

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 political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students compare the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues by examining how different governments solve similar problems. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. The units of study are political systems, regimes, and governments; political institutions; political culture and participation; party and electoral systems and citizen organizations; and political and economic change.

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 (Google Forms, Google Slides, Padlet)

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