

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**AP Comparative Government- Reading Guide for UNIT 1**

You need to print this out and answer each set of questions as each reading is assigned. Every morning before lecture I will check off that you did the appropriate set and you will be graded for the work completed up to that point. Please use only a pen to answer these questions. If you feel you need more room than create more space between each question.

**PRINT AND TURN IN AS ASSIGNED!**

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**Reading #1: *Comparative Politics Made Simple* by Jean-Germain Gros**

1. What types of "things" are of interest to comparative politics specialists?
2. What is the main purpose of comparing the phenomena above?
3. Explain the difference between independent and dependent variables.
4. Identify the macrosocial factors that comparativists consider in their studies.
5. Define INGO and give two examples NOT provided in the text.

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**Reading #7: *Globalization Briefing Paper* by Matthew Krain**

1. Definition of Globalization:
2. Outcome of becoming tied together more closely?

**Historical Perspective**

3. What has changed since the "Age of Discovery" about globalization? Describe how.
4. What steps have been taken to erect barriers to international economic integration?

**Economic Globalization**

5. Impact of globalization on poor countries? Recent examples?
6. Foreign Direct Investment:

**Multinational Corporation**

7. Multinational Corporation:
8. How can MNC's have a political impact?

## **Globalization and Inequality**

9. Where is most international trade investment concentrate?
  
10. What has happened to inequalities among countries in recent decades?
  
11. Where does most growth take place within a country that is engaging in international trade?
  
12. What is the impact of globalization on women?
  
13. What is the impact of globalization on local markets?
  
14. Race to the bottom

## **Globalization and the Environment**

15. Describe market failure:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
16. What is Nigeria's primary problem in dealing with environmental issues?

## **Global Governance and Regional Integration**

17. Sovereignty:

## **The Spread of Democracy**

18. Describe the link between democracy and globalization.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
19. What must be present for democracy to succeed?

## **The Decreased Power of States and the emerging Power of Nonstate Actors**

20. What role has technology played in weakening control over the flow of information in the global economy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
21. How is it that many "liberal democracies" are most often targets of suicide bombings?

22. What are some consequences of increased mobilization?
23. Disintegration:
24. Decentralization:
25. How has globalization led to nationalism in Nigeria and Russia?
26. Where is fragmentation less likely to occur?

### **An Evolving Global Citizenship**

27. What is meant by the term global citizenship?
28. List some positive and negative consequences of global citizenship.
29. Democratic deficit:
30. International Nongovernmental Organizations (INGO):



4.

### **Federalism in Practice**

6. Describe what Putin did in Russia to centralize authority.
7. What is the effect of ethnonationalist identities on federal systems? Unitary systems?
8. Summarize federalism in Mexico.
9. Summarize federalism in Nigeria.

### **Devolution in the United Kingdom**

10. 4 constituent parts of the United Kingdom
11. Describe how the United Kingdom maintains a unitary state.

### **Devolution in Northern Ireland**

12. Summarize the process of devolution in Northern Ireland
13. Parliamentary sovereignty:
14. Identify the fundamental constitutional question that has made it difficult to sustain devolution in Ireland.

### **Devolution Elsewhere in the UK**

15. "West Lothian question" (define and identify the problem it presents?)

16. Why is the United Kingdom NOT a federal system (3 reasons)?

1.

2.

3.

### **The European Union: Confederation or Federalism?**

17. What makes the EU a confederation?





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reading #3: *Political Culture* by Ethel Wood (AP Guide p. 62-66/59-63)**

1. Political culture:

2. Explain the importance of political culture:

3. Legitimacy:

4. Advantages/Disadvantages of Legitimacy:

5. Summarize how each of the following may contribute to the legitimacy of a government:

Tradition:

Ideology:

Competitive elections and constitutions:

Public Benefits:

6. How do authoritarian regimes approach participation?

Democratic regimes?

7. When is it difficult to build a viable democracy?

8. Summarize how policymaking affects the political process.

9. Consensual political culture:

10. Conflictual political culture:



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**Reading #5: *Electoral Systems and Political Parties* by Jack Bielasiak**

**Structural Causes and Partisan Effects**

1. Describe Duverger's Law:

Plurality/Winner-take-all systems produce \_\_\_\_\_

Proportional representations system tend to form \_\_\_\_\_

2. Factors that account for the previous linkages (2):

1. Mechanic Effect on plurality contests? Systems with proportional representation (PR) (i.e. parliamentary representation)?

2. Strategic Effect on plurality contests? PR systems?

3. Describe how electoral system rules influence the psychology of voting. (in PR and FPTP systems)

**Majoritarian Electoral Rules**

4. How does the plurality rule primarily affect the U.S. and U.K.?

5. Absolute majority requirement:

**Proportional Representation Rules**

6. Aim of PR systems?

7. Describe a PR system.

8. Describe closed party list.

9. Describe open party list.

10. Primary concern of PR systems?

11. Describe minimum threshold requirement.

### **Mixed Electoral Systems**

12. Summarize mixed electoral system rules

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### **Reading #6: *Understanding Civil Society and Social Capital* by Kristen Parris (AP Guide p.67-81/64)**

1. Typical understanding of **civil society**-

2. How is civil society understood today?

3. Summarize the relationship between ***civil society*** and ***social capital***.

**China:** Go to page 70 (“Country Specific Cases for Further Analysis”)

4. Summarize the *Falun Gong* organization’s repression in China and explain why it exemplifies Chin’s weak civil society.

5. What organizations are emerging in China and how are they an example of China’s improving civil society?

6. Do you think that the emergence of a middle class in China strengthens civil society? Why?

7. Look at the “Map of Social Capital (social trust and social activism), mid-1990s” on page 78. Which country has the strongest overall level of social trust? \_\_\_\_\_ Social Activism? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Research the political culture of one of these countries. Explain why you think it is that they scored so high on these categories. Cite your sources!