

## AP Comparative Government & Politics Summer Assignment

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The 21st century has taught us that we cannot ignore the world around us. Happenings around the globe now directly impact our lives, and social studies teachers and students around the country face the challenge of interpreting complex, puzzling events. The AP comparative course focuses on government and politics in other countries and provides a theoretical framework to compare political systems around the world. – Ethel Wood

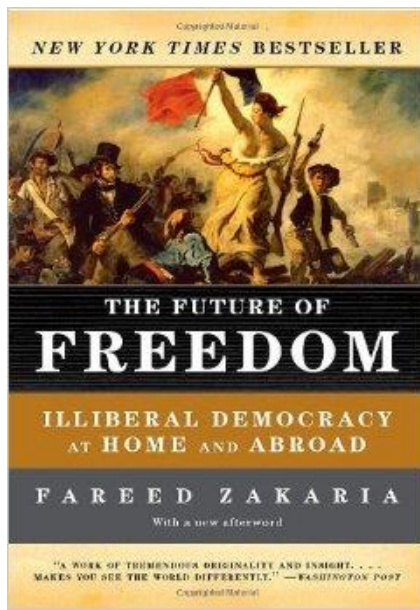


**Course Description:** This is a semester course designed to give students an analytical perspective on global politics. Students will focus on the governments and the diverse political structures of the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, China and Iran. Comparisons will be made in terms of power structures, political institutions, citizen participation, political and economic change, and public policy. Students will be exposed to different theoretical and practical frameworks that are the foundations for a variety of political systems.

**Summer Assignment:** *The assignment is due the first day of class.*

**Directions:** Please complete the following assignment. Pay careful attention to directions. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and an academic referral. If you have questions, please email me at [khrehor@wcpss.net](mailto:khrehor@wcpss.net).

### **The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home & Abroad-50 pts.**



#### Directions:

Purchase a copy of the Zakaria text (either the 2003 or 2007 edition will work fine, but it needs to be paperback—(available online/bookstores + copies at public libraries). **If cost is an issue please let me know so I can make a copy available to you.** After reading the book, type a response of no more than 250 words to *each* of the questions below (five total). Please be thorough yet concise in your responses, drawing

specific examples from the text each time. Additionally, include a page reference and a short supporting quotation for each question (your quotation will not count toward your word limit). Finally, include a word count. **Your total word count may not exceed 1250 words.** Please bring the book to the first class.

1. What does Zakaria mean by “illiberal democracy”? Why does he think that the number of governments that can be characterized as illiberal democracies is increasing?
2. According to Zakaria, what is the relationship between economic growth and democratization? Refer to two contrasting examples from the text. Are you persuaded by his explanation? Why or why not?
3. How does Zakaria differentiate between “democracy” and “liberty”? Do you find this distinction useful? Why or why not?
4. Why did liberal democracies flourish in Europe and North America earlier than in other countries? Do you agree with Zakaria’s reasoning? Why or why not?
5. How does Zakaria account for the failure of liberal democracy to flourish in the Middle East? Why does he think that Islamic fundamentalism has become increasingly influential?

**AP\* COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT  
AND POLITICS: AN ESSENTIAL  
COURSEBOOK  
7TH EDITION**

by Ethel Wood



Woodward Publications

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**Helpful Tips:**

1. Purchase an Ethel Wood's AP Comparative Government & Politics: An Essential Course Book, 7<sup>th</sup> edition book. It's quite comprehensive and an excellent resource to have to refer to during the semester.
2. AP Comparative requires students to examine and analyze countries that the majority of students are not familiar with. Taking some time over the summer (or during the semester prior to taking the course) to get to know these countries, paying attention to news coverage, or just discovering where they are on a map will go a long way to prepare you to evaluate the political system and culture of the countries we will study.

If you have any questions or concerns about the summer assignment, my expectations, and/or the course in general, please feel free to email me over the summer at [khrehor@wcpss.net](mailto:khrehor@wcpss.net). I cannot guarantee that I will check my email on a daily basis especially but I typically check it a few times over the summer.

Have a great summer!!! I look forward to working with all of you over the course of the next school year!!