**Comparative Government Course Syllabus  
Miss Natalie Kainz, Room R8  
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**Class Content**

Welcome to our Comparative Government course for the 2013-2014 school year at ASK! This senior course is designed to help you understand the history of political thought, development of government systems, and encourage you to become an active member of your own government system. The following is an overview of the units we will cover each semester.

**1st Semester**-History of Western Political Thought  
-Types of Government Systems **-**Comparative Government Case Studies- US, Cuba, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, UK, Germany, China, India, Kosova  
-Social Issues Conference Research StudyFinal: Multiple Choice/Writing Exam

**2nd Semester  
-**Civics/Active Participation in Government – What does it mean to be involved in politics and the government here in Kosova?  
-Politics by civil means- Voting Rights and Citizenship- What does it mean to be a responsible citizen of your country?-Politics by violent means- Terrorism, Revolutions, Arab Spring  
-Politics without government- The role of globalization and global institutions such as the UN and EU in our world today.  
Final: Presentation/Project Based along with volunteer work and response (We will present 5 volunteer opportunities throughout the second semester, you must attend 2)

**Assessment:  
Test and Unit Assessments 25%  
Quiz 10%  
Homework 10%  
Class Participation and Work 25%  
Papers and Projects 25%  
Volunteer Work 5%**

**Extra Credit Policy:** I will only offer one extra credit opportunity each semester, the first one will be about the Social Issues Conference. For second semester it will be an interview based assignment.  
  
**Behavior and Expectations:  
Respect**Everyone in the classroom will be treated with respect. It’s simple: treat others how you want to be treated yourself. Put forth your best effort at all times and you will be successful. **Respect everyone. Respect environment. Respect education.**

**Academic Integrity**I also expect academic integrity from you. Take pride in your work, in your own thoughts and ideas. You are too intelligent to use someone’s work that is not your own. I do not care what anyone thinks but you. It is **easy** for me to tell when you are using someone else’s work, so just don’t do it. It is not worth the risk. Please refer to the student handbook for a more detailed description on plagiarism and the consequences.

**Attendance**  
You are responsible for being present, on time, and prepared for class daily. In the event of an absence, you will be held responsible for any missing work (I will not hunt you down for it). Failure to show on test day or date of assessment (quiz, presentation, etc.) will result in an automatic zero unless parent notification can be provided by the administration stating it was an excused absence. Finally, by ASK policy, 10 absences (either excused, unexcused or a combination) will result in a review of your performance and possible failure in this course. Refer to handbook for further information.

**Class Website**: <http://askmissnatalie.weebly.com/>

The website above is our class website. Please put this in your phones and computers and save it as a favorite. On the website you can go to the page for our class and see what we do in class each day, along with any homework, readings, and reminders. Sometimes you will be required to use the website for certain assignments, so please check it out. If you are absent for any reason, I expect that you will check the website and know what you missed even before you come to class the next day. It is up to you to ask questions if you do not understand directions, or it you need materials to make up your work.

**Communication and Extra Help:** I am here before school, after school, and on my breaks to help you if you need it. It is best to let me know a day or so ahead of time to make sure I don’t have a meeting, but even if you drop by unannounced I will usually have time to talk. Please don’t be shy and let me know when you need to talk or need help with something. I am also available via email if you have questions in the evening- however do not expect an immediate response, and if it is after 7pm do not expect a response at all.

**Power School:** I will be using the Power School system for all grading and attendance purposes. I will keep it updated almost daily, so please make sure you and your parents know your log-ins and attend the power school training sessions. This is an incredible tool to help you and your parents keep track of your progress in this class, so please use it. I will not be showing you your grade during class, because now you will be able to look it up on your own!

\*NOTE: The teacher has the right to revise and alter any content of this syllabus to better suit the needs of the classroom learning environment. All information is classroom policy/ procedure until otherwise stated.

**I have read or have had this syllabus read to me and thoroughly understand all that it entails and I agree follow its policies.**

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**Please let me know of any concerns you have about your child in this course, or any information you would like to share about your child:**