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Office Hours: Room 301 - MWF after school or by appointment

Course Overview:

This course is designed to provide an advanced and detailed treatment of comparative government and politics. Emphasis will be placed on the general principles of comparative politics as well as a study of characteristics specific to industrialized democracies, to communist systems, and to the Third World. The processes and institutions of Great Britain, China, Russia, Nigeria, Iran, and Mexico are examined in detail. Additionally study of the processes and institutions of the European Union is also undertaken. The course employs an advanced textbook and additional supplemental reading as necessary. The course is additionally designed to provide the tools necessary for success on the AP examination.

Course of Study:

Introduction to Comparative Politics

The Industrialized Democracies

Current and Former Communist Regimes

The Third World

Great Britain

European Union

China

Russia

Mexico

Iran

Nigeria

Course Requirements

- 1) Complete all homework and class work assignments on time (reading and written work)
- 2) Participate in class discussions
- 3) Prepare for tests, semester, and final exams as necessary

Materials

Comparative Politics: 5th edition (Hauss)

Pens, paper, erasers, notebook, and other basic school supplies

All materials must be brought to class every day.

Calculation of Semester Grades

Multiple Choice Tests: 25%

Free-Response Writing: 25%

Chapter Quizzes: 15%

Article Reading Quizzes: 10%

Projects: 10%

Oral Discussion: 10%

Homework / Class work: 5%

As all students are required to take the AP Comparative Politics Exam, there is no course final.

Oral Discussion

All students are required to accumulate twenty-five points over the course of the semester to receive full credit for oral discussion. Less than twenty-five points will result in a proportionally lower oral discussion grade. For example, only fifteen points will result in a 60% oral discussion grade. Answering questions correctly in class is the only way to accumulate points. All points acquired in excess of twenty-five are considered extra credit. Students are expected to make consistent progress throughout the semester. This progress will be noted periodically on Net Classroom.

Make-up Work

All students are responsible for making up all work missed regardless of the reason for the absence. It is the student's responsibility to find out what work and if any work was missed. All work not made up within the required time will be assigned a zero. The student handbook allows three days for make-up work; this requirement is tightly enforced.

If a student is in class when a project, homework or quiz is announced and in class on the due date then he or she is expected to be ready to turn in the work or take the quiz. For tests, a student will be given an opportunity to make-up a test if he or she was absent the day before the test was given and new material relevant to the test was given out on the day of absence.

Also, concerning tests, a special make-up test must be created so it is imperative that students take the test after-school on the day assigned for the make-up. A student's failure to take the make-up test on the assigned day will result in a zero on the test unless the student has an excused absence from school that day.

Late Work

The instructor reserves the right to assign a zero to all work turned in past its deadline. In some cases, the instructor may decide to accept late work one day late but at a penalty of 15%.

Classroom Respect

All students are expected to act in a manner consistent with the values of St. Pius and the rules set down in the student handbook. Students are expected to abide by the honor code at all times.

Classroom Focus

Each student receives ten extra credit points at the beginning of the semester. Each time a student is out of his/her desk during class time will result in the loss of one extra credit point. This includes going to the restroom, getting a drink, retrieving a forgotten book, etc.

Extra Credit

See the sections "Oral Discussion" and "Classroom Focus" for extra credit opportunities; these are the only opportunities. Mr. Hiland does not assign end-of-term "bail out" extra credit projects.

The instructor reserves the right to make any changes in this course outline that he feels is appropriate.

***Please read & sign the following honor code (be sure to get your parent/guardian to also sign):**

I pledge on my honor that all of the work that I will do this school year will be my own. I further affirm that I will not give information to another student nor accept another person's work as my own unless it is allowed by my instructor.

Student's Signature

Parent/Guardian's Signature