2020 Advanced Placement® Comparative Government and Politics

AP Comparative Government and Politics is one of the most interesting, dynamic courses taught in high school. This APSI is designed to help both new and experienced teachers focus on how to teach the comparative method using the six required case studies of China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia and the United Kingdom. We will concentrate on comparing political systems through the lens of public 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 new format of the AP Exam, with emphasis on the new types of test items.

Goals of the Institute:

- Familiarize participants with the new Curriculum Framework for the AP Comparative Government and Politics exam along with new College Board online resources.
- Assist participants in preparing a new syllabus for the Course Audit.
- Explore the new 5 units of the course and suggest methods of organizing course content.
- Demonstrate strategies to use in helping students prepare to write the redesigned free-response essays.
- Develop assessments which measure student progress for the redesigned exam.

Tentative Daily Schedule:

Day One: Understanding the Course

- Overview of College Board Resources for Equity and Access
- Topic Focus: Unit 1: Political Systems, Regimes and Government
- Disciplinary Skill Writing Lab: Quantitative Analysis Strategies
- Simulation: Executive Briefing Model

Day Two: Planning the Course

- Concept v Country Pacing Guides
- Topic Focus: Unit 2: Political Institutions
- Disciplinary Skill Writing Lab: Concept Comparison Strategies
- Simulation: Parliamentary Debate

Day Three: Teaching the Course

- How to keep up with what is going on!
- Topic Focus: Unit 3: Political Culture and Participation
  Unit 4: Parties and Elections Systems and Citizen Organizations
- Disciplinary Skill Writing Lab: Argument Essay Strategies
- Simulation: Election Simulation

Day Four: Preparing for the Exam

- Navigating Progress Checks and the Question Bank
- Topic Focus: Unit 5: Political and Economic Change and Development
- Disciplinary Skill Writing Lab: Developing Assessments
- Simulation: World Bank Simulation

What to bring:

Items you should bring during the week include:

- A laptop computer/tablet and flash-drive (essential for sharing information!)
- A favorite lesson or practice to share
- A copy of your school’s academic calendar

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• 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. 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. In addition, Ms. Bailey was a member of the College Board Instructional Design Team for AP Comparative Government and Politics after serving on the Test Development Committee from 2006 to 2014. As the College Board Advisor, she edited two AP Comparative GoPo 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 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. She is a co-author of McGraw Hill’s 5 Steps to a 5 AP Comparative Government and Politics.

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