



Advanced Placement U.S. & Comparative Government

Questions? Contact one of the current AP GOV teachers here at John Champe!

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If you are considering taking the course, please note all of the following:

- There are no prerequisites for this course, although it is recommended that students were previously enrolled and successful in a high school honors level history course (i.e. Pre-AP World History, AP World History or AP U.S. History).
- Students should expect to read and write at a college level. The AP style multiple choice and free response questions will require students to not only understand structures and functions of a diversity of governments, but analyze and interpret data and information relevant to U.S. government and politics in the first semester and six core comparative countries (Great Britain, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran) in the second semester.
- Students may choose to take the AP United States Government exam and/or AP Comparative exam in May.
- Scores of a 3, 4, or 5 on the AP United States Government Exam and/or AP Comparative Government Exam may earn college credit.

United States Government Themes

- Constitutional Underpinnings
- American Political Culture & Beliefs
- Political Participation
- Institutions of National Government
- Public Policy
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Comparative Government Themes

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Sovereignty, Authority, and Power
- Political Institutions
- Citizens, Society, and the State
- Political and Economic Change
- Public Policy

Assignments

- In class and out of class reading
- In class discussions
- Free Response Questions
- Debates and Graded Discussions
- Argumentative Essays

Assessments

- Frequent quizzes
- Timed Tests – modeled after the AP exam (multiple choice and free response)
- Classwork/ Homework

Workload

- Expect a college-level workload
- Expect daily homework
- Expect daily reading
- Expect a lot of vocabulary
- Expect to read and write on a college level.
- Expect analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.

The AP Exams

- Given in May
- AP U.S.
 - 70 multiple choice questions
 - 5 free response questions
- AP Comparative
 - 55 multiple choice questions
 - 5 short answer questions
 - 3 free response questions