

**AP Comparative Government
Summer Assignment 2013
Eleanor Roosevelt High School
Mr. Graboski**

This year's summer assignment is broken into two parts to give you the opportunity to introduce yourself to the introductory material regarding the course as well as the case study nations.

Part I. Start an AP Comparative Government blog for our nations of study. You will write responses to at least one article from each nation and the European Union. Everyone will be required to comment on each other's posts. Chapter One from our handout is a good place to look for themes of study. Begin to learn about the nations by building a place on your blog for general information about the nations, including pertinent data (i.e. leader, form of government, economics, and demographic statistics).

The goal of this will be for you to become familiar with some of the current issues that are occurring in our nations of study. In just the last year Mexico has elected a new President who has returned the PRI to power and instituted a wave of economic/political reforms. Iran will also be electing a new president in the coming days to replace the controversial Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Your blog posts will also serve as an avenue to demonstrate your understanding of current events, cite key evidence from the articles and encourage conversation amongst the entire class.

Try to pick articles that are substantial (*The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Economist*) would all serve as excellent places to start your online research. The countries studied over the course of the academic calendar year are the following:

- Britain
- Russia
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Iran
- China
- European Union

Part II. Read chapters 1-3 (Pages 1-59) in *Comparative Politics Today* (handout). This should be completed by the end of the summer in advance of the first class meeting. The information from these chapters will form part of our first in-class test which will be given in late September.

- a. Define the key terms listed at the end of each of these chapters and be ready to hand those in when the school year begins.
- b. Take note of important items and list what you think are the most pertinent questions in each chapter of the handout. Be ready to share your thoughts for our initial discussions.

I have set up a class group for us to communicate over the summer and during the school year. I am currently revising the syllabus and will share it with you when it is completed. I wish each of you the best of luck and look forward to teaching you next year. Have a great summer!!!

