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ADVANCED PLACEMENT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS 2013-2014

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- ❖ This two semester course is designed for those students who enjoy the study of government and politics, are willing to devote sufficient time to all aspects of the course, and are interested in earning **possible** college credit for their work in the course.
- ❖ Students are expected to pay the costs of their A.P. exams by the deadline established by the Guidance Office. **Failure to make full payment by the deadline may result in removal from the class.** (The fee for the first test (\$85.00) is due by September 13, 2013. The fee for the second test (\$85.00) is due by January 24, 2014. Please make checks payable to **Alma Public Schools.**)

TEXTBOOKS:

Primary Texts:

American Government (Ninth Edition); Wilson James Q. and DiIulio, John J.; Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004.

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Sixth Edition); Kesselman, Mark; Krieger, Joel; Joseph, William A.; Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2013.

Essentials of Comparative Politics; O'Neil, Patrick; W.W. Norton and Company, 2004.

Essential Readings in Comparative Politics; O'Neil, Patrick (Ed.) and Rogowski, Ronald (Ed.); W.W. Norton and Company, 2004.

Supplementary Texts:

The Federalist Papers; Hamilton, Alexander; Madison, James; Jay, John; The Penguin Group, 1961.

The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Debates; Ketchum, Ralph; The Penguin Group, 1986.

American Government: Democracy in Action; Remy, Richard C.; Glencoe, 2005.

Selected articles from The Economist.

Other essays and articles as assigned.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

The Advanced Placement (A.P.) Program offers two courses and exams in government and politics. Each is intended for qualified students who wish to complete studies in secondary school equivalent to a one-semester college introductory course in United States government and politics or in comparative government and politics.

United States Government and Politics

(Adapted from A.P. Government and Politics Course Description, The College Board, May 2010)

Through a study of A.P. United States Government and Politics, students will:

- Know important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to U.S. government and politics.
- Become familiar with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. politics.
- Become acquainted with the various theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes.
- Understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences, including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures.
- Be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to U.S. government and politics.
- Analyze and interpret the subject matter through writing.

The following topics will be studied in U.S. Government and Politics:

- **Constitutional Underpinnings of United States Government** (5-15% of A.P. exam)
 - Constitutional Convention; Ideological and philosophical traditions of the framers
 - Type of government established by the Constitution
 - Federalism
 - Separation of powers
 - Democratic theory
 - Pluralism and elitism
- **Political Beliefs and Behaviors** (10-20% of A.P. exam)
 - U.S. political culture
 - Political socialization
 - The nature, sources and consequences of public opinion
 - Political participation
 - Political consequences of beliefs and behaviors
 - Factors that influence citizens to differ from one another in terms of political beliefs and behaviors

- **Political Parties, Interest Groups, and Mass Media** (10-20 % of A.P. exam)
 - History, functions, and structures of political parties
 - Elections and voting behavior
 - Interest Groups and lobbying
 - PACs
 - Mass Media and influence on public opinion, campaigns and elections, and policymaking

- **Institutions of National Government** (35-45% of A.P. exam)
 - Institutional arrangements of the three branches
 - Formal and informal powers of Congress, the presidency, the bureaucracy, and the federal courts
 - Relationships between branches of government and political parties, interest groups, the media, and state and local governments

- **Public Policy** (5-15% of A.P. exam)
 - Formation of public policy agendas
 - Enactment of public policy
 - Implementation and interpretation of policies by bureaucracy and courts
 - Policy networks and issue networks
 - Impact of federalism, interest groups, parties, and elections on policymaking

- **Civil Rights and Civil Liberties** (5-15% of A.P. exam)
 - Significant U.S. Supreme Court decisions
 - Judicial interpretation of rights and liberties
 - Relationship between court decisions and social change (14th Amendment)

Comparative Government and Politics

(Adapted from A.P. Government and Politics Course Description, The College Board, 2010)

Through a study of A.P. Comparative Government and Politics, students will:

- Be introduced to the fundamental concepts used by political scientists to study the processes and outcomes of politics in a variety of country settings.
- Understand major comparative political concepts, themes, and generalizations.
- Understand typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences.
- Use the comparative method to identify problems and analyze policymaking.
- Use comparisons between countries and institutions to discover strengths and weaknesses and to derive generalizations.
- Know important facts pertaining to the governments of the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Mexican States, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- Be able to analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.

The following topics will be studied in Comparative Government and Politics:

- **Introduction to Comparative Politics** (5-15% of A.P. exam)
 - How and why do political scientists compare?
 - The comparative method; Normative and empirical questions
 - Globalization
 - Concepts of state, nation, regime, and government
 - Concepts of legitimacy, authority, and political power
 - Purpose of government
 - Challenges of environment, social and ethnic diversity, economic performance, and health care

- **Sovereignty, Authority, and Power** (15-25% of A.P. exam)
 - Concepts of nation and state
 - Supranational organizations
 - Sources of power
 - Forms and purposes of constitutions
 - Forms of political systems
 - Legitimacy
 - Economic systems
 - Belief systems, both ideological and religious
 - Political culture and socialization
 - Government accountability

- **Political Institutions** (30-40% of A.P. exam)
 - Formal structure and workings of states and governments; Levels of government
 - Branches of government and relationships between branches; Strengths and weaknesses of various institutional arrangements
 - Arrangements of executive power
 - Different legislative structures
 - Different legislative and executive relations
 - Judicial review; Judicial independence
 - Informal procedures
 - Elections and electoral systems
 - Parties and party systems
 - Leadership and elite recruitment
 - Interest groups and interest group systems
 - Contrasts between constitutional structure and political realities
 - Role of the military
 - Role of the bureaucracy

- **Citizens, Society, and the State** (10-20% of A.P. exam)
 - Interactions between the state and society
 - Relevance of cleavages such as ethnicity, religion, class, gender, and region
 - Ability to participate in politics; Types of political participation
 - Group participation; Social movement
 - Relationship between the media and the state and the media and society
 - Citizenship and social representation

- **Political and Economic Change** (10-20% of A.P. exam)
 - Interaction between politics and economics
 - The concept of change (reform, coups d'état, revolution, war)
 - Democratization; Reasons for breakdown of authoritarianism; Relationship of economic conditions and democratization
 - Success and shortcomings of economic policies
 - Globalization; Relationship to sovereignty
 - Supranational organizations (WTO, EU, etc.)

- **Public Policy** (5-15% of A.P. exam)
 - Analysis of policy as domestic policy and global policy
 - Economic performance / Economic development
 - Social welfare
 - Civil rights and liberties; Freedoms
 - Environment
 - Population and migration
 - Influences on policymaking
 - Comparisons of policies
 - Global pressures on policymakers from supranational organizations and international agreements (WTO, World Bank, EU, NAFTA, IMF)
 - Globalization

In addition to the above content objectives, students will also gain confidence in reading and understanding various forms of social studies texts, including academic texts, primary source documents, political cartoons, maps, graphs, and charts.

EVALUATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Social Studies Department Grading Policy:

It is the belief of the Social Studies Department that in order to prepare students for success on the Michigan Merit Exam and in the course that it is vital that the student show an acceptable knowledge of the material covered. **In order to show this desired achievement, each student is required to pass the class with a D- and also pass each chapter/unit test with a D-.** In order to accomplish this, each student will have to make a conscious effort to do all assignments and to meet deadlines.

Throughout the course you will participate in a number of activities including textbook readings, supplemental interpretive readings, book length studies, role plays, writing, and discussion. Some activities will be for a grade, others will not. **Participation in all activities is required** in order to receive full credit in the course. At minimum, you should expect the following evaluative measures:

- Four typed written papers should be expected per semester. One of the four may be rewritten in accordance with the guidelines explained on the Paper Rewrite Proposal. Papers will range in length from two to four pages. **Papers are due at the beginning of class on the date due, regardless of your classroom attendance. Late papers will not be accepted for full credit.**
- Essays on subjects covered in the course should be expected frequently (weekly). These may be timed as though they were part of the A.P. exam.
- Participation in class discussion is mandatory. Everyone should be able to contribute to class discussion at least once per class session. (See Rubric)
- Quizzes and tests will be given throughout the course. Most will be announced, some may not. Some quizzes and all tests will be timed as though they were part of the A.P. exam. Because the A.P. exam will expect you to analyze and interpret the entire content of the course (rather than simply memorizing facts), **it is expected that you will be familiar with all content areas previously studied at all times.**
- **There is no *voluntary* retesting in A.P. However, students may be required to re-take a test (or a portion of a test) in order to meet the requirements of the social studies grading policy. If required to re-take a test, no points will be granted until the re-test is completed.**
- Extra credit **may** be offered occasionally for participation in activities outside of class. For example, you may be given the opportunity to participate in a campaign or attend a college/community lecture for extra credit. Extra credit opportunities are **rare**, and will only be offered on a class-wide basis (i.e. I will not provide you with an individual extra credit assignment that is not offered to the full class). Extra credit must be completed by the date assigned. Extra credit may be used to raise your grade one step on the grading scale.

- Each student will be required to complete the current events project. Guidelines for this project will be provided to you during the first week of school. Guidelines will also be available on Moodle. (Note: You may also use Moodle to submit the project online.)
- Homework is due at the **beginning** of the block. Assignments turned in later in the block will be considered late.
 - Turning an assignment in after the deadline will result in a loss of points. Specifically:
 - An assignment turned in within 24 hours of the time it was due will result in a deduction of 50%.
 - Assignments that are more than a day late will receive completion credit, but **zero** points.
 - Formal papers are due on the due date regardless of attendance in class.
- It is your responsibility to get any work that you missed when you were absent. (See the Daily Homework blog on the Weebly site.) You will be given time to make-up your work (see guidelines in school handbook). **Any work that is due on the day you were absent will be due on the day you return to school. Make-up tests must be made up either before or after school.** You will not be allowed to make up tests during class time. Make up tests must be completed within the timelines established by the school handbook.
- Students who fail one of the two marking periods within a semester must earn a passing grade on the final exam.
- Any evidence of **cheating or plagiarism** on any course assignment will result in failure of the assignment and disciplinary action.
- Students may be eligible to be **exempt** from the final exam if they meet the guidelines stated in the student handbook.
- Your **marking period grades** for the course will be based on the following:

Homework, take home essays, Current Events Project, cooperative learning projects, and role plays	40%
Tests, quizzes, and timed free responses (essays)	40%
Formal papers	15%
Participation	5%

- Your **semester grades** for the course will be based on the following:

1 st marking period	40%
2 nd marking period	40%
Final exam	20%

THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TESTS:

- The College Board determines the A.P. test date. This year, the US Government and Politics test is on **Tuesday, May 13, 2014**. The Comparative Government and Politics test is on **Friday, May 16, 2014**. Both tests are in the morning. **ALL students will take the tests at this time.** Another teacher will proctor the tests, as I am not allowed to be in the testing site while you are testing.
- The **A.P. U.S. Government and Politics Exam** is 2 hours and 25 minutes long. It includes a 45-minute multiple-choice section consisting of 60 questions and a 100-minute free-response section consisting of 4 questions. The multiple-choice section and the free-response section have equal weight.
- The **A.P. Comparative Government and Politics Exam** is 2 hours and 25 minutes long. It includes a 45-minute multiple-choice section consisting of 55 questions and a 100-minute free-response section consisting of 8 questions. The multiple-choice section and the free response section have equal weight.
- Students will receive a separate grade for each test.
- Grades for the tests are usually distributed to you, your chosen institution of higher learning, and your high school sometime in mid-July. Receiving college credit for your performance on the test will be determined by two factors: your individual score and your institution's policies in terms of awarding A.P. credit. **Be sure to find this out as soon as possible.** (**Note:** Our school's AP Gov/Pol courses have been authorized by the College Board.)
- The test is graded on a 5 point scale, which is as follows:
 - 5 Extremely well qualified
 - 4 Well qualified
 - 3 Qualified
 - 2 Possibly qualified
 - 1 No recommendation

- The A.P. Program offers A.P. Scholar Awards to recognize high school students who have “demonstrated college-level achievement through A.P. courses and exams”. Although there is no monetary award, this achievement is acknowledged on grade reports that are sent to colleges.
 - A.P. Scholar – Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more A.P. Exams
 - A.P. Scholar with Honor – Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all A.P. Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- ❖ The A.P. Exam does not substitute for the class exam. You may be exempt from the class exam if you meet the conditions that are outlined in the student handbook.
- ❖ This is a college level class. Thus, you are expected to complete assigned readings regardless of whether or not they are “covered” in class. The more outside study you complete over the course of the year, the more likely you will perform successfully on the A.P. exam. Individual reading is also encouraged.
- ❖ You are expected to keep abreast of the current state of both U.S. politics and the politics of Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria, and Mexico. You should regularly read national newspapers and periodicals, and view national news broadcasts. Some of my favorites include The Economist, The Washington Post, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, C-SPAN’s *Road to the White House* and C-SPAN’s *Washington Journal*.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUCCESS

The following are suggestions that may be helpful to you. Previous A.P. Government and Politics students provided many of these suggestions.

- **Read the textbook.** You are responsible for knowing the information provided in your textbook regardless of whether or not we have discussed it in class. Some students find it helpful to re-read (or skim) chapters again *after* lecture. Other students find it helpful to outline/summarize chapters.
- Come to class prepared and ready to learn EVERY day.
- **Study your notes on a regular basis.** Nightly is best. Weekly is second best. It is NEVER too early to begin studying for the AP test. You must form a study routine immediately.
- Keep up on current events. Vary the topics of your Current Events Project.
- Don't forget the "basics" -- for example, memorize important Supreme Court cases, Congressional acts, and **vocabulary**. Many students find it helpful to make flashcards.
- **Stay organized.** It is recommended that you use a three ring binder for this class. Using a 3 ring binder will allow you to keep your lecture notes, handouts, and assignments in the same place. You may want to use one binder for U.S. and a different binder for Comparative.
- Complete all homework assignments to the best of your ability.
- Read the chapter summaries and critical thinking sections of the chapters, as well as the captions, charts, and graphs in the textbooks.
- Participate in class discussions.
- Know the basic structure of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Amendments.
- Be attentive during lecture, and take good notes.
- Form study groups. Attend the after-school study sessions in April.
- Manage your time wisely. Use a planner to keep track of important dates and deadlines. You will frequently get reading and homework assignments a week or more in advance. Use your planner to remember when assignments are due.
- Ask questions.
- Pay attention. Your focus during this class should be the study of government and politics, not your homework from another class or the magazine that you brought from home (for example). **Using your class time wisely increases your chances for success!**

CLASSROOM RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

In order to maintain an environment where we can learn together, I have established the following classroom rules and expectations.

- 1) BE RESPECTFUL. Your words and actions will build community. Please refrain from words and actions that destroy a personal sense of safety, disrupt community, or hinder collaboration.
- 2) COME TO CLASS PREPARED AND ON TIME. **Having to go to your locker because you are unprepared will result in a tardy.**
- 3) IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL CLASS ACTIVITIES. Your focus during this class should be government and politics, not your homework from another class or a book you've brought from home.
- 4) KEEP YOUR DESK FREE OF PERSONAL ITEMS. Purses, bags, sweatshirts, etc., need to be placed under your desk or left in your locker.
- 5) BE IN YOUR SEAT WHEN CLASS BEGINS (as determined by the classroom clock or the bell) AND STAY THERE UNTIL YOU ARE DISMISSED BY ME.
- 6) PLEASE DO NOT BRING HEADPHONES, IPODS, HAND-HELD GAMES, OR THE LIKE TO CLASS.
- 7) CELL PHONE TIER – YELLOW (TEACHER DISCRETION). Cell phones should never be used during instruction. Cell phones **might be allowed** during class, but **only** for educational purposes. Texting and social networking are not educational purposes.
- 8) CLEAN UP YOUR WORK AREA BEFORE YOU LEAVE.
- 9) BE ALERT AND LOOK ALERT. (No “lazy positions”, please!)
- 10) LIMIT YOUR USE OF PASSES. Frequent use of the hall pass will result in a loss of pass privileges. You will NOT be allowed to use the pass to get a snack or a drink. If you think you will be thirsty, bring a water bottle to class.