

Summer Project: AP Comparative Govt.

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You have signed up for a really cool class and I couldn't be more pleased. This class combines elements of Civics/CWP with elements of an international Political Science course. We will use all kinds of materials and media to go deep into the history, culture, government, institutions and politics of 6 wildly different states. These states are...United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, China, Nigeria, and Iran. In addition we will spend a bit of time with both the United States and the European Union as added case studies. Here is what I would like you to focus on over the summer.

- 1.) Please begin reading the newspaper every day! Whether it is the print edition of the Seattle Times (My preference and our best local source of journalism) or the digital edition, please make this delightful habit part of your summer routine. If you choose not to incur the cost of subscribing, there are three on-line alternatives you could access without hitting a pay wall. These are apnews.com, reuters.com and aljazeera.com. All three are sources of quality journalism with robust international coverage.
- 2.) Once you've got your journalism source dialed in, start reading, every day. Make it a habit at the same bat-time, same bat-channel! Please focus on the international section along with the national. Please also focus on the 6 countries german to this class, United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, China, Nigeria and Iran.
- 3.) Please keep a notebook log of daily stories that originate in our six countries. Create a section for each of these six countries. Every time you see a story related to the Big-6, please read carefully and make a note in the correct section. Please include the date, the journalist, the source and a summary of the story.
- 4.) When we get back together in September, we will start our year with an analysis of the specific issues these six states are facing.

Well, that's it my young Padawan Learners! It is my hope that you will develop the life-long habit of starting every day with a perusal of the newspaper. It is a delightful and civilized way to start your day. The Seattle Times also carries many other features, especially the Sunday edition. The crossword is pretty easy on Monday and Tuesday but gets progressively harder as the week goes on, culminating with the Sunday edition, an absolute monster! Bonus Olsen points to anyone who completes the Sunday edition w/out outside assistance.

Best regards,

Bryan Olsen
Stanwood High School