

A.P. World History Disclosure Statement or Instructions on Leviathan Consumption (the Historic 2018 Edition)

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to A.P. World History! If you are anything like me, this disclosure will lead to panic and desire to drop the class and run the other way. Don't do it! **You can do this.** We will get through this challenging college-level course a little at a time. As Shel Silverstein wrote:

Melinda Mae

Have you heard of tiny Melinda Mae,
Who ate a monstrous whale?
She thought she could,
She said she would,
So she started in right at the tail.
And everyone said, "You're much too small,"
But that didn't bother Melinda at all.
She took little bites and she chewed very slow,
Just like a good girl should...



...And in eighty-nine years she ate that whale
Because she said she would!

What is A.P. World History?

The AP board describes the class this way: "The AP World History course and exam emphasizes the development of thinking skills used by historians and aligns with current scholarly perspectives on major issues in World History. The course is designed to encourage students to become apprentice historians who are able to use historical facts and evidence in order to build deeper conceptual understandings of critical developments in World History."

This is an opportunity to discover the big picture of human development and the broad outlines of history, as well as develop skills in critical thinking and analytical writing.

All historical data and skills required to succeed in class and pass the test will be taught. **Plan on homework every day**, with rare exceptions. Study groups are encouraged. Here is the contact information for two people you can call, email, or text for help or sympathy:

AP Test

Students are encouraged, but not required to take the AP World History exam. The exam score is based on 55 multiple choice questions, three short answer questions (SAQ), a long essay (LEQ), and a document based question (DBQ) essay. Students will receive a score of 1-5. Scores of three and above are generally considered passing grades and MAY receive UP TO 6 college credits, depending on the college or university they attend. Credits given by colleges can be found on the website AP Central.

- The test is scheduled for May 16. An alternate date is provided by the AP College Board for emergency situations.
- The cost of the test is \$94.00 (\$53.00 for students with a school fee waiver.)
- This fee **MUST BE** paid in full by March 1. It can be paid in full online on MyDSD with either a debit card or a credit card (subject to a 3.5% fee) or in the office in full or by partial payment with cash, paper check or credit card after January 1st.

Grading:

Goals: Love history! Learn critical thinking, analysis, pattern recognition, sequence, cause and effect, and continuity and change over time; learn to think like a historian. Pass the class and prepare to take the AP exam on May 16, 2018.

Missed work is accepted, with a **40% loss** in points, unless the student has an excused absence, in which case work will be accepted for full credit earned for **two** class periods after the work was due.

Missed work is located in two places: 1) in the small filing cabinet in the classroom. The bottom drawer contains PowerPoints and assignments by date and 2) On Canvas.

Missed quizzes and tests must be taken during tutorial and after school; you have **TWO CLASS PERIODS** after the missed day to take quizzes and tests.

Missing work when you know you turned it in:

1. Check the “No NAME Basket of Shame” on the shelf by the teacher’s desk.
2. Check your file (tall filing cabinet, second drawer down, by class period)
3. Check your notebook. Eight out of 10 times (not a real statistic), you didn’t turn it in.
4. Do the assignment again. It could still be worth 60%, which is better than nothing.

If you need help: ASK! The teacher, thank goodness, is not a mind reader.

Tests: If you don't like your score, you can correct wrong answers for ½ point each (does not include true/false questions) with an explanation about why your answer was wrong or what makes another answer correct. **Quizzes** can be retaken, but **only before the test.**
Quizzes and tests are 25% of the term grades.

Extra Credit is generally offered each term. Listen for opportunities and check Canvas.

Reading notes and essays MUST BE HANDWRITTEN! This course covers everything from the first identifiable person to the present day over the entire planet; there is zero chance we can cover all of the material in class, so reading is essential.

Grading Scale:

Because this is a challenging class, the grading scale is more liberal than the regular class, where a passing grade requires 60% and an A requires 95%.

A 91%	B- 74%	D+ 58%
A- 88%	C+ 70%	D 54%
B+ 84%	C 66%	D- 50%
B 79%	C- 62%	F 49-0%

Reading and Homework: 60%

Writing: 15%

Tests and Quizzes: 25%

Citizenship:

I follow Northridge High School's citizenship policy.

Textbook and Supplements:

Every student will receive a textbook for personal use. Be nice to it. Our textbook is Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources, second edition, by Robert W Strayer. Other materials will be provided in class in the form of articles, PowerPoints, and primary sources.

We will also be reading History of the World in Six Glasses by Tom Standage. Copies are provided. You may also purchase copy of your own in hardback, paperback, electronic, or audio. We will be reading this in December.

Movies, Clips, Youtube:

I may use movies or clips occasionally. I am an err-on-the-side-of-caution teacher and will pre-screen all movies. I also provide a link on my website so that parents can pre-screen shows. If you choose to have your child abstain from movies, please let me know and alternative work will be provided in the hallway or library.

Materials you will need:

- 2-3 inch three-ring binder or 2-3 1” binders
- 7 tabbed section dividers
- Paper and pen/cils

Optional supplies:

For the picky who like stuff just so or hate to share: colored pencils, sticky tabs or small Post It notes, highlighter. A USB drive might be helpful as well.

Rules:

Cell phone use: never **never** never **NEVER** when there’s a discussion, lecture or group activity going on. Beware: I take phones. Confiscated phones may be picked up after class (first offense), after school (second offense), or from the office (third offense.) No one likes to be ignored and that includes me. Phones and other electronic devices may be used during individual work time for research and to listen to music. Bring headphones.

Food and drink: No. Water only.

Other rules: You know what appropriate behavior is. Do it. Enough said.

Teacher email: Bahlstrom@dsmail.net Teacher prep periods: 3rd and 7th.

Print, read, and sign this disclosure. Return to Mrs. Ahlstrom August 24th (A day) or August 27th (B day.)

Student

Print Sign

Parent

Sign Date

Is there anything you would like me to know about you/ your student? _____
