

Advanced Placement: Comparative and United States Government and Politics

Course Introduction

The Advanced Placement Courses in Comparative Government and Politics and US Government and Politics is designed to give students a critical perspective on politics and government. This course includes both general concepts and relevant case studies for the purpose of interpreting politics and government in a critical way. It will also require an understanding of the institutions, groups, people, beliefs, and ideas that make up the past and current US political system, as well as the political systems of the Comparative case studies: China, Russia, Mexico, UK, Nigeria, and Iran. At the conclusion of the course, students will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement Examination for both courses in the hopes of receiving college credit for this course.

Texts and Supplemental Materials

Wilson, James Q. *American Government*. 13th edition. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2013.

Additional supplemental readings will be provided on a weekly basis by the instructor and will be available for download on the class website.

Grading Requirements

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Midterms and Finals	40%
Projects	30%
Reading Quizzes	20%
FRQ Practice	10%

Units

1	• Introduction to Government and Politics (Weeks 1-2)
2	• Sovereignty, Power, and Governance (Weeks 3-8)
3	• Citizens, Civil Society, and the State (Weeks 9-11)
4	• Political Parties and Elections (Weeks 12-18)
5	• Political Institutions (Semester 2)
6	• Political and Economic Change (Semester 2)

Suggested Materials

A Computer, Phone, Tablet, or Other Device (If you do not have access, the library and career center should be utilized for assignments – inform me ASAP if this is an issue)

Some way to organize your notes
– Binder, Spiral Notebook, Computer, etc. – organize how you need, this is a college course and you will have the freedom college students have

Writing Tools – Pens, Pencils, Highlighters, etc. (FRQs must be written in PEN)

Copy of Syllabus and Reading List at all times

Absences and Late Work

Absences

- Excused Absences – you have one day for each day you are absent to make up work
- Unexcused Absences – Unless I am informed ahead of time, there are no make-ups!

Late Work

- Just like a college course, late work is not accepted – once it is late, it is a zero
- If there is an emergency or other extenuating circumstance, I must be informed BEFORE the assignment is due!

Cellphones and Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty is a BIG deal – the consequences of cheating or plagiarism are immense and will follow you for the rest of your academic career
- If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, the following could happen:
 - Zero on the assignment or test
 - Direct referral to the office
 - You could get your offer of admission revoked from your college
 - If you were in college, you would have to attend a hearing with the Dean and chances would be high that you would be kicked out of school

Plagiarism

- Includes copying and pasting, copying classwork, using another's ideas as your own (even if you switch the words around)

Other Cheating

- Using a classmates' notes on a reading quiz, using your phone, computer, or tablet during a test or quiz, talking to a classmate during an exam

Controversial Issues

We will discuss many controversial issues throughout this year and as such, you must do the following:

Respect your classmates' opinions and beliefs no matter what

Inform me if a topic is making you uncomfortable

Positivity Only! Bullying, peer pressure, or snide comments will not be tolerated

If you disagree – do it in a civil way – never attack someone's character

We can make arrangements for an alternate assignment
