2019 Advanced Placement® Comparative Government and Politics

About the AP® Comparative Government and Politics Summer Institute
This is an exciting time to be an AP Comparative Government and Politics teacher, whether new or experienced, as it is one of the most interesting, dynamic courses taught in high school. This class will focus on how to teach the comparative method using the six required case studies of China, Great Britain, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria and Russia. We will concentrate on comparing political systems through the lens of policy by reviewing essential content along with developing lesson plans that maximize student engagement. Emphasis will be placed on constructing formative and summative assessments that help students learn the essential concepts and political skills necessary to be successful on the AP exam. Participants will also be introduced to a wide array of resources that will facilitate the teaching of the course including textbooks, websites, videos, outside readings, and the new digital AP dashboard.

Daily Schedule:
Day One: Overview of Exam and College Board Resources
  Topic Focus 1: The Comparative Method
  Topic Focus 2: Democratization
  Case Study Comparison: Great Britain and Iran
  Simulation: Preparation for Executive Briefing

Day Two: Multiple Choice Strategies and Quantitative Analysis
  Topic Focus: Political and Economic Change
  Case Study Comparison: Russia and China
  Simulation: Business Plan

Day Three: Writing Strategies for the AP Comparative Exam
  Topic Focus: Economic Development
  Case Study Comparison: Mexico and Nigeria
  Simulation: AP Reading

Day Four: Review Strategies and Research Projects
  Topic Focus: Public Policy
  Case Study Comparison: the AP Comparative 6
  Simulation: Executive Briefing

What to bring:
Items you should bring during the week include:
  • a laptop computer or tablet (essential for sharing information!)
  • a favorite lesion to share
  • a copy of your school’s academic calendar
  • a copy of the textbook you will be using next year (if you have access to one)
  • comfortable clothes and shoes for walking in the summer heat
  • a light sweatshirt or sweater in case you get chilly in the AC

Instructor:
Suzanne Bailey has been teaching AP Government since 1989. She currently teaches AP U.S. and Comparative Government and Politics as well as AP Micro and Macroeconomics at Virgil Grissom High School in Huntsville, Alabama. For each of the past three years Ms. Bailey has led the state of Alabama in the number of students taking the AP Government national exam. Her open enrollment policy, coupled with her teaching strategies, has enabled many students to have the opportunity to be successful in a rigorous college-level class. As a Lead Teacher for the Alabama A+ College Ready Program, Ms. Bailey is currently engaged in

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expanding AP Government courses for teachers and students across the state of Alabama in partnership with the Alabama Department of Education and a number of humanities and civics-related organizations. She conducts AP Government teacher training as well as presenting Saturday review sessions for AP Government students. In addition, Ms. Bailey is a current member of the College Board Instructional Design Team for AP Comparative Government and Politics after serving on the Test Development Committee from 2006 until 2014. As the College Board Advisor for Comparative, she edited two AP Workshop Curriculum Modules and made presentations at the National AP, NCSS, and APSA Teaching and Learning Conferences. Ms. Bailey has participated in the AP Government Reading since 2000 as a Reader and Table Leader and has served as a Question Leader for AP Comparative Government and Politics since 2007. A Huntsville City Schools Secondary Teacher of the Year, she earned her National Board Certification in Secondary Social Studies in 2004 and renewed it in 2014.