**Mrs. Stafstrom**

**AP Comparative Government and Politics**

**Classroom E204**

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**AP Comparative Government and Politics**

**Syllabus – 2nd Semester 2013 - 2014**

Course Information

Building on the base of knowledge and skill established in the U.S. Government, the AP Comparative takes a country-by- country approach to government and politics and introduces students to the comparative themes. A constant emphasis will be to compare the six AP countries (China, Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria, and Mexico) to each other and to the United States using the following themes.

* Introduction to the comparative method
* Sovereignty, Authority and Power
* Political Institutions
* Citizens, Society and State
* Political and Economic Change
* Public Policy

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to

* understand the major components of the comparative method
* identify the characteristics and importance of major features of the political systems of the six AP countries and the European Union
* analyze the differences and similarities, and the resultant consequences in terms of public policy, between the United States and other world governments
* describe the politics of any country by using the concepts and reference points of a broad perspective.
* evaluate contemporary issues of world politics
* write and discuss in a critical and thoughtful manner
* successfully take the AP Comparative test on Friday, May 16, 2014

Extra Help

I am **always** available to help you and answer questions. My e-mail is [judy.stafstrom@dist428.org](mailto:judy.stafstrom@dist428.org) and my work phone is 815-754-2100 where you can reach my voice mail. My home phone number is 815-748-3435. I am available hours 1, 4, 7/8 as well as before and after school. I am in E204 on Tuesday and Thursdays during Flex.

# textbooks and materials

## Textbooks

Hauss, Charles, Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges, 5th ed., Thomson Wadsworth, 2006.

### Supplementary Readings

In addition to reading current articles from news sources such as the *New York Times*, BBC, *The Economist,* the *Atlantic Monthly,* and the *Washington Post,* throughout the course students will read selections from the following supplementary readers:

Soe, Christian, ed. Comparative Politics: Annual Editions. Dushkin Publishing Group, 2009 (published annually).

various AP Briefing Papers from the College Board.

Behavioral Expectations

1. Respect yourself, others and your surroundings.

2. Be on time for class.

3. Be prepared for class. **Every day** you should bring your materials.

4. Check your grades on Skyward on a regular basis.

5. Use your passing periods effectively.

6. Achieve to the best of your abilities.

7. Be a DHS Barb.

**B**e Responsible

**A**chieve Academically

**R**espect self and others

**B**e Proud

8. Follow all other school rules per student agenda (i.e. dress code, food, drink, cell phone, etc.)

# Student Work

1. *Readings*
   1. Hauss, Comparative Politics There will be periodic quizzes on these readings. Do not get behind!
   2. Supplemental Readings You will prepare a short summary of the readings as homework.
2. *Tests*
   1. There will be three (3) tests during the semester. All of the multiple-choice questions will be in AP format.
   2. Free Response – these “essay” tests will be in the same format as the essay questions from the AP Comparative exam. I will teach you the most effective format for answering these questions.
3. *Quizzes* – at least one and sometimes two per week
4. *Papers/ projects*  – At least two (2) short papers and two major projects
5. *Current Events Journal* – kept throughout the semester on the six AP countries and the EU.

1. *Class Participation* – class will consist of discussion, Socratic seminars, short lecture, video clips, debates, student presentation, and group work. I firmly believe that classroom discussion is an essential way to achieve the critical thinking that you will have to demonstrate to do well on the AP Exam. For that reason, I expect all students to contribute to in-class discussion. I will put you on the spot.
2. *Attendance is essential*.

**Consequences of Misbehavior**

There are consequences for not following the rules. They will be assigned based upon the situation, severity of the violation and history of misbehavior. Possible consequences include a warning, seat change, removal from class, and a call home and a referral to the Dean’s Office.

Absences and Make-up Work

*Excused absences*- you have the total number of days you were absent to make up missed work. It is your responsibility to ask for and complete all make-up assignments. If you have a planned absence, including a field trip, please have the courtesy of telling me in advance that you will be gone.

*Unexcused absences*- you will not be able to make up any assignments, tests or in-class work completed on days for absences listed as unexcused in the attendance system.

*Absences the week of a test:*

* If you are absent one or two days the week of the test OR you are absent the day before the test, be prepared to take it on the scheduled date.
* If you are absent the day of the test, be prepared to take it immediately upon your return.
* In the case of extended illnesses, come and see me and we will arrange a time for you to make up the test.

Make-up tests and quizzes will be taken on the prescribed day unless other arrangements have been made with me. You are responsible for any material that you miss the day of a make-up.

*Field Trips –* these are considered pre-excused absences and thus homework is due **before** you leave for the field trip

Late Work

All assignments are due at the beginning of the period. Any assignment turned in after I have collected them will be accepted up to **one day late with a 50% reduction off the grade earned**.

\*\*\*ALL assignments will go into Skyward as a zero until the work is made up.\*\*\*

# Grading

Grades for the course are based on the following areas with the following weight:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 100-90% | A |
| 89-80% | B |
| 79-70% | C |
| 69-60% | D |
| < 59% | F |

Tests (MC and Free Response) 25%

Participation 15%

Homework 15%

Quizzes 15%

Projects/papers 20%

Final (project based) 10%

Cheating/Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “stealing and passing off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own**;** use (of another's production) without crediting the source.” (*Merriam-Webster* online). This includes copying homework assignments. Lastly, assisting a fellow student to cheat or plagiarize is also considered academic misconduct. A student who cheats or plagiarizes, or who assists another student cheat or plagiarize, on any assignment will receive an automatic zero on that assignment and a referral to the Dean’s Office and the Athletic Office for possible additional penalties.

Electronic Devices

Any use or display of an electronic device may result in a referral to the Dean.

If your cell phone or any other electronic device is used or activated during a test or quiz, you will receive a zero on the test/quiz and receive a referral to the Dean’s Office.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Units |
| 1 | 1/19  MLK Day  No school | 1/20  Exams | 1/21  Exams | 1/22 | 1/23 | **Intro**  Globalization |
| 2 | 1/26 | 1/27 | 1/28 | 1/29 | 1/30 | **Industrialized Democracies**  Great Britain and EU  Ch. 2, 4 |
| 3 | February 2 | 2/3 | 2/4 | 2/5 | 2/6 |
| 4 | 2/9 | 2/10  Media Center | 2/11  Media Center | 2/12 | 2/13 | **Former Communist** Russia  Ch. 8 and 9  China  Ch. 10 |
| 5 | 2/16  Presidents Day  No school  Movie Day | 2/17 | 2/18 | 2/19 | 2/20 |
| 6 | 2/23 | 2/24 | 2/25 | 2/26  Media Center | 2/27 |
| 7 | March 2 | 3/3 | 3/4 | 3/5 | 3/6 | **“Third World”**  Iran  Ch. 11 and 13 |
| 8 | 3/9 | 3/10  Media Center | 3/11 | 3/12 | 3/13  Early release |
| 9 | 3/16 | 3/17 | 3/18 | 3/19  Conferences  Early release | 3/20  Conferences  No school | Nigeria  Ch. 15 |
| **Spring Break – 3/23 – 3/27** | | | | | | |
| 10 | 3/30 | 3/31 | April 1 | 4/2 | 4/3 | Nigeria |
| 11 | April 6 | 4/7  Media Center | 4/8 | 4/9 | 4/10  No school | Mexico  Ch. 16 |
| 12 | 4/13 | 4/14 | 4/15 | 4/16 | 4/17 |
| 13 | 4/20 | 4/21 | 4/22  PSAE  No classes | 4/23  PSAE  **AM Practice Tests** | 4/24  review | Review for AP US Gov and Comp  Sat/Sun review sessions |
| 14 | 4/27  review | 4/28  review | 4/29  review | 4/30  review | 5/1  review |
| 15 | May 4  **AP Test!**  **Breakfast at the Junction** | 5/5 | 5/6 | 5/7 | 5/8 | Oh my God!  We’re done! |
| 16 | 5/11 | 5/12 | 5/13 | 5/14 | 5/15 | Not so fast . . . |
| 17 | 5/18 | 5/19 | 5/20  Media Center | 5/21  Media Center | 5/22  Media Center | UN“Simulation Week” |
| 18 | 5/25  Memorial Day  No school | 5/26 | 5/27 | 5/28 | 5/29  Last day for Seniors ??? | **Graduation**  **6/6** |

AP Comparative Government – Mrs. Stafstrom

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics

Mrs. Stafstrom

Units of Study

1. **Introduction to Comparative Politics** (1 week)
   1. Core Concepts/ideas: How/why we compare (methodology), normative v. empirical, nation, state, subnationals, government, legitimacy, regime, globalization, democratization.
   2. Readings: Hauss Chapter 1, *Jihad v. McWorld*, AP Briefing Paper on Globalization
   3. Activities: Pre-test for Comparative Politics
2. **Industrialized Democracies** (2 weeks)
   1. Core Concepts/ideas: dual executives, parliamentary system, unitary, devolution, supranational governance, proportional representation, referendum, democratic deficit, regional government, political cleavages, corporatism, two party system.
   2. Readings: Hauss Chapter 2, Industrialized Democracies, Chapter 4 Great Britain, Soe, Studlar, *A Constitutional Revolution on the United Kingdom.*
   3. Activities: Simulation of Prime Minister’s Question Hour, introduction to FR
   4. TEST (Unit I and II)
3. **Current and Former Communist Countries** ( 3 weeks)
   1. Core Concepts/ideas: communism, Marxism, totalitarianism, democratic centralism, Leninism, socialism, legitimacy, rule of law, illiberal democracy, oligarchy, political change, economic change, privatization, mixed presidential/parliamentary, foreign direct investment (FID), parastatl, camarilla, civil society, multiparty system, one party system.
   2. Readings: Hauss Chapter 8, Current and Former Communist Countries, Hauss Chapter 9, Russia, Hauss Chapter 10, China, AP Briefing Paper on Democratization
   3. Activities: Debate: Are Vladimir Putin’s Changes Positive or Negative for Russia, FR activities
   4. TEST (Unit III)
4. **Third World Countries** ( 6 weeks)
   1. Core Concepts/ideas: development, gini index, income distribution, patron client politics, corruption, structural adjustment, import substitution, debt, IMF/World Bank, microcredit, nongovernmental organizations, rentier state, coup d”etat, military rule, theocracy, bonyad, fundamentalism, sharia, OPEC, transparency, one party dominant system.
   2. Readings: Hauss, Chapter 11, The Third World, Chapter 13, Iran, Chapter 15, Nigeria, Chapter 16, Mexico, AP Briefing Papers on Iran, Nigeria and Mexico
   3. Activities: Using data to study development
   4. TEST (Unit IV)