**Course: AP Comparative Government & Politics**

**Instructor: Katherine Lacks**

**Academic Term: Spring 2018**

Time: Block B

Location: Room S11

Website: <http://www.klacks.weebly.com>

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Phone: 757.615.7169

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to provide students with the conceptual tools necessary to develop an understanding of some of the world’s diverse political structures and practices. We will examine six countries in detail: China, Great Britain, Russia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. These countries are taught because they are excellent examples of the six core topics of a comparative course. These topics include methodology, power, institutional structure, civil society, political/economic change and public policy.

**Student Performance Objectives**

* Students will respect me and their peers by contributing to a focused and collegiate-level learning environment
* Students will thoughtfully and thoroughly complete assignments by dates due
* Students will take responsibility for their learning experiences by being attentive, prepared, and by practicing appropriate participation
* **Students will not use electronic devices during class except with my express permission**; devices discovered in use during class will be confiscated until the end of the school day.
* Students are **prohibited from taking photos and/or videos** of anyone else in the classroom at any time.

**Evaluation and Requirements**

* Tests: 40%
* Writing Assignments: 40%
* Quizzes, Performance Tasks: 20%

Any late work will be accepted within the given trimester for a penalty of 25 points, meaning, the highest achievable late grade is a 75 percent. No credit will be given for any work that is not submitted. Students who have missed class are expected to make-up all work in a timely manner. All work is located on our website, [www.klacks.weebly.com](http://www.klacks.weebly.com). Students who miss class are expected to go to the website to get the work they missed before returning to class.

**Materials**

Suggested Text: Wood, Ethel. *AP Comparative Government and Politics: An Essential Coursebook and Study Guide*. Woodyard Publications, 2015.

Additional Reading: Instructor assigned articles from: the BBC, the *Economist,* the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Journal of Democracy, Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs*, and others as appropriate.

Additional Materials

* Pencils & Pens
* Three-ringed binder
* Paper
* If any other materials are needed, the teacher will let the students know in advance.

**Use of Technology**

Students are encouraged to bring an electronic device to class; however, they should only be used when authorized by the instructor. Students are not to use electronic devices for note-taking purposes as students absorb more from taking handwritten notes. Notes used for open note quizzes must be handwritten. Students will not be allowed to use typed notes. Students will use electronic devices for creative projects and research. Students are additionally not permitted to use phones during class unless permitted by the teacher. Phones should be put away at all times.

**Class Schedule and/or Sequence of Instruction**

Please visit my website, [www.klacks.weebly.com](http://www.klacks.weebly.com), for all class information, detailed syllabus with all due dates, contact information, and additional review materials.

**Honor Code**

Students are expected to abide by the Broadwater Honor Code. Any cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught, no credit can be given for a dishonest assignment and you will be referred to the Honor Council.