

Advanced Placement World History: Modern

Course Description from the College Board: In AP World History Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides themes that students explore throughout the course to make connections, among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

This is a year-long class, traditionally taken sophomore year, that prepares students for success on the national AP Exam in May, but also provides an opportunity to acquire critical thinking skills, to participate in class discussions, and to analyze complex primary sources and texts. This class satisfies the graduation requirement in World History. Students do not need to have taken a previous social studies AP class to be eligible for this class.

Successful AP World History students have the following characteristics:

- Students should be interested and curious about World History.
- Students should be prepared for a greater body of work than they may be used to. Since students may potentially earn college credit for this course, the class is taught at an advanced level at a quicker pace and higher workload.
- All students must actively participate in all class discussions, group work, and activities.
- Students should be organized. This includes keeping track of notes and assignments, turning work in on time, and communicating with the teacher when absent to stay on track with missing assignments.
- Students should check the class Canvas daily to stay aware of what is happening in the class.
- A significant part of the course grade will be based on writing assignments. It is imperative that students learn to write within the guidelines and time frames established by the College Board for three types of essays. Students should be familiar with basic writing skills like writing a thesis statement and organizing a paper into clear paragraphs focused on a specific topic.
- Students are expected to be open to learning and respectful of the diverse perspectives of their classmates.
- Students should be able to move beyond memorized material and answer a variety of stimulus-based multiple-choice questions, interpreting reading passages, graphs, tables, maps, and charts.

Homework Expectations:

- Homework will consist primarily of reading assignments and reviews of daily notes in order to master the large body of factual information. Students will be given required reading from the text as well as additional primary and secondary sources. To have meaningful class discussions and activities, it is expected that the appropriate reading will be done BEFORE class.
- Students will be provided with a reading guide for textbook materials to facilitate note taking.

Assessments:

- There will be 5 units in the Fall semester and 5 units in the Spring semester that will each cover a wide variety of content. Major assessments will be given at the end of each unit.
- Major Assessments will consist of the following:
 - Assessments designed to mimic elements of the AP Exam (Stimulus-based multiple-choice questions and Short Answer Questions)
 - Document-Based Questions (DBQ's) or Long Essay Questions (LEQ's)
 - Major projects that cover the content of the unit
 - Debates that require students to complete substantial research in order to participate effectively
- Minor assessments will include be completed throughout the unit and will consist of the following:
 - Reading quizzes over textbook materials. (Hand-written notes are allowed)
 - Written Short Answer Questions focused on a specific topic
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