



**ADVANCED PLACEMENT
COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT
GRADE 12**

Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Advanced Placement Comparative Government is offered to the serious student who desires the challenge of a college-level course in high school. This course will provide students with the conceptual tools necessary to analyze the world's diverse political structures and practices. Extensive reading and writing are required. Students are expected to take the Advanced Placement Examination in May. College credit may be granted, subject to the requirements of the college or university.

PREREQUISITE

Virginia and United States History

or

Advanced Placement United States History

OPTIONS FOR NEXT COURSE

None

REQUIRED STUDENT TEXTBOOK

Comparative Politics: Domestic Responses to Global Challenges 5th edition (Thomson, 2006)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

The teacher may choose to supplement the basal textbook with materials to extend and enrich the students' understanding of course topics. The material may be drawn from daily newspapers, periodicals, television and other visual media, primary source documents, simulations, and computer programs.

For more information on this or any other Advanced Placement course, visit College Board Online at www.collegeboard.org.

THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES THAT COMPRISE THE ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS COURSE ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS FROM THE PRESCRIBED CURRICULUM

TOPICS OF STUDY

- APCG.1 Examine the sources of public authority and political power.
- APCG.2 Determine the social and political roles citizens may serve in their government.
- APCG.3 Analyze the political and institutional frameworks of government in selected countries.
- APCG.4 Evaluate political change in historical and current contexts.
- APCG.5 Demonstrate the skills of analysis and interpretation of data and the methodology of comparative study.

CITIZENSHIP GOALS

- Working cooperatively with classmates to accomplish tasks and solve problems
- Valuing democratic traditions and respecting the rights, values, and property of others
- appreciating the heritage of American Government and its contributions to American democratic institutions, values, and beliefs
- Recognizing the power of an individual to make a difference
- Accepting responsibility for class work and personal behavior
- Managing time and tasks efficiently and productively
- Accepting the rights and responsibilities of citizenship
- Keeping informed on current issues and events
- Participating in school elections and community service projects

SKILLS

- **Study Skills**
 - Taking organized and useful notes from lectures, discussions, and various printed sources of information
 - Preparing a bibliography

- **Chart/Graph Skills**
 - Drawing inferences from varied charts, graphs, tables, and time lines
 - Using and creating charts, graphs, and tables to organize, display, and depict data
- **Map/Globe Skills**
 - Making and interpreting special purpose maps
- **Problem-Solving/Decision-making Skills**
 - Applying the problem-solving process to investigate key decisions in American Government
 - Evaluating the decision-making and problem-solving processes of key political leaders
 - Identifying alternative courses of action and predicting likely consequences of each
- **Critical Thinking Skills**
 - Distinguish between causes and effects
 - Distinguish between fact and opinion, recognizing propaganda, and detecting author bias
 - Assessing the validity of differing political interpretations
- **Communication Skills**
 - Preparing oral and written reports, projects, and presentations
 - Expressing ideas orally and in writing
 - Contributing ideas and suggestions to class discussion
 - Reading for a variety of purposes: critically, analytically, to predict outcomes, to answer questions, to form opinions, and to skim for facts
 - Restating major ideas of a complex topic in concise form
 - Writing papers analyzing historical issues or topics
 - Collecting, analyzing, and evaluating historical information related to an issue, or question; drawing conclusions from the data; and forming a thesis or hypothesis



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

MISSION STATEMENT

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

2512 George Mason Drive P.O. Box 6038
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038

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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Secondary Instructional Services, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038, Telephone (757) 263-1070 or (757) 263-1429, fax (757) 263-1412.