

AP® Comparative Government and Politics

SSTH 073 056

Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours / NCAA

Course Description

This course teaches students the tools and methods that political scientists use to analyze governments in different countries. Students apply these techniques while exploring the political systems of Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Iran, Nigeria, and the United States. While learning about the structures and functions of government in each of these countries, students also evaluate how the trends of globalization, democratization, and marketization are influencing countries around the world. The course will prepare students for the College Board AP® Comparative Government and Politics examination and is intended for students who have an in-depth interest in world affairs. Students are NOT required to take the College Board® examination to receive credit for the course from UNHS.

Graded Assessments: 5 Unit Evaluations; 3 Projects; 3 Proctored Progress Tests

Course Objectives

There are specific objectives in each lesson, but the ultimate goal is that, by the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the three main areas of comparative politics (analytical concepts, methods, and ideals).
2. Apply qualitative and quantitative research methods in the study of political systems.
3. Understand subjective and objective analysis of political situations.
4. Identify political attitudes.
5. Discuss political ideologies.
6. Summarize the historic development of modern states.
7. Assess the government, regime, institutions, and political systems of a state.
8. Evaluate the processes and policies of different states' regimes.
9. Determine where a country falls on the balance of freedom and equality.
10. Contrast the systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors of democratic countries with those of non-democratic ones.
11. Compare the systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors of developing countries, and compare those countries to developed ones.
12. Use maps, charts, statistics, and other data to analyze different countries.
13. Interpret text-based sources relating to comparative politics.

14. Develop your own views about political matters.

15. Defend and support your own political views and interpretations in essay format.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Comparative Concepts

Teacher Connect 1

Lesson 1: Introduction to Comparative Politics

Lesson 2: States

Unit 1 Evaluation

Teacher Connect 2

Unit 2: Political Principles

Lesson 3: Nations and Society

Lesson 4: Political Economy

Lesson 5: Political Violence

Unit 2 Evaluation

Teacher Connect 3

Progress Test 1

Unit 3: Democracies

Lesson 6: Democratic Regimes

Lesson 7: How Democracies Function

Lesson 8: Case Study: The United Kingdom

Unit 3 Evaluation

Teacher Connect 4

Project 1

Unit 4: Nondemocratic States

Lesson 9: Nondemocratic Regimes

Lesson 10: Case Study: Russia

Lesson 11: Case Study: China

Unit 4 Evaluation

Teacher Connect 5

Project 2

Review for Progress Test 2

Unit 5: Developing Countries

Lesson 12: Issues of Development

Lesson 13: Case Study: Iran

Lesson 14: Case Study: Mexico

Lesson 15: Case Study: Nigeria

Unit 5 Evaluation

Teacher Connect 6

Project 3

Review for Progress Test 3

Required Textbook and Materials

(available through Follett virtual bookstore - <https://www.bkstr.com/nebraskahighschoolstore>)

Textbook: O'Neill, Patrick. *Essentials of Comparative Politics with Cases. Sixth AP® Edition*. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2018. ISBN 9780393639278