

Course Description and Expectations for AP Comparative Government & Politics (SS56)

“Today, no walls can separate humanitarian or human rights crises in one part of the world from national security crises in another. What begins with the failure to uphold the dignity of one life all too often ends with a calamity for entire nations.”

More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together.”

■ Course Description ■

Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics provides an introduction to the diversity of governments and political practices in the world today. The course will include the study of specific countries and their governments, as well as general concepts used to interpret political relationships and institutions. You will critically analyze a variety of information, including historical, socio-economic, and current political trends with the purpose of gaining well-rounded and insightful perspectives on each of six nations and their relationship to one another, including: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Peoples’ Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the course, you will apply the terminology and language associated with the comparative study of international politics by writing analytical and interpretive essays that draw connections between the political and social institutions of each nation.

Throughout the one year Comparative Politics course, you will be constantly challenged and provided with analytical and descriptive tools whereby they may immerse themselves in the political reality of each country.

~ Kofi Annan

You will also participate in the Model United Nations Program, which is both integrated into the curriculum of the course and an extra-curricular activity. Primarily outside of class, you will conduct extensive research into their respective countries and write concise policy statements reflecting their country’s policy position on current, real-world issues. As a culmination of intensive research, writing, revision, and rehearsal, you will represent four countries during two separate Model U.N. conferences.



■ How you will succeed in the Course ■

1. Attend class
2. Take notes & participate
3. Read assigned materials on time
4. Use class time wisely
5. Ask for help if you need it
6. Study for the exams

■ Course Materials ■

1. Class Text
2. Half-inch binder specifically for this class
3. Binder Dividers
4. Loose-leaf notebook paper only (spiral bound paper will not be accepted)
5. Pens (Most writing collected for a grade must be in pen or typed.)
6. Assigned readings (photocopied)

■ Behavioral Expectations ■

1. Respect the right of others to learn
2. Arrive to class on time, with the required materials and a positive attitude
3. materials and a positive attitude
4. The use of profanity, racial, ethnic, or sexual slurs will not be tolerated.
5. Follow established classroom and school-wide procedures

■ Consequences of Not Meeting Expectations ■

1. Warning
2. I.C.R. and/or Parental contact
3. Parental contact and referral to administration
4. Behavior Contract
5. Removal from the Course

■ Late Work Policy ■

I do not accept late work. All assignments and exams are placed on the calendar at least two weeks prior. You must make up all major assignments and exams in advance. For example, if a project is due on a specific date and you are absent on the due date, you must submit the project prior to your absence or you will receive a zero. Missing the due date will not excuse you from the responsibility of submitting your work.

■ Quizzes/Exams ■

There will be a quiz approximately every week and an exam every two to four weeks, both primarily focusing on material from lectures, notes, readings and films viewed in class.

■ Homework ■

Given that Comparative Government is an Advance Placement course, you should expect to have reading and/or writing assignments that will need to be completed at home. It is expected you will have minimum of approximately 45 to 60 minutes of homework each night, most of which will be reading.

■ Grading ■

Grades are based on a straight percentage:

100-90% = A

89-80% = B

79-70% = C

69-60% = D

59% or lower = F

Quizzes & Tests: ~ 40% of total grade

Homework & Projects: ~ 40% of total grade

Written Assignments: ~ 20% of total grade

Term 40% + Term 40% + Final 20% = Semester Grade

■ Online Resources ■

www.governmentteacher.com or

<http://www2.mpsaz.org/rmhs/staff/trbrimhall/>

Through my websites, students and parents have the ability to easily access a calendar, assignments, and grades. All assignments online are password protected by unit; these will be given in-class or you may e-mail to request access. You may directly view grades for all your classes, as well as attendance records, at <https://mymps.mpsaz.org/>. Grades are updated in real time, appearing as they are entered.

■ Contact Information ■

School phones are programmed ring directly to voicemail. You may leave a voicemail message by dialing my phone at (480) 472-8162 and I will return your call at the earliest opportunity. You may also reach me via e-mail, at trbrimha@mpsaz.org.