

A.P. Comparative Government & Politics

Trimester 2 - Winter, 2016/2017 - 5th period

Credit Value - .5

This one trimester course provides students with an understanding of some of the world's diverse political structures and practices. It is a rigorous, first-year college level course that will help students develop a broad knowledge of government terms and concepts. The class will critically analyze major themes of government & politics as they apply to Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. It will prepare students for the A.P. exam in Comparative Government on Thursday, May 11, 2017.

Teacher: Mr. Paulic

Room: 202

Instructional Access Hours: 8:00AM - 8:30AM on Tu or Th; 3:05PM - 3:35PM on We.; or by appointment.

Prep period: 3rd pd.

Contact: paulic@4j.lane.edu

Website: Find link under 'Social Studies' at bottom of SEHS website

Texts and Supplemental Reading Sources

- Ethel Wood, *AP Comparative Government & Politics: An Essential Coursebook*, 7th ed.
This one is required for students to buy at a cost of **\$18.00**. See attached document.
- Charles Hauss. *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges*, 6th ed.
- Selected readings from the *College Board Acorn Guide to AP Comparative Government & Politics*

Overview

For the first 8 days, we will focus on learning the concepts and terminology of comparative politics. It's important to have a grasp of the language of the subject before delving into the studies of the government and political systems of the six countries that are targeted on the AP Exam. Our emphasis shifts to the individual countries - Great Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran - during the following 9 weeks of the term. During the last week and a half before final exams, we'll concentrate on how to master the Free Response section of the AP Exam.

Lectures will be interspersed with discussions, video clips, and written responses to prompts. The class will participate in various discussion formats that will help deepen understanding of the material. It is important that students keep pace with the reading in order to be ready to engage in class activities.

Efficient note-taking is imperative to succeed in this course. I expect all students to use an organized note-taking system. Cornell-style note sheets will be available for those who wish to use them.

Class Expectations

- Be on time
- Be cooperative
- Be respectful
- Be prepared for class

Electronic devices such as CD players, ipods, cell phones, latte machines, etc. **must be turned off and put away** for the entire class period.

Academic Expectations

Keep pace with the reading schedules, take notes on readings and class activities, review your notes regularly, and participate fully in class activities and discussions.

The following are considered academic dishonesty & subject to discipline:

- Copying a graded assignment or test or allowing others to copy such
- Giving or receiving test information
- Copying a portion of a document created by someone else & presenting it as original work

Consequences for academic dishonesty may include:

- Loss of credit for the assignment
- Additional disciplinary actions imposed by an administrator as appropriate

Appropriate modifications & accommodations will be made for students with special needs.

Grading

Grades will be based on this *approximate* scale:

70-80%: Exams & quizzes

We'll have an exam on terms and concepts at the end of unit 1.

We'll have intermittent multiple choice quizzes and tests during each country study.

Our Final Exam will be a two-day affair that will simulate an authentic AP Exam. One day will be dedicated to Multiple Choice Questions and the other to Free Response Questions.

10-15%: Responses to supplementary readings.

10-15%: Participation. This includes being in class on time, listening respectfully to the teacher and other students, engaging in pairs work or group work fully, as well as making an effort to join in discussions.

Grade scale: A = 90% & above; B = 80% to 89.9%; C = 70% to 79.9%; D = 60% to 69.9%; F = below 60%
Grades will be posted online on Synergy.

Attendance

Students are expected to be in class for the full 70-minute period unless excused by a parent or for a school activity. Absence, tardy, & partial credit policies as stated in the SEHS Handbook will be applied. Please read & understand these policies, which include reduced credit for 5 or more unexcused absences per term.

Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the major themes of government and politics and how they influence the lives of the citizenry of various countries. The overriding goal is to prepare students for success on the A.P. Comparative Government & Politics test on May 11, 2017. A detailed list of the learning goals will be provided at the start of each unit.

Units of Study

Unit 1 - Introduction to Comparative Government: Concepts and terminology

This 8-day unit provides a foundation of major themes that will be addressed in our countries studies.

Unit 2 - Democracies, Advanced and Evolving

We look first at Great Britain's parliamentary system in this unit with time dedicated to the European Union, a relatively new type of supranational governing organization. Next, we'll study Mexico's road from one-party, authoritarian rule to an evolving democracy.

Unit 3 - Communist and Formerly Communist Countries

We'll study Russia, the largest part of the former Soviet Union, and China, still nominally communist despite vast economic reforms since the 1980s. We'll see how one communist system collapsed leaving Russia in a decades long hangover from the Soviet years, and how the other has gradually evolved to a state that would be unrecognizable to Chairman Mao and other founders of the Chinese Communist Party.

Unit 4 - Nigeria and Iran

Although both countries have significant Muslim populations, politically, Nigeria and Iran are worlds apart. We'll study the widely misunderstood theocracy of Iran and its relationships with other countries, including the United States. Nigeria's post-colonial attempts to stabilize itself have sometimes led to violence and coup d'etats. Recent trends may lead to both hope and despair.

The AP Exam

There will be a gap of two months between the end of this semester of study on March, 15, and the AP Comparative Government exam on May 11. Therefore, students are **required** to obtain a copy of the premier study guide for Comparative Government, Ethel Wood's Comparative Guide (refer to addendum). Diligent use of Ms. Wood's guide coupled with review of terms on Quizlet, review of Free Response Questions on the AP Central site, and collaborative study group sessions should prepare students well for the AP Exam. I will be available to students on a drop-in basis during this time and also will conduct one review session from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sat., May 6. A variety of study tips will be posted on my website.

Summary of study resources for the gap period:

- Ethel Wood's Comparative Guide. Take the practice quizzes at the end of each chapter and the practice exams at the back of the book.
- Quizlet quizzes at <https://quizlet.com/subject/ap-comparative-government/>
These offer great opportunities to master vocabulary through flashcards, quizzes and more.
- AP Central - This site gives you access to the Free Response Questions from the AP Exams for the past 14 years. It includes scorers rubrics of acceptable answers and authentic student responses from past exams. *This is a goldmine!*
http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2087.html
- Study groups - Meet with a group of fellow students every week or two to practice and review together.
- Paulic's review session - listed above.

The cost of registering for the AP Exam is \$93. Students on free/reduced lunches should check in the counseling office about discounts or waivers.

Attention!

This form must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to Mr. Paulic by Monday, Dec. 12.

Student Name (printed)_____

AP Comparative Government course book purchase

Dear student & parents/guardians:

In order to best prepare for the A.P. Comparative Government & Politics Exam on Thursday, May 11, 2017, I'm requiring that all students have a copy of the study guide/review book that is the gold standard for this exam, Ethel Wood's *AP Comparative Government & Politics: An Essential Coursebook, 7th Edition*. Students will have a standard-issue textbook for this course, however, Ms. Wood's study guide has proven to be of great value in preparing students in the past. Her 7th edition was updated within the 15 months, and, thus includes elections and other political events in our countries of study that don't appear in our school-issued text, *Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, 6th Edition, by Charles Hauss*. I've ordered a copy for each student enrolled in my class. The cost per student is **\$18.00**.

Please send **\$18.00** cash or a check made out to South Eugene High School with your student by Monday, Dec. 12, or check the second box and return. Thanks!

I've read this and agree to purchase the study guide.

Our family is on the free/reduced lunch program and would like a free/reduced copy of the study guide. (circle one)

(Parent signature)

Thanks!