

AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

As stated in the “AP Course Description” document, this class “introduces students to fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings. The course aims to illustrate the rich diversity of political life, to show available institutional alternatives, to explain differences in processes and policy outcomes, and to communicate to students the importance of global political and economic changes. Comparison assists both in identifying problems and in analyzing policymaking.” In addition, the class will cover six real-world government examples: China, Great Britain, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia and Iran. Students will be able to move from theoretical concepts to actual concrete examples with their distinctive and unique social, political and cultural settings.

Please note that this class is taught online with no “face-to-face” student contact. Online classes present a special challenge to AP courses but students can be very successful assuming the course has built in activities which still meet the requirements of the class and can be accomplished using both print and online resources.

GOALS

- 1) Students will be able to describe and analyze the government and politics of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia.
- 2) Students will describe and be able to use for analytical purposes the major comparative political concepts, themes and generalizations.
- 3) Students will be able to describe and analyze typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their effects on any given society/government.
- 4) Students will be able to compare and contrast political institutions and their operations across different countries and make generalizations regarding their actions.

TEXTS

“Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges”, Charles Hauss, Sixth Edition, 2008 ISBN: 0495565520 (Note: You can also use the 5th edition which you can find in paperback and it will be much cheaper.)

“Readings in Comparative Politics: Political Challenges and Changing Agendas”, (RCP) Mark Kesselman & Joel Krieger, 1st Edition, 2006 ISBN: 0-618-42625-6

“Annual Editions: Comparative Politics 06/07”, (AE) Christian Soe, 24th Edition, 2006, ISBN: 0073516023

This book is widely available on in the used book market, check this url:
http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/0073516023/ref=dp_olp_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1221352936&sr=8-1

WEBSITES

New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
Washington Post (www.washingtonpost.com)
Time Magazine (www.time.com)
WordPress.org
BBC (www.bbc.com)
The Economist (www.economist.com/index.html)
The Times (www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/)
Le Monde English Edition (mondediplo.com/)
The Moscow Times (www.themoscowtimes.com/indexes/01.html)
The Guadalajara Reporter (www.guadalajarareporter.com/)
The Guardian –Nigeria: (www.ngrguardiannews.com/)
Iran Daily: (www.iran-daily.com)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Prepare to take the AP Exam in May of every school year.
- Actively participate in class and complete all assignments thoroughly and promptly including all online discussions.
- Work on class daily.
- Make up work when unable to meet deadline due to approved requests—contact instructor and send assignments due electronically ahead of time if necessary.
- Use a “flash-card” system or some other device to help master the vocabulary students will encounter in the multiple-choice questions.
- Ask instructor for help if needed: help Nights are on Tuesdays & Thursdays Evenings. Contact is through AIM or some other online IM program.
- Students will challenge themselves to work hard and maintain high standards.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will be based on points and added up to a final semester grade based on the following: 90 percent and above—A; 80 percent and above—B; 70percent and above—C, 60 percent and above—D; below 60 percent—F.

Semester Grades will be determined by student’s scores (using a point system) from the following:

- Chapter Homeworks
- Reading Assignments
- Online Collaborative Discussions (Part of Reading Assignments)
- Bi-Weekly News Article Summaries
- Exams (Midterm and End of semester): Exam is composed of Multiple Choice questions (primarily drawn from Chapter assignments).

PURPOSE & ORGANIZATION/DESCRIPTION OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

Chapter Assignments: Students will prepare (from Instructor's chapter assignments) definitions of terms, critical thinking written essays in response to analytical and free response prompts and take an online quiz for each chapter. Assignments are due at the end of the week.

Reading Assignments: using readings from the Readings book and/or *Annual Editions: Comparative Politics*, students will answer questions, provide critical and analytical evidence for the readings and discuss them in a seminar setting. Readings will focus on several areas including examination of issues and problems in comparative government, current issues facing governments around the world including the six nations (China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia) plus Japan, South Africa and Canada on a variety of issues (see Course Outline for topics) and how responses to these issues and problems might be framed. This will be accomplished through three venues: written student responses to questions, an online discussion forum in which students will post responses to questions posed by teacher and also to other students responses leading to an extensive online discussion OR through use of an interactive real-time conference software (Breeze software) in which students would meet with teacher in a virtual classroom and have a analytical discussion going over American government and issues related to the readings.

Bi-Weekly Current Events News Summaries: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to topics for that particular week and also do comparisons and contrasts for countries/areas/regions on a regular basis. Comments/Summaries may be published to "Online Discussion Forum" for additional comments by students in course. Students are to provide a citation for the article, a summary of the major findings of the article and their analytical comments related to the topic. Student essays may be published to "Online Discussion Forum" and other students must post critical thinking responses.

Exam Preparation Assignments (No grades given): A series of activities designed to help students prepare for the AP exam. These activities include practice multiple choice exams (both review and analysis), sample AP essays taken from exam previously given along with sample student responses (so students can model their responses), online discussion groups to facilitate discussion of the topics on the exam along with instructor comments.

COURSE OUTLINE (Weekly- 20 weeks)

Week 1: INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Hauss Chapter 1 Terms & Questions

Topics:

What is comparative Politics? Why Important?

Leaders Around the World: Some examples

What is the State and Types of States
Systems Theory: The Political System, Historical factors, Globalization
Democratization in the World Today

Reading:

"The Fate of the State" by Martin Van Creveld (from RCP). Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 2: THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES

Haus Chapter 2 Terms & Questions

Topics:

What are the Industrialized Democracies: Characteristics
The Origins of the Democratic State
Political Culture & Participation
Political Authority
The Democratic State
Public Policy

Readings:

"Rethinking Democratization: Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience" by Valerie Bunce, (RCP). Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 2. Comments/Summaries are published to "Online Discussion Forum" for additional comments by students in course.

Week 3: GREAT BRITAIN

Haus Chapter 4 Terms & Questions

Topics:

The Evolution of the British State (including Political Institutions)
British Political Culture
Political Participation
Political Authority
Myths and Realities of the British State
The Thatcher & Blair Revolutions

Reading:

"A Constitutional Revolution in Britain?" by Donley T. Studlar, (AE). Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 4: FRANCE

Haus Chapter 5 Terms & Questions

Topics:

The Evolution of the French State (including Political Institutions)
French Political Culture: From Alienation toward Consensus
Political Participation
The French State in Practice

Readings:

"A Divided Self: A Survey of France" by John Andrews (AE). (Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 4. Comments/Summaries are published to "Online Discussion Forum" for additional comments by students in course.

Week 5: GERMANY

Haus Chapter 6 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of the German State (including Political Institutions)
- Creating a Democratic Political Culture
- Political Participation
- Political Authority
- The German State as Functioning Democracy
- Public Policy in Germany

Reading:

The German Question” by Richard Bernstein (AE) Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 6: THE EUROPEAN UNION

Haus Chapter 7 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- What is the EU?
- The Development and Evolution of the EU
- Political Culture & Participation in the EU (including Political Institutions)
- The European State: How Realistic?
- Public Policy in the EU
- How Does EU Compare with other Regional Entities

Readings:

Europe’s Quiet Leap Forward” by Kenneth Rogoff (AE)
Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 6. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Week 7: CURRENT & FORMER COMMUNIST REGIMES

Haus Chapter 8 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- Thinking About Communism
- Socialism, Marxism and Leninism
- The Evolution of Communist Regimes
- The Crisis of Communism
- Current Thinking about the Communist State

Week 8: RUSSIA

Haus Chapter 9 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of the Russian State (including Political Institutions)
- From Dictatorship to Democracy
- Political Culture
- Political Participation
- Political Authority
- The Russian State: Prospects for Survival

Readings:

What Does Putin Want?” by Peter Lavelle (AE) Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval.

Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Week 9: CHINA

Hauss Chapter 10 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of the Chinese State (including Political Institutions)
- Political Culture
- Political Participation
- The Party State
- Political Authority
- The New China: Capitalism and Communism Linked
- Future Prospects for China

Reading:

“*China: The Quiet Revolution*” by Doug Guthrie, (AE), Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Midterm Exam: Covering Topics Week 1-9, Multiple Choice

Week 10: THE THIRD WORLD

Hauss Chapter 11 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- Thinking About the Third World
- Evolution of Politics in the Third World (including Political Institutions)
- Political Culture
- Political Participation
- Public Policy
- The Current Status of the Third World

Week 11: INDIA

Hauss Chapter 12 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of India and Indian Politics (including Political Institutions)
- Political Culture
- Political Participation
- Public Policy
- Political Authority
- The Indian State Today

Readings:

“*Sonia [Gandhi]: And yet So Far*” by The Economist, (AE) Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Week 12: IRAN

Hauss Chapter 13 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of the Iranian State (including Political Institutions)
- People and Politics in Iran

Public Policy and Participation
Political Authority
The Future of the Iranian State: Regional Politics

Reading:

“Lessons from the Muslim World” by Vali Nasr (RCP), Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 13: IRAQ

Hauss Chapter 14 Terms & Questions

Topics:

The Evolution of Iraq (including Political Institutions)
History of Iraq
Iraq Under Saddam and Baathist Party
Political Authority
Iraq and the Islamic Challenge
Current Status of Iraq

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Week 14: NIGERIA

Hauss Chapter 15 Terms & Questions

Topics:

The History and Evolution of Nigeria (including Political Institutions)
Political Culture
Political Participation
Political Authority
Public Policy
Nigeria and the Rest of Africa
Legacies of Imperialism

Reading:

“Nigeria’s Democratic Generals” by Robert B. Lloyd (AE), Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 15: MEXICO

Hauss Chapter 16 Terms & Questions

Topics:

The History and Evolution of Mexican State (including Political Institutions)
The Role of the PRI
Mexico & the United States
Political Culture
Political Participation
Political Authority
The Mexican State Today and Its Relationship to Latin America

Readings:

“Mexico at an Impasse” by M. Delai Baer (AE), Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in

course.

Week 16: JAPAN

*Haus*s Online Chapter (available at TB Companion Website) Terms & Questions

Topics:

- The Evolution of the Modern Japanese State (including Political Institutions)
- Political Culture: Groupism vs Individualism
- Political Participation and Elections: The End of the LDP
- The Japanese State in Practice
- Public Policy
- Political Authority
- Japan and their Role in Asian Politics

Reading:

“Japanese Spirit, Western Things” by The Economist (AE Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Week 17: SOUTH AFRICA

*Haus*s Online Chapter (available at TB Companion Website) Terms & Questions

Topics:

- A Journey Toward Reconciliation
- The History and Evolution of South Africa (including Political Institutions)
- The Apartheid State
- The New South Africa
- Political Authority
- Crisis in South Africa: AIDs

Readings:

“Making Race and Nation: A Comparison of the United States, South Africa and Brazil” by Steven Levitsky & Lucan Way (RCP), Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval. Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Week 18: THE STATE OF THE WORLD TODAY

*Haus*s Chapter 17 Terms & Questions

Topics:

- Globalization Issues
- The Problem of War
- The Global Economy
- Human Rights in the World Today
- Comparisons Around the World
- Contrasts Around the World

Readings:

“The Clash of Civilizations” by Samuel Huntington (RCP)

“Jihad vs. McWorld” by Benjamin Barber (RCP)

“The State and Globalization” by Saskia Sassen (RCP) Students provide a written summary of articles findings and their reaction.

Current Events Student Summary: Articles selected from Websites by student with instructor approval.

Students must discuss coverage and analyses of some current issue related to above topics for Week 8. Comments/Summaries are published to “Online Discussion Forum” for additional comments by students in course.

Test: Covering Topics Week 10-18, Multiple Choice

GLL SAMPLE