

Department: History

Course Name: Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics

Course Description:

AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the governing structures and the political, economic, and social challenges among six selected countries: Great Britain, Mexico, Russia, Iran, China, and Nigeria.

Content:

Political Systems, Regimes, and Governments

- Democracy vs. Authoritarianism
- Democratization
- Sources of Power and Authority
- Federal and Unitary Systems
- Political Legitimacy

Political Institutions

- Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Systems
- Executive Systems
- Legislative Systems
- Judicial Systems

Political Culture and Participation

- Civil Society
- Political Culture
- Political Ideologies
- Political Participation
- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
- Political and Social Cleavages

Party and Electoral Systems and Citizen Organizations

- Electoral Systems and Rules
- Political Party Systems
- Social Movements and Interest Groups

Political and Economic Changes and Development

- Impact of Global Economic and Technological Forces
- Challenges from Globalization Economic Liberalization
- Impact of Industrialization Economic Development
- Impact of Natural Resources

Skills:

Concept Application – Apply political concepts and processes in authentic contexts.

Country Comparison – Compare political concepts and processes among the course countries
Data Analysis – Analyze and interpret quantitative data represented in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics.

Source Analysis – Read, analyze, and interpret text-based sources.

Argumentation – Develop an argument in essay format

Text and Materials:

Waples, Karen, Comparative Government: Stories of the World (1st Edition, 2023)

News articles and video news reports

Variety of pertinent videos

Recorded radio programs such as NPR reports

Methods of Instruction:

Document analysis

Data analysis

Socratic seminar

Lecture/discussion

Individual presentations

Group/partner activities

Interactive, web-based learning activities (Formative, Google Slides, Padlet, Flip Grid)

Methods of Evaluation:

Participation, including formal debates and informal (routine) discussion

Daily reading quizzes

AP style free response quizzes

Research-based and creative projects

Unit tests

AP examination in May

