

“The 21st century has taught us that we cannot ignore the world around us. Happenings around the globe now directly impact our lives, and social studies teachers and students around the country face the challenge of interpreting complex, puzzling events. The AP comparative course focuses on government and politics in other countries and provides a theoretical framework to compare political systems around the world.” – Ethel Wood

Course Description: This is a one year course designed to give students an analytical perspective on global politics. Students will focus on the governments of the **United States** as well as the diverse political structures of the **United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, China and Iran**. Comparisons will be made in terms of power structures, political institutions, citizen participation, political and economic change, and public policy. Students will be exposed to different theoretical and practical frameworks that are the foundations for a variety of political systems.

Summer Assignment:

Part One:

Define the following Curricular Terms:

Advanced Democracy

Authoritarian Regime

Bureaucracy

Civil Society

Communism

Conservatism (As a political ideology)

Corporatism

Economic Liberalization

Federalism

Globalization

Illiberal Democracy

Institutions

Legitimacy

Liberal Democracy

Liberalism (As a political ideology)

Linkage Institution

Nationalism

Patronage

Political Culture

Political Violence

Regime

Rule of Law

Social Cleavages

Sovereignty

Unitary System

Part Two:

A. Assemble a Comparative Government: Current Events Binder, This should be a large 3 Ring Binder containing the following sections: **United Kingdom, Russia, China, Mexico, Nigeria and Iran**. Use dividers between sections. Each section should include a table of contents page with Country Heading, Title and Source for each article.

B. During the summer collect four news articles per country. The articles should span the duration of the summer, and not only reflect 1-2 weeks prior to the start of school. The articles should provide you with information about the political, economic, and/or foreign policy issues confronting each nation.

Articles may come from newspapers, periodicals, magazines, and/or the Internet.

Possible sources include but are not limited to:

New York Times – <http://www.nytimes.com/>

BBC – www.news.bbc.co.uk

The Economist- <http://www.economist.com/>

Foreign Affairs Magazine <https://www.foreignaffairs.com>

The Wall Street Journal <http://www.wsj.com/>

The Guardian- <http://www.theguardian.com/international>

We are looking for articles with depth and analysis of critical issues. Use your discretion on appropriate sources. The variety and level of sources will be considered in your final grade for this assignment.

C. Highlight the material in each article, which makes reference to the political structures and practices of the nation under discussion. Look closely for connections to terms that you previously defined. Label each highlighted comment in each article with the applicable term. Comment in the margins or separate piece of paper, sharing your thoughts about what you have read.

D. Four articles per nation are the minimum number of articles required. Though extra credit will not be awarded for collecting, highlighting and labeling additional articles, you may include as many articles in the binder as you wish to read.

E. Conclude each section with a typed paragraph that analyzes the challenges for each nation, both foreign and domestic, as well as the strengths that each government possesses. Additionally, assess the assets and challenges the nation poses to the International Community.

60 Point Rubric for Portfolio Assignment

Requirements	Developing	Accomplished	Exemplary
Organization- 20pts	The journal is too brief and fails to address all six countries with four articles each. (0-8)	The journal completely addresses all six countries with a minimum of 4 articles each. (9-14)	The journal completely addresses all six countries with a minimum of 4 articles each and includes commentary based on related terms. (15-20)
Analysis - 35pts	Shows a limited understanding of articles/terms. Uses limited, simplistic and/or flawed analysis of articles. (0-14)	Attempts an analysis and interpretation of the articles within the context of the task (may address: reliability, cause / effect, intended audience. (15-24)	Offers an in-depth analysis and interpretation of the articles within the context of the task (may address: reliability, cause / effect, intended audience; makes inferences from articles(s). (25-35)
Neatness – 5pts	Journal lacks neatness and effort. The articles are not clearly labeled and highlighted. (0-1)	Journal reflects neatness and effort. The articles are clearly labeled and highlighted. (2-3)	Journal reflects neatness and effort. The articles are clearly labeled and highlighted with a table of contents page for each country. (4-5)

Part Three:

Read the book, *Red China Blues* by Jan Wong. This is available for you to check out in the Library.

Respond to the following in essay form:

Though it took nearly two decades, Wong’s political views concerning China underwent a complete reversal. Her transformation from a committed Maoist to becoming completely disillusioned with the Chinese system is evidenced in the following quote:

“First, I thought totalitarianism was great”, she says. “Then I decided it was a necessary evil for a country like China. Finally, I decided the people didn’t need that kind of government. They weren’t blue ants. They could think and act for themselves.”

Using evidence from the book, including people she met and events she witnessed, explain why this transformation took place and what it meant for Jan Wong. Why did she originally think Communist China was a utopia and what caused her to question her beliefs?

- Each essay will be 3-4 pages
- 12 Font, Times New Roman or Ariel
- Double Spaced

50 Point Rubric for Essay Assignment: You be graded based on the Fairfield Public Schools Social Studies Writing Rubric.