



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



COURSE SYLLABUS

School Year	2025-2026
Subject	AP Comparative Government & Politics
Grade Level	11-12
Teacher	Mr Andrew Hogenson
Email	ahogenson@dishs.tp.edu.tw

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this class is to learn about the governments of 6 countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, The United Kingdom, and Russia. Not only will we learn about these countries' institutions and methods of government, but we will also be comparing and contrasting between these countries. Each one has different priorities for their nation, methods of legitimacy they value, and codes of laws as well as methods for enforcing and interpreting these laws. Being able to examine data about these countries and articulate how these countries are distinct from one another is key to success in this AP exam.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester/school year, (SWBAT) Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast political concepts, themes, and generalizations across the six case studies.
- Describe and explain typical patterns of political processes and behaviors and their consequences.
- Compare, contrast, and evaluate political institutions and political processes across countries to derive generalizations and conclusions.
- Analyze and interpret basic data relevant to comparative government and politics.
- Analyze and interpret different types of primary and secondary sources of fundamental importance and relevance to topical inquiry.
- Analyze the importance of context and point of view in historical and political interpretation (e.g. interpret events and issues in context rather than in terms of national norms and values).
- Analyze and evaluate sources and interpretations (e.g. credibility, perspective, bias, and authenticity; verifiable or unverifiable; fact or interpretation).

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

Kesselman et al. *Introduction to Comparative Politics: Political Challenges & Changing Agendas AP Edition*. Cengage. ISBN: 978-0-357-8615-1

Cengage. *Fast Track to a 5: AP Comparative Government & Politics Examination*. ISBN: 978-0-357-91971-2.

Google Classroom Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzkwOT1NzM3NjY5>

College Board Classroom Link: <https://myap.collegeboard.org/>

College Board Join Code: LDZ746

Cengage Virtual Textbook Link: <https://student.cengage.com/course-link/MTPP39454G7C>

GRADING SYSTEM/ASSESSMENT:

30% daily work assignments. Expect 2 assignments a week. The first will be taking notes on new chapters by preparing slides. The teacher will use these to make a slideshow for in class and students will take turns presenting the information learned. Students will also be expected to ask at least 3 questions of their peers. 10pt assignment. Students will also be given a debate topic once a week. They'll break into groups, spend one period preparing together and the second doing the debate. Afterwards we'll discuss our thoughts and build on the debate content. 20pts.

Be aware that this is a description of a typical week. Other activities may be given depending on school



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



schedule, public holidays, etc. These will be posted on Google Classroom.

30% quizzes. Expect 1 quiz per week. These will alternate between multiple choice, short essay questions, and long essay questions. As above this is a typical week and any changes will be posted on Google Classroom.

30% quarter exam. The exam will be essay, and will be held in class time before the end of the quarter. The number of questions and points will increase as the school year progresses.

10% deportment. Deportment is based on class participation, behavior, and attitude.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- Purposely incorporating the ideas, words or sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's work;
- Representing another's intellectual work, such as photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, research, or the like, as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.
- Employing a tutor, using Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgment, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, and paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's work.
- Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.

Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment/learning task.

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (August 12 to 15) 4 days of class 12-General Assembly at the Gymnasium 15-Opening Mass & Assumption of Our Lady	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rules• Textbook introduction• Virtual classroom setup Textbook Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disciplinary Practices• Big Ideas
Week 2 (August 18 to 22) 18-St. Dominic de Guzman Feast Day Celebration) Integrated during the Monday Assembly 20- House Shirt & Blue Jeans Day Starts 22- Club Orientation and Club Sign-up	Chapter 1: The AP Comp Government & Politics Course Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Political Systems, Regimes, & Governments• Political Institutions• Political Cultures & Participation
Week 3 (August 25 to 29) 27- High School Talk - "Kickstart Your Success: Winning Mindsets for a Great School Year" 29- First Club Meeting	Chapter 1 (cont) Sections 4-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Party & Electoral Systems• Political & Economic Changes• Organization of the Text
Week 4 (September 1 to 5) 1- Launching of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (During the Monday Assembly) 1-AP Registration 3- AEO Fall University Fair 5- House Ceremony	Chapter 2: The United Kingdom Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Making of the Modern UK• Political Economy & Development• Political Institutions & Policy Making



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Week 5 (September 8 to 12) 8- Holy Mass: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & VIP Induction 10- House Mini Games Start	Chapter 2 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation UK Politics in Transition
Week 6 (September 15 to 19) 15- Catholic Bridge Program for all New Students (After the Monday Assembly at the Gymnasium) 19- Athletics / Sports Orientation 19- PSAT/NMSQT Registration deadline	Chapter 5: Mexico Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Making of the Modern Mexican State Political Economy & Development Political Institutions & Policy Making
Week 7 (September 22 to 26) 22- Celebration of the International Day of Peace-Peace Pole Ceremony (During the Monday Assembly) Teacher's Day Celebration & 26-Teachers' Appreciation 26- Grade 12 Career Educational Trip 24 to 26-Pre-Exam Days	Chapter 5 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation Mexican Politics in Transition
Week 8 (September 29 to October 3) 29- Launching of the Month of the Holy Rosary (During the Monday Assembly) Oct. 1-2- First Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Exam: Quarter 1
Oct. 3-DIS Teachers and Staff Recognition Day/ Record Day Recollection for Aunties and Uncles (no classes for students)	

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
6-Moon Festival (no classes)	
7-9 Teacher's Conference (no classes)	
Week 1 (11) (October 13 to 17) 13- Second Quarter Begins 13- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 2nd Semester 14- Visit of Mother Mary to Classrooms 15- AP Exam Only Registration Deadline 15- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 17- PSAT/NMSQT Digital Exam	Chapter 6: Nigeria Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Making of the Modern Nigerian State Political Economy & Development Political Institutions & Policy Making
Week 2 (12) (October 20 to 24) 20- Jubilee: Marian Exhibit Opening 20- Campus Safety Talk for Students 24- Book Fair (Senior Escape Room)	Chapter 6 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation Nigerian Politics in Transition
Week 3 (13) (October 27 to 31) 29- Grade 11 Career Educational Trip Oct. 31 to Nov. 1- Gr.6 SEL Camp	Chapter 7: Russia Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Making of the Modern Russian State Political Economy & Development Political Institutions & Policy Making
Week 4 (14) (November 3 to 7) 3- Feast of St. Martin de Porres Mass (integrated during the Monday Assembly) 5- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep	Chapter 7 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation Russian Politics in Transition



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Week 5 (15) (November 10 to 14) 14- Health Week 14- VIP-Parent Learning Community	Chapter 8: Iran Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Making of the Modern Mexican State Political Economy & Development Political Institutions & Policy Making
Week 6 (16) (November 17 to 21) 17- Launching of Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Month 21- Young Shakespeare Play Writing and Performing Contest	Chapter 8 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation Iranian Politics in Transition
Week 7 (17) (November 24 to 28) 24- Peace Pole Day (Monday Assembly) 24- Lighting of the Christmas Tree after school 25-27- Pre-Exam Days 27- Thanksgiving Potluck after school for teachers and staff 27- Thanksgiving Family Day 28- Gr. 12 Second Quarter Exam	Exam: Quarter 2 Chapter 9: China Sections 1-3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Making of the Modern China State Political Economy & Development Political Institutions & Policy Making
Nov. 29 Invitation for All: The Jubilee Pilgrimage to Taipei (Saturday)	
Week 8 (18) (December 1 to 5) 1- First Week of Advent: Lighting of First Advent Candle (During the Monday Assembly) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 5- Nativity Play (Collaboration with Campus Ministry) 5- Christmas Fair Whole Day	Chapter 9 (cont) Sections 4-5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elections, Representation, & Participation China Politics in Transition
Week 9 (19) (December 8 to 12) 8- Foundation Day Mass, cake ceremony, and Class Party (half day) 8- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 8- Second Week of Advent 10- Gr. 12 Advent Immersion 11 and 12- Second Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Quarter 2 Exam Week (no class)
December 13 Invitation for All: Advent Recollection @DIS (Saturday)	
December 15 to January 2 Christmas Break	

Third Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
January 5- Record Day (No Classes for students)	
Week 1 (20) (January 5 to 9) 5- PSAT 8/9 Registration Starts 6- Third Quarter Begins 7- Monthly Career Talk-College Prep 9- New Year Mass at 8:00	Big Idea: Power and Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do these nations' methods of maintaining authority differ? How are they similar? Who gets to play? Who is deliberately kept from playing?
Week 2 (21) (January 12 to 16) 16- Club Orientation & Sign Up	Activity: Power and Authority
Week 3 (22) (January 19 to 23) 19-23- Individual Yearbook Photoshoot for Students 19-23- Career Awareness Week 22- Grade 9 Career Educational trip 23- First Club Meeting for 2nd Semester	Big Idea: Legitimacy and Stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are these nations' governments considered legitimate? What makes a government stable or unstable?



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Week 4 (23) (January 26 to 30) 26- Feast Day of St. Thomas Aquinas/Launching of the Catholic Week 26-28- Aquinas Conference: Science and Faith 26-30- Catholic Week Activities 30- DYM Charity Concert	Activity: Legitimacy and Stability
Week 5 (24) (February 2 to 6) 1-4- WASC Mid-Cycle Visit 4- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6-7- SUA0 Recollection for MS	Big Idea: Democratization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What sorts of principles and institutions are valuable to democracy? How can democratic institutions be subverted? Why are democracies considered stable? Why are democracies considered unstable?
Week 6 (25) (February 9 to 13) 9- Start of New Applicant Enrollment for 1st Semester for SY2025-26 13- PSAT 8/9 Registration Deadline 13- House Valentine's Mini Fair 13- Chinese New Year Celebration	Activity: Democratization
February 16-20 Chinese New Year Holiday	
Week 7 (26) (February 23 to 26) 23-26- IOWA Assessments 23- Student Council Application 24-26- Pre-Exam Days	Big Idea: Internal/External Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the internal divisions of each nation? Are they ethnic? Religious? Political? How do majorities and minorities interact in each nation? What are the external issues and threats of each nation? How do external issues influence the politics of each nation?
February 27 Memorial Day Holiday (no classes)	
Week 8 (27) (March 2 to 6) 3- Monthly Career Talk - College Prep 6- PSAT 8/9 System Installation and Practice Test	Activity: Internal/External Forces
Week 9 (28) (March 9 to 13) 13 and 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day)	Review, Summarize, Questions Exam: Quarter 3

Fourth Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week/Date	Topic/Projects/Assessments
Week 1 (29) (March 16 to 20) 16- Third Quarter Exam (half day) 16-20- Faculty & Staff Yearbook Photo 17- Fourth Quarter Begins 18-21- EARCOS Teachers' Conference 19- Lectio Divina and Feast of St. Joseph 20- Parents Learning Community Meeting 20- Kindilympics 20-House Movie Night and Club Fair	Big Idea: Methods of Political Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do political scientists measure nations? What are some things that political scientists focus on? How can we interpret and utilize data, graphs, and charts created by political scientists?
March 21 (Saturday) Spring Fair	
Week 2 (30) (March 23 to 27) 23-27 Student Leaders Applicant Interviews 26- Annual Visit to World Religion Museum Gr. 11 27- Lower School Readers Theatre	Activity: Methods of Political Analysis
March 30 to April 6 Easter/Spring Break	



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校
No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.
10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Week 3 (31) (April 7 to 10) 7- Spring University Fair 9- Easter Mass 9- Easter Egg Hunt for Lower School Students	Activity: Comparative Government Org Chart
Week 4 (32) (April 13 to 17) 13 Laudato Si Month Launching (During the Monday Assembly) 13-30 Laudato Si Month Activities 13-17- Class Photo Taking 17- AP Chinese/Japanese Practice Test	Activity: Comparative Government Org Chart (cont) Review for exams
Week 5 (33) (April 20 to 24) 20-24 Cultural Awareness Week / Art Exhibit / Earth Week 24- Music Recital 20-24 Student Council Campaign 20-24 AP Mock Exams	AP Mock Exams Q4 Exam Date: (will be added to Google Classroom when Mr Joe completes AP Mock schedule)
Week 6 (34) (April 27 to 30) 27- Student Council Elections 27-30 Senior Project Presentations 28-30 Pre-Exam Days	Final Review Week
May 1: Labor Day Public Holiday	
Week 7 (35) (May 4 to 8) 4- May Crowning & Mother's Day Celebration (During the Monday Assembly) 4-14 Final Exams (K, Gr. 5, 8, & 12 Only) 4-15 AP Exams	AP Comparative Government & Politics Exam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday, May 6th, 12pm
Week 8 (36) (May 11 to 15) 13 and 14- Fourth Quarter Exam—Undergraduate (half day) 14-16 Student Leaders Retreat Days	Celebration, Congratulations, Movie
May 15 Record Day (No Classes for students) Final Deliberation for Graduating/Promoting Classes	
Week 9 (37) (May 18 to 22) 18- Gr. 5 Recollection & Mass 19- Gr. 8 Recollection & Mass 20- Gr. 12 Recollection 20- Baccalaureate Mass (Whole School) 18-21 WIDA Testing 19- Lower School Sports Day / Gr. 6 & 7 School Field Trip 19- Gr. 9 - 11 - "Senior Success Forum: Inspiring the Next Generation" 19-22 Student Clearance Days 21- Middle & High School Sports Day 21- High School Field Trip 22- House Culminating Activity 20-22 Final Deliberation for Non-Graduating Classes 22- Student Leaders One Day Recollection / Turn Over Ceremony	Preparation for Graduation



Dominican International School

台北市私立道明外僑學校

No. 76, Dazhi Street, Taipei (104042), Taiwan, R.O.C.

10464 臺北市中山區大直街 76 號



Week 10 (38) (May 25 to 29) 25- Kindergarten Graduation/Gr. 5 Promotion 26- LS Field Trip 26- Gr. 8 Graduation and Gr. 12 Graduation 27- Pre-Kindergarten & Gr. 1 - 4, 6 & 7, 9-11 Recognition Last Day of School, Report Card 28- Distribution, & Class Party (half day) 29- Last day for Teachers/Staff Meeting	Graduation
---	------------