

## SYLLABUS

### World Government

QSI Virtual School

#### Instructor Information

Instructor: Robert Hinman

Email: bob-hinman@qvs.qsi.org

Online Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9AM-11AM (UTC+2)

Preferred Method of Communication: Teams/E=mail

#### Course Description

World Government provides students with a basic framework to compare and study governments, by learning basic nomenclature and concepts in addition to undertaking an analysis of challenges faced by different governments around the world.

Recommended for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

Credits earned: 5 essential units (0.5 Carnegie credit)

QSI World Government is graduation requirement for the QSI Academic Diploma.

Length of course: 1 semester (this course can be taken in conjunction with another semester long Social Studies course – i.e. Economics, International Relations or Global Issues – to create a full year course and earn 1 Carnegie credit.)

#### Course Prerequisites

None, but it is highly recommended that students have completed courses in Geography and World History (or similar Social Studies courses) prior to enrolling in Economics.

#### Required Materials

Textbook: *Essentials of Comparative Politics* by O'Neil

#### Technology Information and Requirements

Computer with internet access

Microphone

QVS account & linked e-mail account

#### Course Grading

Grades are determined based on mastery of each topic in a unit, which is aligned with assignments to assess student understanding of the unit topics.

#### Assignments may be graded as follows:

- Attempted /NOT Completed - the student has attempted the assignment, but it is not done correctly or completely to mastery standards.
- Completed – the assignment in question is completed to mastery standards for the TSW being

evaluated.

- Mastery “B” - the student has met the criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery. This is sometimes also referred to as “B Level Mastery”.
- Above Mastery “A” - the student has exceeded the TSW criteria covered by the assignment for Mastery and meets the criteria for Above Mastery. This is sometimes referred to as “A Level Mastery” and is awarded for work that showcases a consistently sophisticated, nuanced and thorough understanding and application of the TSW criteria being evaluated.

To receive a unit grade, the student must demonstrate “Mastery” in all unit assignments.

Students who have not yet mastered a given topic will receive individualized corrective instruction and opportunities for re-assessment using AP Classroom and Teams.

### **Units will be graded as follows:**

Every unit has a start date and an end date per your course calendar.

- P: unit(s) in progress according to the course calendar.
- A or B: a unit has been mastered
- D: student is not meeting expectations about the amount of work submitted in a given time period and is therefore “deficient in effort”.

### **Teacher feedback and revision of work:**

- The instructor will endeavor to return work within 24 hours, excepting weekends and holidays.
- If a student does not receive feedback within 48 hours, the student should contact the instructor.
- The student will endeavor to revise any assignment that requires it within 48 hours.

### **Progression through course units:**

- Students must close a unit with at least a B before beginning the next unit or before submitting any Big Idea Projects.
- Students may only complete two (2) units in June. That is to say that if a student has fallen behind during the school year it is not possible to close more than two units between June 1st and the last day of school (typically, mid-June).

## **Course content**

The following 5 units are covered in this QVS World Government course:

### **E01: Conceptual Introduction to Comparative Government**

- Political Thinkers
- Functions of Government
- State & Governments
- Notes: Legitimacy
- Research Ethnic & National Conflict

- Ethnic & National Conflict
- Belief Systems
- Quiz: Key Terms & Concepts

## **E02: Political Economy**

- Fill in the Blanks: Components of Political Economy
- Compare & Contrast: Political Economics Models
- Collect Data: Indicators of Economics Outcomes
- Flipgrid: Comparing Outcomes
- Persuasion Map: Future of Political Economy

## **S01: Democracies**

- Worksheet: Origins of Democracy
- Flipgrid: Defining & Discussing Democracy
- Types of Democracy
- Electoral Systems
- Essay: Analyzing Democracy
- Optional upgrade project: Your Best Democracy

## **S03: Non-Democratic Regimes**

- Pictionary: Theories of Non-democratic Rule
- Flipgrid: Defining & Discussing Non-democracies
- Examples: Methods of Political Control
- Ranking: Models of Non-democracies
- Essay: Analyzing Non-democracies

## **S03: TBD with Student Input**

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

Students complete IOL prior to being enrolled into their main QVS course.

Most students complete this course during the second semester of the school year, which is what this schedule is based on. However, it is possible to enroll in this course during the fall semester with a schedule that can then be tailored accordingly.

Conceptual Introduction to Comparative Government (E01): Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

Political Economy (E02): Mar 1<sup>st</sup> -Mar 24<sup>th</sup>

Democracies (S01): Mar 27<sup>th</sup>-Apr 21<sup>st</sup>

Non-democratic Regimes (S02): Apr 24-May 19<sup>th</sup>

Political Violence (S06): May 22<sup>nd</sup> -Jun 16<sup>th</sup> (TBD)

## Attendance Policy

5 periods per week, (equivalent of 225 minutes per week)

Students are expected to follow planned pacing or communicate plans for adjusted pacing with instructor. When assignments are submitted in bulk feedback time increases (1 assignment graded per day).

## Classroom Behavior expectations

For synchronous communication :

school appropriate attire, camera on always, microphone muted on login

For asynchronous communication :

Be polite and respectful when communicating with other students; bullying will not be tolerated. All content posted needs to be considered appropriate for an academic setting.

## Academic honesty

When working in groups, students are expected to collaborate fairly in a way that ensures that each student masters the material.

In any type of assignment, you are expected to avoid all forms of plagiarism, and use appropriate referencing to give credit to any and all sources that you use.

Students are responsible for being informed about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it and will be given the chance to learn about this in the Introduction to Online Learning (IOL) when starting QVS.

## Other Information

Students, parents, and monitors can see how students are doing in this course by checking the QVS grade book and QSI Unit Grades/Rubrics, which are updated regularly to provide an accurate picture of student progress.

Parents can contact the instructor via email at ([bob-hinman@qvs.qsi.org](mailto:bob-hinman@qvs.qsi.org)) to set up a parent-teacher conference at any point in the school year.

Students are encouraged to maintain consistent and frequent communication with the instructor to help them succeed in this course.

*QSI Virtual School is a diverse international, multicultural, online learning community, offering meaningful standards-based education through mastery learning.*

*We prepare and develop students to have confidence to pursue their dreams and to positively impact the world.*

*We challenge. We question. We care.*