**AP Comparative Government and Politics**

**COURSE SYLLABUS 2017 - 2018**

**COURSE GOALS AND DIRECTION**

Comparative government and politics is a critical field for students. The twenty-first century has taught us that we cannot ignore the world around us. Happenings around the globe now directly impact our lives, and students of government face the challenge of interpreting many puzzling international events. The AP Comparative Government and Politics course focuses on government and politics in other countries and provides a theoretical framework to compare political systems around the world. The goal is to have students grasp something of political complexities of our global environment, and gain an understanding of both commonalities and differences among modern political systems.

AP Comparative Government is a full year course for 1.0 high school credit. Extra consideration is given in calculating accumulative grade point averages for grades in this course as provided in the grading policy of Westerville City Schools. The College Board AP Exam for American Politics and Government offers the potential of college credit for a semester course. **All students are strongly encouraged to take the AP Exam; it is the equivalent of the second semester exam.**

**TEXTBOOKS AND READING MATERIAL**

*AP Comparative Government and Politics: An Essential Course book 6th Edition by Ethel Wood*

*Introduction to Comparative Politics by* Kesselman, Krieger and Joseph*. 7th Editions (***Primary Textbook)**

**Selected Supplemental** readings from the following sources: *Essentials of Comparative Politics* **Patrick H. O’Neil 4th and 5th Editions**.

*Selected articles* from the following source online/print material: ***New York Times, The Economist, BBC, and Washington Post.***

*Annual Editions: Comparative Politics Fiona* **Yap** 25th edition

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Reading assignments - textbook, supplemental readings, handouts.

2. Notebook - For organizing handouts, notes and assignments (optional)

3. Short written reports on readings and occasional homework questions. These critical reviews, summaries, questions, etc. are due the day they are assigned. **Late papers will receive no more than ½ credit**.

4. Participation in class lectures and discussions (**very, very important!**).

5. Occasional oral presentations and debates.

6. Quizzes and tests.

7. Formal Reports - A book review or policy review for first semester in place of exam and a research paper on foreign or domestic policy for second semester for those not taking the College Board examination.

8. Regular attendance is a necessary and proper requirement for this course. Make-up work is

Essentially self-service except for quizzes and tests. These are the responsibility of the student to

Schedule outside of class and when the teacher is free of other classes. This may mean scheduling such make-up work before or after the regular student day. Eligibility for make-up work is based on the formal school rules. The teacher also reserves the right to assign extra individual assignments when excessive absenteeism threatens a student's progress.

**GRADES**

Quarter grades will be based on student achievement in three areas and weighted as noted:

Tests and quizzes - 45%;

Reaction papers, short reports, and question/answer assignments - 35%:

Class participation - involvement in class discussions and activities (100 points) - 20%

Base participation: 76 points (approximately 1 ½ points for each day).

Volunteers: 0 - 8 points. (**Participate in Seminar Discussions, No playing on phone☺)**

Objectivity: 0 - 8 points. (**No Bias)**

Insight: 0 - 8 points. (**Add something of value to the class)**

Total: 100 points.

**Semester grades** will weigh the two quarter grades to count **40%** each and the grade on the semester report as **20%.**

**STUDY UNITS, TOPICS, TEXT CHAPTERS, AND SCHEDULE**

**I. INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE POLITICS**

August **17** to Sept. **1** (10 days)

Kesselman Ch. 1 - Introducing Comparative Politics pp. 1-35

Wood Ch. 1 - Intro to Comparative Government: Public Policy pp 73-80

**TESTING (2 DAYS)**

**Thursday September 7th-** 55 Question Multiple Choice Question Test- 45 Min. Chapter 1 (Kesselman) and pp 73-80 Wood.

**Friday September 8th** - Free Response Essay Test- 45 Minutes Chapter 1 Kesselman and Wood 73-80.

II. **CONSOLIDATED DEMOCRACIES (**28 Days)

Kesselman Chapter 2 Great Britain –pp 37-79

Kesselman Chapter 3 United States- pp 80-124 (Optional)

Kesselman Chapter 4 European Union pp 125-167

**TESTING (2 Days), Same Format as all tests Chapter** 2, 3 and 4. Dates **TBA**

**All future dates will be determined as we progress through the school year**

**MIXED SYSTEMS**

**III. MEXICO**

Kesselman Ch. 5- Mexico pp 168-212 (18 Days)

**TESTING- (2 Days)** Chapter 5.  **Same Format as all tests.**

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**IV. Nigeria**

Kesselman Ch. 6- Nigeria pp 213-261 (18 days)

**TESTING-(2 Days) Chapter** 6 **Same Format as all tests.**

**V. RUSSIA**

Kesselman Ch. 7- Russia pp 262-312 (18 Days)

**TESTING- (2 Days) Chapter** 7 **Same Format as all tests.**

**AUTHORITARIAN SYSTEMS:**

**VI. CHINA**

Kesselman Ch. 9- China pp 359-403 (18 Days)

**TESTING (2 Days)** Chapter 9 Same **Format as all tests.**

**VII. IRAN**

Kesselman Ch. 8- Iran pp 313-358 (18 Days)

**TESTING (2 Days) Chapter** 8 Same **Format as all tests.**

**MOCK Legislature (Time permitting)**

**We will try to simulate the parliament or legislature of each country with respect to executive/leg/judicial branches and compare them to the United States. Potentially in roundtable/Seminar or Debate White-Paper Format.**

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUE DEBATES (time permitting)**

TBA but possibly before the AP Review begins in March.

**THE REAL THING!**

**Thursday, May 17th** College Board AP Exam for U.S. Government and Politics

55 multiple choice questions - 45 minutes

8 Free-response Analysis questions - 100 minutes

(Of which 5 are Short Answer concepts, 1 is conceptual analysis and 2 are country context questions) Details to follow.

**XlIl. ASSORTED TOPICS/Exam: First Semester Exam and potential Second Semester Exam**

May 18 to May 24

\*Research paper on Foreign Policy or public policy in a country of choice. Topic due during Semester **Exam** and **senior final exam** **(only for those who do not take the AP exam**) - Grade counts for second semester final exam grade for any student not exempt from the final exam. For most students, this will be an optional assignment. Details to follow.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material. Such

Standards are founded on the basic concepts of honesty and integrity. Students' efforts submitted for

Grading must reflect their individual levels of knowledge and accomplishment. The WNHS Student

Handbook has additional references to this important consideration