

## AP Comparative Government & Politics

### Summer Assignment: 2019-2020

Welcome to AP Comparative Government & Politics! I hope you are looking forward to the course and ready to start learning about the fascinating issues confronting nations around the world. As nations are increasingly impacted by political, economic, social/cultural, technological, and environmental connections across borders and regions, an understanding of other people, places, and issues is critical for actively engaged citizenship. I am really looking forward to meeting you all, as well as providing a worthwhile and interesting course that will expand your knowledge of local, national, and global politics. In addition, this class will develop important 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to prepare you for college and the world of work. If you have any questions, please see me or send an email. **Please remember to do your own work. Due the first day of class.**

### Summer Assignment:

**Part One:** Please keep a weekly journal of key current events occurring in the different countries we will be studying in the course: United States, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Russia, China, and Nigeria. Once a week (or more if you want), spend some time browsing the news to see what is happening in these countries. We will be analyzing how different domestic and international issues affect the behavior of nations. In doing so, we will dive into a rich comparative study of how nations are influenced similarly and differently. This assignment will help give you some background on each of the countries. Be prepared to discuss some of your findings and turn in your journal at the beginning of the school year. **More clarification below:**

**You don't have to find a news item about ALL countries each week.** Look at what is going in two or three of these nations. You can give a short summary of the event or news story, pose relevant questions you have, and/or reflect on why you think this issue is pertinent to our understanding of domestic or global politics. **Do what you think will be most helpful for you.** The purpose is to gain an initial understanding of the current issues facing the nations we will discuss in APCP. **Don't worry about a specific number of entries required,** but two or three per week during July and August is acceptable. I would guard against waiting and trying to go back and complete all your entries in late August.

In addition to a variety of American newspapers, many countries have English language, on-line sites. Check out some of these sites and see how particular issues are covered in the news. For example, here is a link to on-line news from China, Nigeria, Russia, and Britain:

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/>  
<https://guardian.ng/>  
<https://themoscowtimes.com/> or <https://www.rt.com/>  
[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)

Also, *The Economist* and *Foreign Affairs* magazines cover a lot of the important concepts you will be learning about in the course. Please take a look at their website and some of the articles: <http://www.economist.com/> and <http://www.foreignaffairs.com>

**Part Two:** Familiarize yourself with the **AP website for Comparative Government & Politics**.

This site will give you more information about the course:

[http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers\\_corner/2258.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/2258.html)

Here are **some key concepts or terms** to familiarize yourself with over the summer (How would you articulate the meaning of these concepts in your own words? How do you think they apply to the different nations and issues we will be learning about?). Knowing the “**jargon**” or **vocabulary** is important in this course. Also, think about the kinds of questions a political scientist ask might ask. Please complete the following:

- Define the significance of **10 to 12** of these terms and be prepared to discuss them when we return from summer break (**try to define in your own words rather than just copying a definition. Including examples in always helpful**).
- Write down 5 questions you have about any of the concepts.
- Here are some reliable, on-line resources to complete this activity:
  - <http://polisci.nelson.com/glossary.html>
  - <http://www.auburn.edu/~johnspm/gloss/>
  - <http://www.socialsciencedictionary.com/>
  - <http://www.indiana.edu/~ipe/glossary.html>
  - [http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007248179x/student\\_view0/glossary.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/007248179x/student_view0/glossary.html)  
<http://ocw.tufts.edu/data/58/727216.pdf>

Democracy, authoritarianism, communism, capitalism, socialism, civil society, nationalism, political institutions, nations, states, rentier state, political socialization, globalization, political/ethnic/social cleavages, parliamentary systems, presidential systems, supranational organizations, political culture, head of state, head of government, regime, GDP, purchasing power parity, coup d’etat, patron-client network, pluralism, legitimacy, rule of law, ideology, political socialization, reform, revolution, substantive (liberal) and procedural (illiberal) democracies, privatization, transparency, corruption, social movement, federalism, unicameral or bicameral (legislature) unitary system, NGO (non-governmental organization), ethno-nationalism, bureaucracy, technocrat, policy and policymaking, political party, linkage institution, media, constitutionalism, referendum, initiative, civil liberties, electoral systems.

**Part Three:** For the 7 countries we will study in this class (see first paragraph) research and come up with **3 to 5** interesting things that you learned about each country.

**Part Four:** Subscribe to the Teaching Comparative notification of the day! Yes, even though you are not a teacher, provide your e-mail address and receive articles every single day that address ONLY the topics on the AP Comparative Government & Politics exam. The site is maintained by Ken Wedding, a professor and College Board consultant (so he knows the test).

<http://compgovpol.blogspot.com/>

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