

HONORS WORLD REGIONAL STUDIES

Honors World Regional Studies at SME is a rigorous class designed for students who are extremely talented in social studies and who are committed to challenging themselves with advanced curriculum at an accelerated pace.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS: *Students who enroll in this course should already. . .*

- have succeeded in an advanced course or have made strong A's every quarter in a standard class (see further explanation below)
- be advanced vocabulary learners; students should be able to easily memorize and use new words
- be adept at clearly expressing original and insightful thoughts in writing and class discussion
- be adept at structuring ideas and arguments in a logical, convincing way by supporting claims with precise and relevant examples
- be advanced in reading comprehension, be able to tackle challenging texts at a rigorous pace.

WORK ETHIC EXPECTATIONS: *Students who enroll in this course should be able and willing to. . .*

- learn an average of 10 new vocabulary words per week and recall previous words.
- participate actively and productively in class discussions
- practice excellent time management and self-discipline
- complete most assignments at home rather than in class
- expect that no late work will be accepted for credit
- adhere to a strict honor code: all students are expected to do their own work and read all of the assigned literature, never substituting internet sources or summaries
- be responsible for one's own behavior, complete assignments in a quality fashion, and be accepting and respectful of others' viewpoints
- maintain daily knowledge of current world events for class discussion and/or quizzes

STANDARD vs. HONORS CLASSES: *Please be advised. . .*

The pace of Honors World Region Studies is faster than that of standard World Regional Studies. Students will cover more material more quickly and at a higher level of performance. Some periods of increased intensity are to be expected as students may have overlapping current events, reading, and writing assignments.

It is generally rare for a student to move from a standard class to an honors class from year to year. (Movement has usually been due to a rare occurrence or an extenuating circumstance that prevented a student from taking the honors class the year before.) It is expected that a student who moves from a standard class into an honors class will have received strong A's each quarter in his/her standard class and has a pre-established work ethic. Even then, students who move to an advanced class need to realize and accept that they will likely not have covered all of the skills and material presented in the honors course; therefore, the student is responsible for bridging this gap by acquiring the prerequisite skills independently or through extra assistance.