

AP Comparative Government

Course Design: The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings.

Students successfully completing the course will:

- Know important facts pertaining to the governments and politics of the United Kingdom, Russia, China, Nigeria, Iran and Mexico
- Understand major comparative political concepts, themes, and generalizations
- Understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences
- Be able to compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries and to derive generalizations
- Be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics

Skills building throughout course:

- o Application of concepts to specific political systems during class discussions and written assignments
- o Comparative analysis of systems
- o Use of rubrics to assess written assignments
- o Development of policy platforms to determine differences by parties within a state and across nations
- o Analysis of graphs and charts
- o Evaluation techniques for political commentaries

Assessments:

- o Weekly – written responses to analytical questions relating to text, define relevant country specific terms
- o Each unit – creative project to understand geography, peoples, culture of country
- o Each unit – multiple choice questions; 2 -3 free response questions that compare and contrast political systems, analyze and interpret statistical information, evaluate policies and institutions for specific countries