****A.P. Comparative Government & Politics**

***Summer Assignment***

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**Teacher Web Page with Links to assignment**

**may be found on the TRHS Home Page – Teacher Web Pages**

*“The 21st century has taught us that we cannot ignore the world around us. Happenings around the globe now directly impact our lives, and social studies teachers and students around the country face the challenge of interpreting complex, puzzling events. The AP comparative course focuses on government and politics in other countries and provides a theoretical framework to compare political systems around the world.” – Ethel Wood*

***Course Description:*** Advanced Placement Comparative Government & Politics is a college level course designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts, theories, and practices of political science, comparative politics, and international relations. This course emphasizes the comparison of history, political cultures, institutions, constitutions, political parties and interests groups as a way to understand the processes and outcomes of political systems in various pre-determined countries. The core concepts of AP Comparative Government & Politics will focus around the examination and investigation of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, the United States, and Russia.

Students who enroll in this course will:

1. develop a working understanding of the major comparative political concepts, themes, and generalizations.
2. analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government & politics
3. compare and contrast political institutions and processes across countries and the world

**Summer Assignment – Complete all four sections.**

**I.** **Assemble a Comparative Government 3 ring Binder** containing the following sections: *Vocabulary,* *Briefing Papers*, *United Kingdom*, *Russia*, *China*, *Nigeria*, *Mexico,* and *Iran.* Use dividers between sections

**II.** **Read *A.P. Comp Government & Politics Briefing Paper: Democratization* and answer the study guide questions**. As you read this please highlight and make comments in the margin. Comments may include reactions, questions, and recognition of the six major themes associated with the curriculum. You can also The six themes are:

* **i.** *The Comparative Method*
* **ii*.*** *Sovereignty, Authority, & Power*
* **iii**. *Political & Economic Change*
* **iv.** *Citizens, Society, &* the State
* **v.** Political Institutions
* **vi.** *Public Policy*

Upon our return to school in the fall we will be having class discussions on this briefing paper sometime during first two weeks of class. I will also collect the study guide questions. Link to Democratization Briefing Paper:

<http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/repository/ap05_comp_govpol_demo_42252.pdf>

**III. Core Vocabulary**

One of the greatest challenges in the AP Comparative Government Course is to develop your political science vocabulary. Many of these terms may appear familiar, but it will be important to understand and use them correctly in apolitical science context. Using the course book, the briefing paper, and sites listed below as sources begin to create an A.P. Comp. Government & Politics Vocabulary Tab. We will continue to add to this as the year progresses, and it will be helpful as you prepare for the exam. You should write definitions in your own words – do not just cut and paste.

Democracy

Democratization

Illiberal Democracy

Communism

Command Economy

Totalitarianism

Authoritarianism

Civil Society

Political culture

Political Efficacy

Legitimacy

Transparency

European Union

Suprantional Organization

Globalization

Sovereignty

State

Nation

Nation-states

Political Institutions

Political socialization

Political/social cleavages

**Helpful Websites for Political Science Terms**

<http://www.uiowa.edu/policult/politick2000/polisci.nelson.com/glossary.html>

<http://www.auburn.edu/~johnspm/gloss/political_science>

<http://www.socialsciencedictionary.com/>

<http://www.democracy.org.au/glossary.html>

**IV. Core Country Awareness**

The A.P. Comp Government & Politics Curriculum focuses on six core countries (Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Mexico, and Nigeria). It is important for you to have a basic understanding of these six nations and the EU. You should regularly read and watch world and domestic news stories so that you have a foundation for your study of comparative politics.

During the summer **collect, read, and annotate three news articles per country**. These articles should provide you with information about significant political, economic, and/or foreign policy issues which confront each of these nations. Articles may be from newspapers, magazines, and/or the internet. Possible sources include but are not limited to:

* New York Times – [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
* Washington Post - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>
* Time magazine – [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)
* BBC – [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)
* China Daily - <http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/>
* Moscow Times - <http://www.themoscowtimes.com/index.php>

As you read each article please highlight and make comments in the margin. Comments can and should include reactions, questions, and recognition of the six major themes associated with the curriculum. These will be collected and I will be reading your comments and insights