components” 1-12 in addition to the “Course Topics” I-VI as indicated as the chart below. At the conclusion of the AP Comparative Government and Politics course students will be able to understand major theories used to explain political organizations, processes and policies in comparative politics, understand the working of different political systems and describe and understand politics in any country based on concepts learned in the course. In addition to preparation for the Advanced Placement exam in May 2014, students will also be prepared for the increasingly globalized world in which they live.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Kesselman, Mark, et al. *Introduction to Comparative Politics 6/e*. Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.

AP EXAM

The AP Comparative Government and Politics exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes in length and will be taken the morning of **Thursday, May 14th, 2020**

The AP Comparative Government and Politics Exam assesses student understanding of the disciplinary practices and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. The exam is 2 hours and 30 minutes long and includes 55 multiple-choice questions and 4 free-response questions. The details of the exam, including exam weighting and timing, can be found below.

Section	Question Type	Number of Questions	Exam Weighting	Timing
I	Multiple-choice questions	55	50%	60 minutes
II	Free-response questions	4		90 minutes (recommended timing below)
	Question 1: Conceptual Analysis (4 points)		11%	10 minutes
	Question 2: Quantitative Analysis (5 points)		12.5%	20 minutes
	Question 3: Comparative Analysis (5 points)		12.5%	20 minutes
	Question 4: Argument Essay (5 points)		14%	40 minutes

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **ATTENDANCE:**
 - AP courses require that students attend class every day. More than 5 absences within a quarter will result in being removed from the course. Students will be given the opportunity to make-up work as long as it is excused within the allotted amount of time. Unexcused absences/tardiness are not tolerated and work missed will not be made up.
- **CLASS/HOMEWORK:**
 - Students are expected to complete every assignment in a timely and fair manner. All homework assignments must be handwritten (legibly.)
- **MAKE-UP WORK:**
 - It is the student's responsibility to get any missed assignments, handouts, notes, and daily questions when absent. I will not seek you out and remind you that there are things you need to complete. If you are absent on a test day, you will have to make arrangements with me to make up your test.
 - Make ups take place in the mornings starting at 6:30am.
- **HONOR CODE:**
 - This is merely a reminder that the instructor strongly supports the honor system and expects all students to do the same. Students may protect themselves by keeping quiet during tests and neither giving nor receiving information on tests or classroom assignments. Proper disciplinary action will be taken, such as failure or removal from the course, if honor code is broken.
- **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**
 - Although each day in government is filled with wonder and excitement, each class day may not be. Regardless of this fact, students are expected to act in accordance with a collegiate atmosphere. Students will be prepared for class each day with the appropriate classroom material and attitude. Talking while the instructor is talking, sleeping, and/or working on material from other courses will not be tolerated.
 - Please never hesitate to ask me anything. I am here as a resource for you. Please contact me using my email address, using your name in the subject line, or during, before or after school.
 - By signing below you are agreeing to the possibility of viewing films/documentaries that are rated R. Students are expected to act as adults when viewing any material in class. Befriending me on Facebook indicates that classroom and county rules transfer to the online community. Any misuse of Internet relationship will result in consequences outlined by the Broward County Code of Conduct.
- **GRADE/EXAMS:**
 - The class grade will be based on a point system. Chapter exams, vocabulary quizzes, AP free response questions will weigh more than class assignments: current events, class discussion (Socratic seminars), participation, other classwork and/or homework.
 - Chapter exams
 - Vocabulary quizzes; classroom assessments
 - Free response questions
 - COUNTRY GROUP WORK
 - *Failure to show up for the tests results in a forfeit of a possible curve or any opportunity to acquire extra points throughout the semester.*

CLASSROOM MATERIAL

- 3 Ring Binder
- Dividers (Notes/ Assignments/ Quizzes/ Review/ Misc.)
- Highlighter
- **PAPER!!!** – Notebook paper in class and computer paper for printing at home

Please sign below in recognition that you have read and agree with the AP contract and course syllabus. Return to your AP teacher. I have read the requirements and understand the dedication needed to succeed in an AP class. I acknowledge that if my child has a D or F, a conference and transfer will be advised. I also understand that a pattern of non-attendance will have consequences for my child's grade and for their overall learning

BY SIGNING BELOW, YOU ARE ACKNOWLEDGING AND AGREEING TO ALL INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature