

# Summer Assignment: 2023/24

## AP Comparative Govt. and Politics

Hi everybody! Welcome to AP Comparative Govt. and Politics. This is a fantastic course designed to increase your understanding of the world, the course's component countries and, by extension, our own systems of government. The summer assignment for this course is two-fold.

1. You need to begin reading quality journalism every day! If your family subscribes to the Seattle Times, our best local paper, then, if you haven't already, begin reading daily. It is a civilized and highly informative way to start your day. Generations of well-informed Americans have this habit and it's time for you to pick it up.

I would prefer the print edition of the Seattle Times, one interacts differently with a physical newspaper in ways that are intellectually beneficial. The digital edition would be my second choice and that version does have interesting links to additional materials and sources.

A third choice would be for you to access one of the big wire services that produce quality journalism and to which smaller papers subscribe. Some options would be...

[www.apnews.com](http://www.apnews.com)

[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)

[www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)

*You will not hit a paywall with any of these three sites and all are generators of quality journalism. Each has a quality "International" section.*

While reading the paper every day, please pay special attention to stories originating in our six countries of interest. These are, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Russia, China, Iran and Nigeria. Please keep a log about what is going on in all six of these states. Maybe jot down the date, the source/journalist and a one sentence summary of the contents.

2. We will begin the 2023/24 school year by reading a book together. Will you please, over the summer, acquire "Upheaval" by Jared Diamond (Little/Brown, 2019). I see that the paperback version is going for \$14.59 new on Amazon while you can find used versions in the \$6.00 range. I would opt for the used version in my humble opinion. You could, of course, find this book in libraries including our own here in Stanwood.

That's it my young Padawan Learners! Get reading the paper every day. Pay attention to stories about the UK, Mexico, Russia, China, Iran and Nigeria. Get yourself a copy of Diamond's "Upheaval" and you are good to go. Have a great summer and see you next year!

Bryan Olsen

