AP US and Comparative Government Curriculum

PURPOSE:

- To prepare students to take the 2-part national Advanced Placement test in US and Comparative Government. Your score on this test may be considered for credit and/or placement, subject to the policies of your college/university.
- To fulfill the Civics credit required for graduation from a Connecticut High School
- To equip and empower students for active, informed, and influential US and global citizenship.
- To develop intellectual and academic skills.

OBJECTIVES:

A. Knowledge

US Government - 1st half of course

- The provisions of the Constitution and its amendments, as well as the fundamental principles on which it is based
- Liberties and Rights within our system
- Government Institutions: structures and functions of the chief federal institutions Congress, the Presidency, the Executive Bureaucracy and the courts as well as their workings, power, and linkages
- **Politics**: "who gets what, when, how" formation of political opinion, the election process, roles of parties, interest groups, and the modern media.
- **Policy:** How the public policy under which we live economic, social, foreign is shaped by institutions and politics
- Important recent and current issues, and how they relate to all of the above structures; important Supreme Court decisions

Comparative Government – 2nd half of course

- Fundamentals of comparative political theory
- Principles of the political process, including the development of political culture, how interests come together as a political force, and patterns in government structure and policy-making
- Institutions, politics, and policy of six governmental systems: British, Chinese, Mexican, Iranian, Russian, and Nigerian
- Major themes current in comparative politics, esp. the importance of informal
 political structures, the view that governance and politics is more about change
 than stasis, and the central role of economics in shaping political power; trends in
 democratization and globalization; structures and roles of supra-national
 organizations
- Important current and recent issues, and how they relate to all of the above structures

B. Specific 21st Century Skills Emphasis

Critical reading and listening; clear written, oral, and graphic communication; reasoning (both deductive and inductive analysis); graphic analysis; prediction; research; citizenship skills; adherence to high standards of quality work

C. Habits of Mind Development

Problem solving; analysis of multiple perspectives; open-mindedness and negotiation; goal-setting, perseverance, and organization; sense of citizenship duty and empowerment

COURSE CIRCUMSTANCES

This course is designed to prepare you for both the AP US Government exam and the AP Comparative Government exam. It is credited as "a course and a half". Because we meet "double" in the first semester, and one block in the second semester *and* because in terms of preparing for the exam, new material must be completed by April break, our half-way point is actually shortly after Thanksgiving. The schedule can bear only a minor amount of slippage.

The grades you receive in this course are weighted in two ways:

1st, for the purposes of GPA, class standing, honor roll, etc., the grade that appears on your report card is applied as if it were a full letter grade higher. Thus a B- in this course should be considered comparable to an A- in a non-AP course.

2nd, since this course is a credit and a half, the value of the grade in this course is weighted similarly for GPA calculations.

METHOD AND STYLE

Students are expected to read and make meaning from the textbooks independently.

- Approximately 25% of classroom time is driven by student requests for clarification of the text material, including scheduled *Question Time*
- Another 15% of classroom time is used for regular testing to keep us on the reading schedule (*Reading Accountability Quizzes* or RAQs); these mimic the format of the AP exams, with a balance of multiple choice, identification-application, and free response questions that are scored like the AP questions, i.e., points are given only for sufficient citation of specific items asked for in the prompt.
- The remainder of the class time is used for such things as:
 - reading news articles and discussion of current events, especially as they relate to the material studied
 - student presentations based on supplemental reading, research, or experience
 - research and writing of a substantive *political* analysis of a piece of legislation
 - analysis of how AP free response questions are structured and graded
 - viewing of pertinent films and media
 - drill exercises (recitation, puzzles, games) to reinforce material that must be committed to memory (Constitutional structure, court cases, current office holders, bureaucratic agencies)

- review exercises

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OVERVIEW OF COMBINED COURSE

	T1 0	C4-1-4-1-4-1-1-1-1	TIC
	July &	Students choose one of 3 books to read	US
PREP	Aug	Students comment on articles on website	US & Comp
I IXLI		Students read background handout	Gen'l,
			Comp
	Sept –	Read through entire US text;	US
	Dec	17 RAQs, 1 quiz, 4 unit tests	
	Oct-Nov	Research and prepare political analysis and	US
		predictions on a current piece of legislation	
US	November	Travel to Washington w/ rest of Senior class,	US
		special activity (Visit to congressional	
	Jan	office?) Midterm – Mock complete US AP Exam	US
	Dec	Introduction/review of Comparative Poli Sci	US & Comp
	Dec	terms; review introductory chapters of text;	OS & Comp
		test on introductory material	
	W. Break	Gather current articles on assigned countries	Comp
	Jan –	†	•
	Jan – Mar	Read through text and supplemental	Comp
COMP	Mar	materials on six countries; 6 Unit Tests	
Сомр	Jan – Mar		IIC 0 C
	Jan – Mar	Read AP provided Poli Sci sources/briefing	US & Comp
	Fouler	papers Derive/outionlets/ourly companyative	US & Comp
	Early	Derive/articulate/apply comparative	US & Comp
	April	principles	Comm
	Late April	Research and present a graphic comparison	Comp
	Late April	of a specific policy area in the Comp 6 Review exercises –	US & Comp
DEVIEW	_		US & Comp
REVIEW	– early	Creation of charts, analysis and connections,	
-	May	anticipation of questions, drills on specifics 2 AP Exams	IIC & Comp
EXAMS	MAY 14		US & Comp
	Late May	Debriefing/ feedback to teacher for course	
FINISH		improvement	
1 1141311	Late May	View and discuss films relating to	
	– June	government and politics	

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US GOVERNMENT PORTION OF CLASS IN DETAIL:

RESOURCES:

Primary Text: Lowi, Ginsberg, and Shepsle American Government: Power and Purpose, 11th Edition (2010) and 12th Edition (2012). We will read this text literally from coverto-cover.

Summer reading: students choose one of the following three books to read over the summer. Roughly the same number of students read each book, and they present its salient points at the beginning of the year:

- Alderman, Ellen & Caroline Kennedy. *In Our Defense: The Bill of Rights in Action*. William Morrow, 1991.
- Gergen, David. Eyewitness to Power. Simon & Schuster, 2000.
- Matthews, Chris. *Hardball*. Free Press, 1988.

Supplemental Readings:

- 1. The Constitution of The United States
- 2. Federalist 10, 51, & 78
- 3. A recent Supreme Court decision
- 4. Summary of ideas put forth in Garrett Hardin's *The Tragedy of The Commons* (De Young, R. (1999)

and frequent periodical articles chosen for timeliness, importance, applicability, and interest.

Other Supplementals:

- Exercises on recognizing logical fallacies from S. Morris Engel's <u>With Good</u> Reason
- Episodes of *The West Wing*. In general *West Wing* episodes are incorporated at times when 1) they work with what we're studying and 2) for some reason or other, the classroom climate calls for a break. Episodes likely to be shown are
 - "Isaac & Ishmael" Season 3 beginning, unnumbered
 - The Documentary that interweaves the comments of former White House staffers with scenes from the series Season 3, Episode 18
 - "Mr. Willis of Ohio" Season 1, Episode 6
 - "Celestial Navigation" Season 1, Episode 10
 - "Let Bartlett be Bartlett" Season 1, Episode 19
 - "Take out the Trash Day" Season 1, Episode 13
 - "In This White House" Season 2 Episode 5
 - "Debate Camp" Season 4, Episode 5

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[©] The assessment of whether or not a break is called for will rest solely with the teacher. That would be me.

Web Resources:

Course Website for announcements, questions, review, useful links, whatever http://blogs.rsd13ct.org/govworld

Also

- Visit to http://votesmart.org/ website to look at "political courage" tests
- Visit to http://www.opensecrets.org/ website for a look at its analysis of where support of current office holders/committee members originates
- A website questionnaire that places respondents on a political spectrum such as http://www.ideolog.org/ or http://www.politicalcompass.org/
- A website that allows students to experiment with different strategies for putting together an electoral college victory: http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/electoral/
- The State of the Union Address

SCHEDULE:

Text readings and RAQ schedule (estimated dates for SY 2012-2013)

(A scheduled "Question Time" occurs in the class preceding each RAQ; students are strongly encouraged to complete the reading before Question Time as student questions shape the discussion – no questions, no discussion. Bear in mind, however, that there is no assurance that all RAQ material will be addressed in class before the RAQ. 1)

Reading	RAQ Date	Topic – Incl. concepts/details	Other activities in this time period
Ch. 1	Sept 5	5 Principles of Politics –purpose and categories of gov't	Quiz on summer reading
pgs. 2-32		collective action problem (s)principal-agent relationships	Book teams present summaries of salient points from summer reading
Ch. 2	Sept 11	 Founding and Constitution − Brief historical review of events leading to Constitutional convention 	Analysis of Free Response grading from 1 st RAQ
34-72		 Structure of Constitution The amendments, and a way of classifying them 	Suppl. Rdg 1: Constitution; Federalist 10
			Development of class mnemonic for Constitutional structure

¹ In case this isn't clear, every attempt is being made to, yes, **FORCE** you to do the reading. This is because it is very clear that the **single most determinative variable** affecting student performance on the exam is whether a student *actually does* the reading or simply free-rides on class discussion.

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Ch. 3 pgs 74-109	Sep 18	Limits: Federalism and Separation of Powers • Federalism in different eras (role of commerce clause; marble cake federalism, cooperative, etc.) • Use of federal money to influence state behavior (drinking age, NCLB) • Devolution • 1 st look at relationship among branches, divided gov't, checks & balances	Suppl. Rdg 2: Federalist 51 & 78 WW: Isaac & Ishmael 9/12 Begin work on Rights and Liberties/ cases material Constitution Day recognition Sept 17
Ch. 4 Pgs. 110-173	Sep 25	 Limits: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Def of Civil Liberties (protection of discourse, the rights of the accused) Barron, the 14th Amendment & Incorporation Basis of Right to Privacy assertion Expansion of equal protection concept to gov't protection of access, etc./ Civil Rights 	Supp.l Rdg 3: Groups read/present info on evolution of court cases relating to specific civil liberties (Prior Restraint, or right to counsel, e.g.) Drill on some Supreme Court cases
Unit	Con 27	FOUNDATIONS (including CONSTRUCTOR	
TEST	Sep 27	FOUNDATIONS (including CONSTITUTIO	ON)
	Oct. 4	Congress – structure • Constitutional/structural fundamentals • Committee, caucus, leadership structures • Formal and informal advantages of	Work on paper tracing current piece of legislation including sponsors, committees, interest group influence
TEST Ch. 5a Pgs.		Congress – structure • Constitutional/structural fundamentals • Committee, caucus, leadership structures	Work on paper tracing current piece of legislation including sponsors, committees, interest group

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Ch. 7 Pgs. 284-322	Oct 21	 Executive Bureaucracy Def. and discussion of bureaucracy Cabinet depts., regulatory agencies, gov't corporations Bureaucratic behavior The Iron Triangle relationship Ways in which the bureaucracy affects legislation, administrative legislation 	Review and drill on major departments & agencies, their acronyms, and their functions; as well as current office holders and Supreme Court Justices – quiz October 19
Ch. 8 Pgs. 324-374	Oct 27	 Judicial Branch Civil v. Criminal law US Court structure (State, District, Appeals, Supreme) What brings a case to the Supreme Court Hearing and Opinion procedures Strict v. loose constructionist interpretations 	Begin identification of and work on domestic public policy issue for class position paper More Court Case drill
UNIT	Oct 31	Institutions	•
LEST			
TEST Ch 9 Pgs.	Nov 3	 Public Opinion Political Socialization Voting structures and patterns 	On-line political opinion survey exercise
Ch 9 Pgs. 378-418		 Political Socialization Voting structures and patterns Polling – types, role of 	Survey exercise On-line electoral college
Ch 9 Pgs.	Nov 3 Nov 9	Political SocializationVoting structures and patterns	survey exercise

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Ch. 12 Pgs. 522-558	Nov 23	 Groups and Interests Function of interest groups in a democracy Identification of some major interest groups Techniques used to influence outcomes Role of lobbyists The Prisoner's Dilemma Initiative and Referendum process 	This may or may not be coordinated with a class project – kinda depends on what evolves.
Ch 13 Pgs. 560-596	Nov 30	 The Media Nature of relationship between gov't and media Law (Prior restraint, libel) Changes in media restrictions, freedoms, forms Media framing Rise and effect of adversarial journalism 	
Unit Test	Dec 2	POLITICS IN THE US	
Ch. 14 Pgs. 600-632	Dec 8	Policy: Economic The nature of Policy (durability, limitations) Gov't commitment to facilitating commerce and investment; expectations about gov't oversight of economy Budget process; deficit & how it is funded Fiscal policy; Tax policy Monetary policy' role of the FED	Suppl. Rdg 5: summary of The Tragedy of the Commons Exercise filling out a 1040 Exercise involving analysis of current budget figures
Ch. 15 Pgs. 634-668	Dec 14	 Policy: Social Contributory v. non-contributory programs Def: entitlements; moral hazard; means testing Social Security projections & proposed solutions Devolution (TANF) 	Exercise in which students compare how they would grade an AP free response question to how the questions were actually graded

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Ch. 16	Dec 20	Policy: Foreign	Brief paper due Dec 16
Pgs. 670-703		 Foreign policy role/powers (formal & informal) of president and legislature Bilateral and multilateral treaties Philosophies of foreign policy; eras of American foreign policy 	describe and comment on varied analyses of a current element of Foreign Policy (<i>not</i> Iraq or other prominent military issue)
UNIT TEST	Dec 22	PUBLIC POLICY	

ASSESSMENT- QUARTERS 1 AND 2:

Quarter grades are based on:

- performance on the regular RAQ exercises which typically comprise
 - --- 10 to 12 multiple choice questions, (40-45%)
 - ---3 to 4 define and apply items, (20-30%)
 - ---a free response question which is constructed and scored like the free response questions on the AP exam
- performance on unit tests which typically comprise
 - --- 25 multiple choice questions (50%)
 - --- 2 AP style free response questions (25% each)
- Papers and presentations (Legislation paper, Q1 15%)
- Responsible performance of smaller tasks (summer work, contributing articles, supplemental readings; etc.)
- Participation (active involvement in groups, class public policy project, discussion)

COMPARATIVE PORTION OF CLASS IN DETAIL:

RESOURCES:

Primary Text: Comparative Politics Today: A World View, 7th Ed. Almond, Powell, Strom and Dalton. Longman: 8th edition, 2006.

Secondary & Review Texts:

Sodaro, Michael. Comparative Politics; A Global Introduction. McGraw Hill, 2004.

Wedding, Ken. *The AP Comparative Government and Politics Examination: What you Need to Know.* College City Publications, 2010.

Supplemental Readings:

• Fukuyama, Francis. "Civil Society and Improved Governance in Developing Countries". Address to Brookings Institution, 20 March 2007.

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- Marx, Karl. "The Communist Manifesto." (excerpts) 1848.
 Lenin, Vladimir. "What is to be Done" (excerpts), 1902.
- Krain, Matthew. "Briefing Paper: Globalization." College Board, 2005.
- Beer, Caroline. "Briefing Paper: Mexico." College Board, 2005.
- Boroujerdi, Mehrzad. "Iran Briefing Paper." College Board, 2005.
- Powell, G. Bingham and Powell, Eleanor. "Briefing Paper: Democratization." College Board, 2005.
- Kaiser, Paul. "Nigeria Briefing Paper." College Board, 2005.

Frequent periodical articles chosen for timeliness, importance, applicability, and interest.

Other Supplementals

- A broadcast of Parliamentary "Question Time"
- Interview, Pakistani Political Scientist Rabia Ali (recorded at our school in 2005)
- Video on the History of Oil and Petrodollars by Robert Newman http://www.indybay.org/uploads/history_of_oil.ram

APPROACH:

This portion of the course is organized around sequential study of the six countries. It opens with a brief introduction which prompts students to derive, name, and define structures and principles that they had seen in the US portion of the course, and which lays basic definitional groundwork for Comparative Politics. Most of the other conceptual material - eg. corporatism, patron-client networks, rent seeking, etc. – is introduced in the context of states which effectively illustrate them. As each new concept is discussed, class time is used to connect it to other concepts and apply it to other situations. The major AP briefing papers are similarly woven into the six-country study. At the end of the six-country sequence, we go back to reinforce those concepts (and pick up any which may have been missed).

In this portion, the structures of the tests, which may be called RAQs or may acquire other names, will still have the structure parallel to the AP exam – multiple choice questions, identifications similar to the brief free response questions now included in the exam , and longer free response questions with points given only for sufficient citation of specific items asked for in the prompt,. Some of these are actual questions from previous AP exams while others are teacher constructed. This testing, though, is less frequent than in the first half, with one test per country unit.

Throughout the course, domestic and international current events are discussed, particularly as appropriate and applicable to material.

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SCHEDULE:

Text readings and reading accountability quizzes (RAQ) approximate schedule

Winter	Break		
	DICAR	Each student finds and reads 5 articles on one of the 6 study countries; students with the same country split up specific focus topics (politics, foreign relations, economics, social policy)	
Sodaro Ch 3	Quiz on terms Jan 6	Derivation of Political Science terms already strongly illustrated in US portion of course such as — Federalism Political Socialization Interest Aggregation Civil Society Bureaucracy Essential Vocab for Comparative such as regime v. state v. gov't v. nation sovereignty legitimacy Parliamentary systems normative v. empirical analysis	Read and highlight AP course description Teacher prepared explanation of analytical techniques and hypothesis testing
Sodaro Ch. 15 pgs 342 to 385	Jan 13	 The British System— System w/no written Constitution British electoral system; parties Parliamentary structure; role of party in parliamentary leadership; collective responsibility, backbenchers; confidence vote; relationship to Whitehall Eras in British politics, Thatcherism, The Third Way, the Euro debate Devolution 	Country groups share articles amongst themselves; put together overview to present to rest of class View a recent Question Time Suppl Rdg 1: Fukuyama on Civil Society

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Almond Ch. 14 pgs 456 to 499	Early February	 The Iranian System— Relationship between Islam and legitimacy Historical background; Mossadegh, 1979 Revolution Gov't structure, role of Supreme Leader, role of Guardian Council Oil revenues, rentier state economics Shifting of power between Ulema and modernizers Control of information v. internet Foreign relations, nuclear development stand-off 	Suppl Rdg 5: BP on Iran Rabia Ali Interview
Almond Ch. 9 pgs 206 to 250	Before Feb Break	 The Chinese System— Historical background, guardianship Communism and Statism; mass line, democratic centralism, Mao and phases of Maoism (Cultural Rev, etc.) Parallel structures of party and state; policy process Deng, gradualism, economic change Political change and Tienanmen Sq; what rights are protected, which aren't Integration into global economy, control v. internet, likely impact of Olympics Relations w/Hong Kong, Taiwan 	Suppl Rdgs 2: Marx & Lenin Suppl Rdg 3: BP on Globalization
Almond Ch 10 Pgs. 254 to 305	Mar 2	 The Mexican System— Historical background; Constitution; Cardenas era; PRI hegemony and stages/causes of its erosion Gov't structure Influence of global economics: proximity to US, oil, NAFTA Geographic and class cleavage Policy process, corporatism, patronclient politics Analysis of recent elections Democracy or not? 	Suppl Rdg 4: BP on Mexico Students begin work analyzing a current Political Science debate – topics such as the Clash of Civilizations, Dependency Theory, Neoconservative Policy, Modernization Theory, responses to WTO

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Sodaro Ch. 19 Pgs. 526 to 574	Mar 19	 The Russian System— Legacy of Authoritarianism Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Gorbachev Transition, shock therapy Current Russian governmental/political system; economics Chechnya, Oligarchs, Federalism or centralist? 	Suppl Rdgs 6: On Putin and on Illiberal Democracy Suppl Rdg 7: BP on Democratization	
Almond Ch. 11 pgs 310 to 358	Apr 9	The Nigerian System— • Demographic make-up and cleavages • Historical sequence; Biafran war, democracy alternating w/military dictatorship (Abiola, Abacha) • Federalism; consociational structures • The impact of oil; unrest in the Niger Delta • Distributive justice • Democracy?	Suppl Rdg 8: BP on Nigeria Comparison of the consociational challenges of Nigeria, as well as challenges about distribution of oil revenue, to Iraq Oil Video	
Sodaro Ch 9 207 to 228		Pulling it all together – Comparative Politics (and the European Union) • Review of terms and concepts and their application (see list below) • Discussion of yield from Political Science debate papers • The European Union; structure, challenges, controversies	Paper summarizing positions in a current policy debate in one of the AP six due April 13 ; students report on these to others Suppl Rdg 9: EU Expansion	
Apr 23 to May 14 Wedding Complete		Review for exams – a variety of student and teacher generated and shared comparison charts, applications of terms, practice structuring and supporting analytical essays, vocabulary lists, practice tests, and drill games.		
Tues, N	May 15	US and Comparative Government AP Exams		
May – June		Debriefing and discussion for improvement of subsequent classes Political films (mostly US)		

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Summary of structures, concepts, movements, and principles that are discussed and applied as they come up naturally during the process of studying the six countries:

Authoritarianism Majority v. Plurality Systems
Centerist State Majoritarian Two Party Systems

Charismatic Leadership Modernization Theory
Civil Society Nation Building
Cleavage Nation-State
Client State Nationalism

Collective Security Night Watchman State

Command Economy Neoliberalism Consociational structures Nomenklatura

Corporatism Normative v. Empirical analysis

Debt Service Parastatal
Democratic Centralism Pluralism

Democratization Political Socialization

Dependency Ratio Prebendalism

Dependency Theory Regime v. State v. Gov't v. Nation

Devolution Rent Seeking
Distributive Policies Rentier State
Elite Recruitment Rule of Law

Extractive Policies Single Member v. Proportional

Federalism Legislatures
Globalization Sovereignty
Gradualism Statism

Guardianship Sunshine Laws
Illiberal Democracy Supranationaism
IMF Totalitarianism
Interest Aggregation Unitary System
Interest Articulation Welfare State

Legitimacy WTO

Mass Line

• Films for the period after the exams may include:

Lions for Lambs

Thank You for Smoking

Can Mr. Smith Get to Washington Anymore?

Wag the Dog

All the President's Men

Shattered Glass Primary Colors

Dave

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