Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics

Grade(s):	☐ K ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5	☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8	☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☑ 11 ☑ 12 ☐ Other _____
Discipline/Course:	**Discipline:** Social Studies **Course:** Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics		
Course Title:	Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics		
Prerequisite(s):	Teacher recommendation advised		
Course Description: *Program of Studies*	AP Comparative Government and Politics introduces students to the rich diversity of political life outside the United States. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students compare the effectiveness of approaches to many global issues by examining how different governments solve similar problems. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. (AP Comparative Government and Politics CED, 7)		
Course Essential Questions:	• How do the historical evolution and contemporary structure of the United Kingdom's political system reflect its democratic principles and influence its policy-making process? • How do the historical legacy and contemporary governance of the Russian Federation shape its political stability and global influence? • How does the interactions between China's historical traditions and its modern political system impact its domestic policies and international relations? • How do Iran's historical background and unique theocratic-republican political system affect its governance and international relations?		

	● How do Mexico's political evolution and current institutional structures influence its democratic processes and policy outcomes? ● How do Nigeria's diverse ethnic composition and historical political developments shape its democratic governance and policy-making challenges?	
Course Enduring Understandings:	● Political systems and regimes govern societies and determine who has power and authority. They shape the level of legitimacy and produce different policy outcomes. ● Political legitimacy is the degree to which a government's right to rule is accepted by the citizenry. Governments that maintain high levels of legitimacy tend to be more stable and have an easier time enacting, implementing, and enforcing their policies. ● Democratization is a process that involves the adoption of free and fair elections, the extension of civil liberties, and the establishment of the rule of law. Democratization is a long-term and often uneven process that typically results in increased governmental transparency and greater citizen access and influence over policy making. ● Internal forces, such as political culture, citizen participation, civil society, interest groups, environmental pressures, and internal divisions based on class, religion, ethnicity, and/or territory, can both challenge and reinforce regimes. External forces, especially globalization, include the increasing worldwide flow of goods, investments, ideas, and people in a manner that is largely unconstrained by national borders. ● Political scientists collect data and make observations in order to describe patterns and trends and explain the political behavior of individuals, groups, organizations, and governments. They use data and ideas from other disciplines such as economics, sociology, history, and geography when drawing conclusions.	
Duration: **Credit:**	☐ Semester ☑ Full-Year	☐ 0.5 Credit (s) ☑ 1.0 Credit(s) ☐ 1.5 Credit(s)
Course Materials/Resources:	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers).*	

FPS Course Academic Expectation(s):	☐ Exploring and Understanding (EU) ☑ Synthesizing and Evaluating (SE) ☐ Creating and Constructing (CC) ☑ Conveying Ideas (CI) ☐ Collaborating Strategically (CS) ☐ Using Communication Tools (UCT)
Year at a Glance (Units):	**Unit 1:** Introduction to Comparative Politics and Political Culture (~4-5 weeks) **Unit 2:** Government, Citizen Participation and Policy Making (~2-3 weeks) **Unit 3:** Politics in the United Kingdom and the European Union (~4-5 weeks) **Unit 4:** Politics in the Russian Federation (~3-4 weeks) **Unit 5:** Politics in the People's Republic of China (~3-4 weeks) **Unit 6:** Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran (~3-4 weeks) **Unit 7:** Politics in the United States of Mexico (~3-4 weeks) **Unit 8:** Politics in Nigeria (~3-4 weeks)

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 1:** Introduction to Comparative Politics and Political Culture
Duration:	~4-5 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers).*
Unit Overview:	This unit will provide an introduction to the concepts and skills that will be covered throughout the course. Students will gain an understanding of the meaning and purpose of government and politics and an overview of various types of political, economic, and governmental systems throughout the world. Students will also be introduced to key concepts such as legitimacy, sovereignty, nationality and ethnicity, democracy and democratization, and authoritarianism. An important focus of this unit will be familiarizing students with the elements of political culture at various levels of society and the ways in which citizens learn their political behavior.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	● How do different sources of power and authority shape political systems and influence governance and citizen relationships? ● Is increasing global trade a force for positive or negative change in terms of free trade, sovereignty, and legitimacy within nations?

Enduring Understanding(s):	● Political systems and regimes govern societies and determine who has power and authority. They shape the level of legitimacy and produce different policy outcomes. ● Political legitimacy is the degree to which a government's right to rule is accepted by the citizenry. Governments that maintain high levels of legitimacy tend to be more stable and have an easier time enacting, implementing, and enforcing their policies ● Political scientists collect data and make observations in order to describe patterns and trends and explain the political behavior of individuals, groups, organizations, and governments. They use data and ideas from other disciplines such as economics, sociology, history, and geography when drawing conclusions.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● how political scientists construct knowledge and communicate inferences and explanations about political systems, institutional interactions, and behavior. ● differences between regimes, states, nations, and governments. ● sources of power and authority in political systems. ● federal and unitary systems among course countries. ● purposes of adopting a federal or unitary system. ● sources of political legitimacy for different types of regimes among course countries. ● how governments maintain legitimacy. ● influence and interaction of internal actors with state authority, enhancing or threatening stability. ● the relationship between political culture, citizen behavior, and the role of the state. ● politically relevant social cleavages. ● the influence of global economic and technological forces on political policies, behaviors, and culture. ● political responses to global market forces. ● challenges to regime sovereignty created by globalization. ● economic and political liberalization policies. ● adoption of and consequences associated with economic liberalization policies.

	● influence of international and supranational organizations on domestic policymakers and national sovereignty. ● adaptation of social policies by governments to address political, cultural, and economic changes. ● radical changes in governmental policies resulting from rapid industrialization and economic development. ● political causes and consequences of demographic changes. ● impact of natural resources on political and economic development. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● analyze and interpret data, texts, and case studies to construct well-supported explanations about political systems, institutions, and behaviors across different countries. ● differentiate between regimes, states, nations, and governments by explaining their defining features and providing comparative examples. ● evaluate sources of power and authority in various political systems, using evidence to compare how legitimacy is established and maintained. ● compare and contrast federal and unitary systems among course countries, explaining the purposes and consequences of each structure. ● assess the impact of internal and external actors (e.g., political parties, interest groups, global organizations) on government stability and sovereignty. ● analyze the relationship between political culture, citizen behavior, and state roles using examples from multiple course countries. ● examine the effects of globalization and economic liberalization on domestic policy, regime stability, and national sovereignty, citing specific country cases. ● evaluate how governments adapt social and economic policies in response to demographic changes, technological advancements, and resource distribution. ● describe the data presented. ● describe patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions. ● recognize and describe data trends in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics. ● summarize and explain key points from text-based sources.

	● describe the author's claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning. ● construct clear arguments supported by evidence. ● formulate coherent arguments with clear theses and relevant evidence.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 2**: Government, Citizen Participation and Policy Making
Duration:	~2-3 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers).*
Unit Overview:	This unit focuses on the many ways citizens articulate their needs and interests in a political system. Students will explore the different types of interest groups and interest group systems around the world and analyze the effectiveness of citizen action. This unit will also provide an introduction to the role mass media plays in the political process. From there, students will explore the ways in which the political demands of individuals and groups are combined into policy programs. The study of this process will focus primarily on elections and electoral systems, political parties, and party systems in states at various stages of democratization as well as in fully autocratic states.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	● How do democracy and authoritarianism differently impact civil liberties, political participation, and the rule of law in various political systems? ● In what ways do the structures of parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems influence the interactions and accountability among executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and how do they shape citizen participation and policy making?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● Democracy and authoritarianism represent different approaches to governance and power distribution, each with distinct implications for civil liberties, political participation, and the rule of law. ● The structure and function of government systems, whether parliamentary, presidential, or

	semi-presidential, influence how executive, legislative, and judicial branches interact, make decisions, and hold leaders accountable ● Civil society and political participation are vital components of a functioning democracy, shaping policy, influencing change, and reflecting the values and beliefs of the citizenry, while also being shaped by the regime's nature and authority. ● The relationships and constraints among political institutions, such as the executive, legislature, and judiciary, as well as electoral systems and party dynamics, are crucial in determining the stability, effectiveness, and responsiveness of a government.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● comparative politics is the study of domestic politics across countries. ● democracy and authoritarianism. ● parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems. ● process and goals of democratization. ● institutional relations among parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems. ● structure, function, and change of executive leadership in course countries. ● procedures for the removal of executive leadership by other institutions. ● legislative structures and functions in course countries. ● constraints on legislative powers by other institutions and/or processes, affecting legislative independence. ● structure and functions of judiciaries. ● importance of independent judiciaries relative to other political institutions. ● civil society. ● role of civil society among course countries. ● influence of political values and beliefs on policy choices addressing particular political problems. ● nature and role of political participation related to a regime's use of authority and power. ● interaction between political participation and democratic or authoritarian regime types. ● protection or restriction of civil rights and civil liberties in different regimes.

	● impact of political and social cleavages in course countries on citizen relationships and political stability. ● electoral systems and election rules among course countries. ● how election rules serve different regime objectives regarding ballot access, election wins, and constituency accountability. ● characteristics of political party systems and party membership. ● how political party systems and memberships link citizen participation to policy making. ● impact of social movements and interest groups on social and political change. ● pluralist and corporatist interest group systems. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● compare and contrast political systems by analyzing the characteristics of democracy, authoritarianism, and domestic politics across countries. ● analyze the structures and functions of parliamentary, presidential, and semi-presidential systems, including executive leadership and institutional relations. ● evaluate democratization processes and goals in course countries, assessing factors that promote or hinder democratic transition. ● explain how political party systems and memberships connect citizen participation to policy making and influence government decisions. ● assess the impact of social movements, interest groups, and civil society on political and social change, distinguishing between pluralist and corporatist systems. ● examine legislative and judicial structures and functions, including legislative independence, executive removal procedures, and the role of independent judiciaries. ● analyze the influence of political values, beliefs, and social cleavages on policy choices, citizen relationships, and political stability. ● compare electoral systems and election rules, explaining how these serve different regime objectives and affect representation and accountability. ● evaluate the nature and role of political participation in both democratic and authoritarian regimes, especially regarding civil rights, civil liberties, and government authority. ● describe the data presented.

	● describe patterns and trends in data to draw conclusions. ● recognize and describe data trends in tables, charts, graphs, maps, and infographics. ● summarize and explain key points from text-based sources. ● describe the author's claim(s), perspective, evidence, and reasoning. ● construct clear arguments supported by evidence. ● formulate coherent arguments with clear theses and relevant evidence.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 3**: Politics in the United Kingdom and the European Union
Duration:	~4-5 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers).*
Unit Overview:	The first country case study will be the United Kingdom, an example of an advanced democratic nation. Students will explore all aspects of government and politics in the United Kingdom. As a "nation of nations" (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland), this case study exemplifies many of the concepts introduced in earlier units. Students will explore the ways in which the British Parliamentary process functions and differs from a presidential system such as the United States. A brief historical study will also provide students with an understanding of the experiences that have led to the modern political system in the UK and issues that the government currently faces.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	● How do the historical evolution and contemporary structure of the United Kingdom's political system reflect its democratic principles and influence its policy-making process?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● The United Kingdom's political system is deeply rooted in its gradual evolution from monarchy to parliamentary democracy. ● The United Kingdom has a parliamentary democracy with a constitutional monarchy, where the Prime Minister is the head of government and the monarch is the ceremonial head of state. ● The Parliament, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords, plays an important role and function in law-making and governance. ● The impact of Brexit on the United Kingdom's political landscape, economy, and relationship

	with the European Union and the rest of the world.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● various sources of power and authority within the United Kingdom's political regime. ● influence of various sources of power and authority on the stability and evolution of the United Kingdom's regime over time. ● constitutional reforms in the United Kingdom and the contribution of devolved power to parliaments in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to maintaining regime stability. ● current political dynamics in the UK, such as Brexit, the rise of political parties like the Scottish National Party (SNP), and recent legislative changes, and their impact on the distribution of power and regime stability. ● impact of ethnic, regional, and religious differences on political stability, governance, and social cohesion in the UK. ● history of conflict and efforts toward resolution, such as the Good Friday Agreement, and their effectiveness in addressing ethnic, regional, and religious differences. ● major constitutional reforms in the United Kingdom leading to the devolution of power within its unitary state structure. ● impact of constitutional reforms on the governance and political stability of the United Kingdom. ● current political dynamics and challenges related to devolution, such as independence movements and recent legislative changes, and their implications for the UK's unitary state. ● key characteristics of parliamentary systems, including the integration of lawmaking and executive functions. ● authority of the national legislature in parliamentary systems, such as the United Kingdom, to select and remove the head of government and cabinet. ● comparison of the parliamentary system of the United Kingdom with other forms of government, focusing on the benefits and challenges of integrating lawmaking and executive functions. ● contribution of the ceremonial role of the monarch and the appointment process to political stability and continuity in the UK.

	● specific roles of the House of Commons in approving legislation and the House of Lords in reviewing and amending bills. ● comparison of the bicameral parliamentary system of the United Kingdom with other legislative systems, focusing on the benefits and challenges of this structure. ● structure and functions of the UK's judicial system, including the role of judges in interpreting and applying common law. ● role of common law in enforcing the rule of law, ensuring justice and legal consistency. ● role of referenda in addressing questions about the creation of an independent nation-state, such as the 2014 Scottish independence referendum. ● implications of the 2016 Brexit referendum for the UK's political, economic, and social landscape. ● social and political tensions resulting from positive net migration of immigrants in the context of the United Kingdom. ● electoral system used in the United Kingdom for the House of Commons, including single-member districts and first-past-the-post rules. ● comparison of the UK's electoral system with those in other regimes where electoral rules are frequently changed to advance different political interests. ● influence of strict party discipline on policy-making and legislative outcomes in the UK. ● economic impact of neoliberal policies on growth, inequality, and market dynamics in the UK. ● concept of austerity and its implementation by the Conservative Party in the UK. ● effectiveness of policies, including austerity measures, proposed by the Conservative Party to manage rising health care costs and demographic challenges. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● analyze sources of power and authority within the UK's political regime and assess their impact on regime stability and evolution over time. ● evaluate constitutional reforms and devolution in the UK, explaining their effects on governance, stability, and the balance of power among Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. ● assess the effects of current political dynamics (e.g., Brexit, SNP, legislative changes) on power distribution and regime stability in the UK.

	● examine the impact of ethnic, regional, and religious differences on governance, social cohesion, and efforts at conflict resolution, such as the Good Friday Agreement. ● compare the UK's parliamentary and bicameral system to other forms of government and legislative structures, focusing on benefits and challenges. ● analyze the structure and functions of the UK's judicial system, including the role of common law in ensuring justice and legal consistency. ● evaluate the role and impact of referenda (e.g., Scottish independence, Brexit) on the UK's political, economic, and social landscape. ● assess the effects of electoral systems, party discipline, and economic policies (e.g., first-past-the-post, neoliberalism, austerity) on governance, inequality, and policy outcomes in the UK. ● apply political concepts and processes to real-world examples. ● interpret data to draw basic conclusions about political phenomena. ● analyze data to determine implications for political systems and policies. ● evaluate the credibility and relevance of text-based sources. ● explain how the author's argument or perspective relates to political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors. ● develop well-structured arguments that include counterarguments and rebuttals. ● apply reasoning skills to organize evidence logically and analyze its relevance to their claims.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 4:** Politics in the Russian Federation
Duration:	~3-4 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers)*
Unit Overview:	The second country is the Russian Federation, an example of a complex case study of a post-Communist nation dealing with issues of democratization, economic stability, and increasingly aggressive foreign policy. The historical legacies portion of this unit will focus on the authoritarian tradition of the Tsarist regime and Soviet era, the moderate policies of Soviet leaders in the late 1980s, and the demise of the Soviet Union. Students will then analyze the transition period of 1990-1999 in which Russia experienced economic and political decline as the nation attempted to democratize. The contemporary constitutional order and the modern policies of the Russian government will be evaluated in the context of the concepts studied to this point in the year.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	● How do the historical legacy and contemporary governance of the Russian Federation shape its political stability and global influence?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● Russia's political system blends the historical legacy of communism with contemporary authoritarian practices. ● Russia has a semi-presidential system with a strong executive branch, where the President holds significant power compared to the Prime Minister. ● The historical transition from the Soviet Union to the Russian Federation has had an impact on contemporary politics.

	● The role of the Federal Assembly, comprising the State Duma and the Federation Council, in Russia's legislative process alongside the presidency. ● The influence of Vladimir Putin's leadership on Russia's domestic policies, political stability, and international relations.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● various sources of power and authority in Russia, including constitutions, religions, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support. ● shaping of the Russian political system over time by various sources of power and authority. ● role of the political elite in supporting a strong president and its impact on Russian democracy. ● historical and political factors leading to the increasing power of the Russian president. ● specific features classifying Russia as a competitive authoritarian regime. ● implications of competitive authoritarianism on governance in Russia, including the impact on civil liberties and political opposition. ● effectiveness and stability of competitive authoritarian regimes, using Russia as a case study. ● federal structure of Russia and the division of powers between national and local governments. ● concept of asymmetrical federalism and its manifestation in Russia. ● trend of Russia becoming more unitary and its implications for regional autonomy and national governance. ● structure of the semi-presidential system in Russia, including the separate elections for the president and the national legislature. ● bicameral structure of Russia's legislative institutions, including the elected State Duma and the appointed Federation Council. ● constitutional powers of the Russian courts, including the power of judicial review. ● ways in which Russia's government uses the judicial system to target political opposition. ● responses of the Russian government to separatist movements and their effectiveness. ● impact of protests on public policy and state response in Russia. ● effectiveness of social movements in promoting social and political change in Russia. ● specific social cleavages in Russia that have contributed to separatist movements and protests. ● impact of social cleavages on national unity and political stability.

	● mechanisms of managed democracy in Russia, including election rules that favor one party. ● implications of a dominant party system on political competition and democratic representation in Russia. ● process and implications of the nationalization of broadcast media in Russia. ● effectiveness of media control in maintaining political stability and control within an authoritarian regime. ● re-nationalization of the oil and natural gas industries in Russia under Putin. ● implications of foreign investment limitations on Russia's economy and global economic relations. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● analyze the various sources of power and authority in Russia (e.g., constitution, religion, military, political parties, legislatures, popular support) and how they shape the political system. ● evaluate the role of the political elite and presidential power in Russia, including historical and political factors leading to the emergence of a strong president and the impact on Russian democracy. ● explain the characteristics of competitive authoritarianism in Russia and assess its implications for governance, civil liberties, and political opposition. ● compare the federal and unitary features of Russia's political structure, including asymmetrical federalism and shifts toward greater centralization. ● describe the structure and functions of Russia's semi-presidential system and bicameral legislature (State Duma and Federation Council), and analyze their roles in governance. ● assess the powers and uses of the judicial system in Russia, including judicial review and the targeting of political opposition. ● analyze the impact of social cleavages, separatist movements, and protests on Russian political stability, public policy, and national unity. ● evaluate mechanisms of managed democracy in Russia, such as electoral rules, dominant party systems, and media control, and their effects on political competition and stability.

	● assess the economic policies of the Russian government, including nationalization of industries, control of foreign investment, and their implications for the economy and international relations. ● compare two or more course countries based on their political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● analyze data to identify patterns and trends in Russian political behavior. ● interpret and critique arguments in text-based sources. ● create comprehensive arguments that integrate multiple sources of evidence. ● explain the significance of their evidence in a coherent manner to justify their claims.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 5:** Politics in the People's Republic of China
Duration:	~3-4 Weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers)*
Unit Overview:	The third country case study is the People's Republic of China. This high-interest and engaging case study focuses on the transition from the purely Communist ideological revolution of 1949 to the socialist market economy of today. However, while embracing economic liberalization, Chinese leaders have repeatedly rejected political pluralism. The communist party-state remains in clear control of all aspects of politics in China. The brief historical portion of this unit will focus on the imperial order to the founding of the People's Republic of China, as well as the history of the PRC with particular focus on Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. The structure and function of the party-state is intriguing as it governs a nation of over a billion citizens. Political participation, interest articulation, and aggregation, however, do exist and students will explore the various ways in which citizens can influence the government.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	How does the interactions between China's historical traditions and its modern political system impact its domestic policies and international relations?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● China's political system combines historical traditions with modern Communist Party control. ● China's governance highlights the complexities of authoritarian rule and economic development. ● China is a one-party state governed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), with Xi Jinping as

	the General Secretary and President. ● The National People's Congress (NPC) is the highest institution of state power, despite the CCP's overarching control. ● The economic reforms initiated by Deng Xiaoping have had an impact on China's rapid economic growth and development. ● The significance of issues such as human rights, censorship, and territorial disputes have shaped China's domestic and foreign policies.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● the role of the Communist Party's control over China's military in maintaining regime stability. ● the influence of constitutions, religions, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support on the stability and change of regimes. ● how unitary states like China concentrate power at the national level. ● the policy-making efficiency of unitary states such as China, Iran, and the United Kingdom. ● titles, powers, structure, and functions of China's executive leadership. ● role of China's president as commander in chief, chair of China's Military Commission, and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party (NPC). ● nomination and roles of the premier of the NPC and the closed-door process of leadership changes. ● structure and functions of China's National People's Congress (NPC). ● operation and legitimization of executive policies in China's unicameral, party-controlled legislative system. ● constraints on legislative powers by the Politburo Standing Committee and the Standing Committee of the NPC. ● roles of the Politburo Standing Committee and the Standing Committee of the NPC in legislative duties, agenda setting, member supervision, and law interpretation. ● concept of "rule by law" in China and its implications for judicial independence. ● subservience of China's judicial system to the Chinese Communist Party (CPC). ● use of the Great Firewall by the Chinese Communist Party to restrict media access and maintain political control.

	● ethnic and regional divisions in China, including the majority Han ethnic group and recognized ethnic minorities. ● impact of ethnic and regional cleavages on separatist movements within China. ● impact of government policies and economic opportunities on migration patterns in China. ● effects of rural-to-urban and west-to-east migration on regional development and government resources. ● structure of China's electoral system and the indirect selection of NPC members. ● maintenance of control by the Communist Party of China while allowing minor parties to exist. ● rules governing elections, party structure, and political party regulations in China compared with other course countries. ● dominance of the Communist Party of China and the limited roles of minor parties. ● China's economic liberalization policies and its membership in the IMF, World Bank, and WTO. ● expectations of economic improvement among Chinese citizens. ● China's experiments with private ownership, including special economic zones. ● degree of private control over natural resources in China and other course countries. ● effects of economic liberalization on environmental pollution, urban sprawl, and uneven economic development in China. ● factors contributing to environmental pollution, urban sprawl, and uneven economic development in China, including increased consumption, infrastructure, and migration patterns. ● reasons behind resource nationalization in China and its impact on government revenue and political legitimacy. ● central government's control over resources in China compared with other course countries. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…). ● analyze the Communist Party's control over the military and explain its role in maintaining regime stability and supporting executive leadership. ● evaluate the influence of constitutions, political parties, legislatures, military, religion, and public opinion on regime stability and change in China and compare with other course countries. ● compare policy-making efficiency and power concentration in unitary states like China, Iran,

	and the UK, focusing on executive structure and legislative process. ● describe the titles, powers, and selection processes for China's executive leadership, including the roles of president, premier, and the impact of closed-door leadership transitions. ● explain the structure, functions, and constraints of China's National People's Congress (NPC), including the influence of the Politburo Standing Committee. ● assess the concept of "rule by law" in China and its impact on judicial independence and the subservience of the courts to the Communist Party. ● analyze how ethnic and regional divisions, migration, and government policies affect separatist movements, regional development, and the allocation of government resources in China. ● evaluate China's economic liberalization policies, resource nationalization, and environmental challenges, comparing their effects with other course countries. ● compare China's electoral system, party structure, and political party regulations with those of other course countries, focusing on the dominance of the Communist Party and the limited role of minor parties. ● compare two or more course countries based on their political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● critically analyze quantitative data to draw informed conclusions about Chinese politics. ● explain how the implications of the author's argument or perspective may affect political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors ● construct arguments that consider different perspectives and complexities. ● create responses to opposing or alternate perspectives by incorporating refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 6:** Politics in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Duration:	~3-4 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers)*
Unit Overview:	As one of the world's only theocracies, and a regional power in the Middle East, the Islamic Republic of Iran is an extremely relevant and engaging case study for students. As students explore the significant elements of Shiism, the Pahlavi Monarchy, and the Islamic Revolution of 1979, an extremely complex and proud nation emerges. Two types of institutions coexist in the political system of Iran: appointed and elected offices. This dualism reflects the attempted combination of religious and seemingly democratic sovereignty developed under the Revolution. These multiple power centers are captivating for students to explore and evaluate. The ways in which citizens participate in the process is both open and closely controlled, making the mix of electoral politics and authoritarian power all the more complex and engaging.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	● How do Iran's historical background and unique theocratic-republican political system affect its governance and international relations?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● Iran is a theocratic republic with a political system that combines elements of democracy and religious authority. ● The role of the Supreme Leader, who holds significant power over the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, and the President. ● The significance of the Islamic Revolution of 1979 in shaping Iran's contemporary political and

	social structure. ● The impact of Iran's political system on its domestic policies, human rights issues, and international relations, particularly in the Middle East.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● sources of power and authority in Iran include constitutions, religion, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support. ● unitary states like Iran concentrate power at the national level. ● Iran's Supreme Leader sets the political agenda, serves as commander in chief, and appoints top ministers, the Expediency Council, half of the Guardian Council, and the head of the judiciary. ● the president of Iran is elected for up to two 4-year terms, oversees the civil service, and conducts foreign policy. ● Iran's theocracy is unicameral; the Majles is elected and holds the power to approve legislation, oversee the budget, and confirm presidential nominees to the Cabinet. This body acts under the supervision of the Guardian Council to ensure compatibility with Islam and Sharia law. ● Iran's Expediency Council, selected by the Supreme Leader as an advisory committee to resolve disputes between the Majles and the Guardian Council. ● Iran's Guardian Council, which vets candidates and oversees the Majles to make sure laws comply with Islamic law. ● the major function of Iran's judiciary is to ensure that the legal system is based on Islamic Sharia law. ● Iran monitors and restricts citizens' media access to a greater degree to maintain political control. ● there are religious divisions in Iran between the Shi'a Muslim majority and members of other religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism. ● separatist movements have emerged in Iran as a result of the social cleavages. ● Members of Iran's Majles are directly elected in single-member and multimember districts, which sometimes requires a second round of voting; candidates are vetted by the Guardian Council, and the legislative body lacks formal political party structures; a small number of the

	290 seats in the Majles are reserved for non-Muslim minorities, such as Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians ● presidential candidates in Iran must win an absolute majority of the popular vote in either the first or second round of national voting. ● majoritarian electoral rules in Iran provide winners with a national mandate. ● Iran's Guardian Council excludes reform minded candidates or those who do not support Islamic values from the ballot, which limits the number of candidates and reduces electoral competition and representation. ● half of Iran's Guardian Council members are selected by the Supreme Leader, and half are nominees from the judiciary with Majles approval. ● Iran lacks formal political party structures; parties operate as loosely formed political alliances with questionable linkage to constituents. ● social movements in Iran have put pressure on the state to conduct fair and transparent elections, including: The Green Movement in Iran that protested corruption in the 2009 election. ● rules in Iran with voting, the election of Majles, and appointment to cabinet positions created to ensure gender equity. ● highly skilled or well-educated individuals have left home countries such as Iran to escape government policies or practices that are perceived as limiting, corrupt, or repressive. ● rentier states like Iran that obtain a sizable percentage of total government revenue from the export of oil and gas or from leasing the resource to foreign countries, have been able to raise standards of living and fund governmental programs based on their huge reserves. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● analyze the sources of power and authority in Iran, including the constitution, religion, military, parties, legislatures, and popular support, and their impact on regime structure and stability. ● explain how Iran's unitary state structure concentrates power at the national level and compare this power concentration with other course countries. ● describe the roles and powers of Iran's Supreme Leader and president, and evaluate how executive authority is allocated and exercised. ● examine the structure and functions of Iran's legislative and advisory bodies (Majles, Guardian

	Council, Expediency Council), and their interactions in lawmaking and policy oversight. ● assess the influence of Islamic law on Iran's judiciary, and analyze how judicial decisions reinforce theocratic control. ● evaluate the impact of electoral rules, candidate vetting, and reserved seats on representation, competition, and minority rights in Iran's government. ● analyze the effects of social cleavages, religious divisions, and social movements (e.g., The Green Movement) on political participation, separatism, and reform efforts in Iran. ● assess the impact of Iran's resource-based (rentier) economy, government media controls, and emigration of skilled individuals on economic development, social change, and regime legitimacy. ● explain how political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies, and behaviors apply in a course country. ● explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with similar political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with different political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● evaluate data to understand political trends and their implications in Iran. ● synthesize information from multiple text-based sources to form cohesive analyses. ● create complex and original claims or theses reflecting a comprehensive understanding of Iranian politics. ● craft sophisticated arguments that incorporate a range of evidence and analysis. ● create well-rounded arguments that address and effectively counter opposing perspectives with sophisticated refutation, concession, or rebuttal.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 7:** Politics in the United States of Mexico
Duration:	~3-4 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers)*
Unit Overview:	The United States of Mexico is an example of a nation in economic and political transition. With a history of systematic corruption and authoritarianism, Mexico has recently begun to reconcile its politics with rule of law and tolerance. While the structure of institutions may seem familiar to students as they are similar to those of the United States, the political culture, traditions, and issues of the country lead to a political process which is very different from our own. With this case study, students deepen their knowledge to understand how poverty, international trade, and corruption impact politics and public policy.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	How do Mexico's political evolution and current institutional structures influence its democratic processes and policy outcomes?
Enduring Understanding(s):	● Mexico's political system is influenced by its revolutionary history and modern transition to democracy and provides insights into the democratization challenges. ● Mexico is a federal republic with a multi-party system, where the President is both the head of state and government. ● The impact of the Mexican Revolution and the subsequent establishment of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on the country's political history. ● The structure and function of Mexico's Congress, comprising the Senate and the Chamber of

	Deputies, in the legislative process. ● The challenges of corruption, drug cartels, and economic inequality in Mexico's political and social landscape.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● sources of power and authority in Mexico include constitutions, religions, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support. ● the transition of power in Mexico at the turn of the century led to the creation of a multiparty republic after 71 years of single-party dominance. ● federal states like Mexico divide power among different levels of government. ● the role of internal actors in Mexico and how they interact with governments can bolster or undermine regime stability and rule of law, such as State responses to separatist group violence, drug trafficking, and discrimination of indigenous groups. ● presidential systems, such as Mexico, feature a cabinet that is mostly responsible to the elected executive, with a legislature that can only remove cabinet members through impeachment. ● Mexico has separate fixed-term, popular elections for the national legislature, and a top executive leader serving as both head of state and head of government. ● Mexico's elected president, as both head of state and head of government, serves as commander in chief and leader of the bureaucracy, the Mexican president is restricted to one term. ● Mexico's congressional-presidential system is bicameral. ● the Mexican judiciary has the power of judicial review and constitutional amendments have been implemented with the intent to make the system more independent and effective. ● in Mexico, Supreme Court magistrates are nominated by the president and approved by the Senate for a term of 15 years. ● ethnic divisions exist between the Amerindian (indigenous) population and whites and mestizos, and regional divisions between the north and the south. ● Mexico's Congress of the Union has two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies, which has 300 members directly elected in single-member districts by plurality and an additional 200 members elected by a proportional representation, party list system; and the Chamber of Senators, which has 96 members elected in three seat constituencies and 32 by proportional representation

	● gender quotas in the party list system have helped increase female representation in the legislature ● Mexico's president is elected by a plurality of the national popular vote, not an absolute majority. ● Mexico has created independent election commissions that attempt to reduce voter fraud and manipulation and enhance electoral competition. ● rules that facilitate Mexico's transition away from one-party dominance include eliminating el dedazo, privatizing state-owned corporations to decrease patronage, decentralizing and reducing one-party power at the subnational level, and establishing and strengthening the National Electoral Institute (IFE). ● in Mexico, a multiparty system is dominated by the National Action Party (PAN), the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), and the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI); parties are allowed to form coalitions to nominate candidates for any particular election. ● the Zapatistas or Chiapas uprising in Mexico was in response to socioeconomic inequality and the negative impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). ● interest group systems can change over time, as represented by Mexico's moving from a corporatist system toward a pluralist system. ● Mexico's membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) has promoted economic liberalization policies. ● in response to market forces, Mexico has experimented with policies regarding private ownership of industry and capital, including: Privatization and increased competition in Mexico's oil industry (Pemex). ● economic liberalization has contributed to environmental pollution, urban sprawl, and uneven economic development in Mexico. ● in response to political, cultural, and economic changes, governments create new social policies, including gender equity, health care, and education policies in Mexico. ● the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and other economic liberalization policies, maquiladora zones, and foreign direct investment patterns prompted migration from rural to urban areas and from southern to northern Mexico, and contributed to greater economic development in the north than in the south.

	● resources are nationalized in Mexico to provide government revenue, consolidate government control, and reduce political influence of foreign governments and multinational corporations (MNCs), all of which can reinforce or challenge political legitimacy. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…) ● analyze the sources of power and authority in Mexico, including the constitution, religion, military, political parties, legislatures, and popular support, and their impact on regime stability. ● evaluate the transition from single-party dominance to a multiparty republic and assess how institutional reforms and party coalitions have shaped Mexico's current political system. ● explain how Mexico's federal structure divides power among national, state, and local governments ● compare the roles of internal actors (e.g., indigenous groups, separatist movements, drug cartels) in supporting or undermining stability and rule of law. ● describe the structure, roles, and limits of executive, legislative, and judicial branches in Mexico, including the process for selecting leaders and the powers of impeachment and judicial review. ● assess the impact of electoral rules, independent election commissions, and gender quotas on political competition, representation, and female participation in government. ● analyze the effects of ethnic and regional divisions, social movements (e.g., Zapatistas), and changing interest group systems on social cohesion, policy response, and regime evolution in Mexico. ● evaluate the impact of economic liberalization, NAFTA, and privatization policies on economic development, environmental challenges, migration patterns, and regional disparities. ● explain the reasons for and consequences of resource nationalization in Mexico, including its effects on government control, revenue, and political legitimacy. ● explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with similar political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with different political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. ● analyze and interpret complex data sets to explain Mexican political dynamics.

	● conduct in-depth analyses of text-based sources ● develop well-supported and balanced arguments on Mexican political issues. ● create and integrate a variety of evidence to construct convincing arguments. ● synthesize opposing perspectives to effectively refute, concede, or rebut in their arguments.

Unit Number and Title:	**Unit 8:** Politics in Nigeria
Duration:	~3-4 weeks
Resource(s):	*Comparative Government: Stories of the World for the AP Course, by Karen Waples (BFW Publishers)*
Unit Overview:	Nigeria is an example of a developing nation struggling with the legacy of colonialism, ethnic and religious division, poverty, violence, and military rule. Although Nigeria has a significant amount of natural resources, including oil, many factors have led mainly to a failed state in which ethnic, regional, and religious divisions have intensified in recent years. This case study explores, in depth, the significance of political subcultures and ethnic identity and the complex process of forging nationalism for a country in which unity does not exist. Currently, Nigeria is an operational democracy with structures similar to those of the United States. However, the country is currently operating under the fourth constitution since independence in 1960 and the political process is still maturing and evolving.
Learning Goals	
Standard(s):	This is a college-level course that adheres to the content, skills, and assessment requirements articulated by the College Board for Advanced Placement Comparative Government and Politics. Please see the AP Comparative Government and Politics Course and Exam Description. All required components for the course are included in this document.
Essential Question(s):	• How do Nigeria's diverse ethnic composition and historical political developments shape its democratic governance and policy-making challenges?
Enduring Understanding(s):	• Nigeria is a federal republic with a presidential system, where the President is both the head of state and government. • The influence of Nigeria's colonial history and subsequent independence has been crucial to its political development. • The challenges of managing ethnic and religious diversity in Nigeria's political and social context.

	● The impact of issues such as corruption, economic disparity, and the role of oil in Nigeria's economy and politics.
Learning Goal(s): *Students will know and will be able to use their learning to:* (Content/ Skills)	**Content:** (Students will know…) ● sources of power and authority in Nigeria include constitutions, religions, military forces, political parties, legislatures, and popular support. ● the transition of power in Nigeria at the end of the 20th century to a multiparty republic ended years of military rule. ● federal states like Nigeria divide power among different levels of government. ● the role of internal actors in Nigeria and how they interact with governments can bolster or undermine regime stability and rule of law. ● presidential systems such as Nigeria, feature a cabinet that is mostly responsible to the elected executive, with a legislature that can only remove cabinet members through impeachment. ● Nigeria has separate fixed-term, popular elections for the national legislature. ● Nigeria's president serves as both head of state and head of government. ● Nigeria's elected president, as both head of state and head of government, serves as chief executive, commander in chief, and head of civil service, and can approve domestic legislation and conduct foreign policy. ● Nigeria's congressional-presidential system is bicameral, consisting of an elected upper and lower chamber (Senate and House of Representatives). ● the Nigerian judiciary has the power of judicial review, and an effort has been made to reestablish its legitimacy and independence by reducing corruption; under the system of federalism, Islamic Sharia Courts have been established in the north. ● in Nigeria, Supreme Court judges are recommended by a judicial council and are appointed by the president with confirmation by the Senate. ● in Nigeria, ethnic divisions among more than 250 ethnic groups (including Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo), and religious and regional cleavages between the north (predominantly Muslim) and the south (where Christians and animists are concentrated). ● separatist movements have Nigeria as a result of the social cleavages. ● ethnicity has played a more significant role in Nigeria colonial history and a greater diversity and politicization of ethnic/religious identities in Nigeria.

	• members of the Nigerian House of Representatives are directly elected • presidential candidates in Nigeria must win the most votes and secure at least 25 percent of the vote in two-thirds of Nigeria's states, reflecting the federal characteristic of this regime. Majoritarian rules in Nigeria provide the winners with a national mandate. • after its democratic transition, Nigeria has created independent election commissions that attempt to reduce voter fraud and manipulation and enhance electoral competition. • Nigeria's multi party system includes 30 registered political parties, with two strong parties, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress of Nigeria (APC), and a third party having a degree of electoral success. • multiple parties and ethnic quotas affect representation in the country's federal legislature. • movements in Nigeria, including the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) and the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP) have emerged to advocate for the rights of an ethnic minority or protest against unjust methods of extraction and distribution of oil in the Niger Delta region. • the Boko Haram movement attempting to establish an Islamic state in northern Nigeria • Nigeria's membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) has promoted economic liberalization policies. • Nigeria's state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) collaborates with foreign companies in joint ventures to extract and produce oil. • unequal gender access to education in the north and south of Nigeria. • highly skilled or well-educated individuals have left home countries such as Nigeria to escape government policies or practices that are perceived as limiting, corrupt, or repressive. • rentier states such as Nigeria obtain a sizable percentage of total government revenue from the export of oil and gas or from leasing the resource to foreign countries, and have been able to raise standards of living and fund governmental programs based on their huge reserves. • resources are nationalized in Nigeria to provide government revenue, consolidate government control, and reduce political influence of foreign governments and multinational corporations (MNCs), all of which can reinforce or challenge political legitimacy. **Skills:** (Students will be able to…)

	• analyze the sources of power and authority in Nigeria (constitution, religion, military, parties, legislatures, popular support) and their impact on regime stability and political legitimacy. • evaluate the transition from military rule to a multiparty republic and assess how institutional reforms and party competition have shaped Nigeria's contemporary political system. • explain how Nigeria's federal structure divides power among national, state, and local governments. • compare the roles of internal actors (e.g., ethnic groups, religious movements, separatists) in supporting or undermining stability and rule of law. • describe the structure, roles, and limits of executive, legislative, and judicial branches in Nigeria, including presidential powers, the bicameral legislature, judicial review, and the influence of Sharia courts in the north. • assess the impact of electoral rules, independent election commissions, and ethnic quotas on political representation, electoral competition, and national unity in Nigeria. • analyze the effects of ethnic, religious, and regional divisions and social movements (e.g., MEND, MOSOP, Boko Haram) on social cohesion, resource conflict, and policy response in Nigeria. • evaluate the impact of economic liberalization, oil policy, and resource nationalization on government revenue, political legitimacy, development, and Nigeria's relations with international organizations. • explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with similar political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. • explain the implications of the similarities and differences between countries with different political systems, principles, institutions, processes, policies and behaviors. • interpret complex data to provide insights into Nigerian political behaviors and policies. • integrate and critique diverse text-based sources to form comprehensive analyses of Nigerian politics. • formulate compelling and well-reasoned arguments that address complex political issues in Nigeria using a variety of evidence. • synthesize and evaluate counterarguments to strengthen their own positions through refutation, concession, or rebuttal.