

AP WORLD HISTORY MODERN – grade 9

Information for Families and Potential Students

1. AP World History Modern is the rigorous course option for 9th graders in the Social Studies in District 196. The course meets the state graduation requirement for a year of World History.
2. “AP” is an abbreviation for Advanced Placement. The College Board began designing AP courses in the 1950s for students who wanted a more rigorous curriculum that would be the equivalent of an introductory level college/university course.
 - a. Students take the course and then take an AP Exam in May. The exam contains multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions (paragraph response), a document-based question (multi-paragraph response), and a long-essay question (multi-paragraph response).
 - b. Student exams are scored by College Board and receive an overall score of 1-5. A score of 3 and above is considered passing, which means the student can use that course for credit toward a college/university course.¹
 - c. There is significant evidence that students who take AP courses in high school perform better (have higher GPAs) in college/university and graduate sooner than students who did not take an AP course or took PSEO (Concurrent Enrollment) courses.^{2 3 4 5}
 - d. AP courses are peer-reviewed, and AP exams are peer-scored, by high school teachers and college professors.
 - e. AP teachers are required to complete a course audit annually and attend AP workshops in their content area to be qualified to teach the course.
 - f. Students register in October for the AP World History Modern exam. The exam is administered at school in early May, with the time and date being determined by College Board. AP Exam scores are available to students in early July.⁶
3. The AP World History course content is c.1200 to the present-day. The course and exam are highly focused on historical thinking and reasoning skills. This means students can expect to be assigned ~4 to 6 pages of reading regularly throughout the course. Often the reading is assigned as homework, but teachers do try to provide some in-class time when possible.
4. The AP World History course is a macro-examination of history; for example, students will learn about the impacts of the Industrial Revolution regionally, politically, economically, and socially. To demonstrate that learning, students will be tasked to explain cause/effect relationships, compare similarities/differences, and explain how things changed and/or stayed the same.
5. Most students who take AP World History Modern nation-wide, and at International schools, are 9th and 10th graders.⁷
6. Students will read a College Board approved textbook – the Lexile (reading) level of our textbook is a high 9th grade to low 11th grade level.
7. To be successful in this course, students need to attend class, manage their time well, be disciplined readers, turn assigned work in on-time, and learn to examine historical narratives through multiple lenses by being engaged in class. The pace of the course is constant because we are learning 800+ years of history from September to late April. Students will have assigned work after the exam in May that is part of their final term grade.

¹ Colleges and universities establish their own policies about which scores are accepted for credit.

² Wyatt, J., Patterson, B.F. & Di Giacomo, F. T. (2015). *A comparison of the college outcomes of AP and dual enrollment students*. (College Board Research Report 2015). New York: The College Board.

³ Indiana Commission for Higher Education, *Early College Credit: Dual Credit, AP & the Broader Landscape of Earning College Credits in High School*, January 2019.

⁴ Speroni, Cecilia (2015). *Determinants of Students' Success: The Role of Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Programs*. National Center for Postsecondary Research.

⁵ Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts Performance, Audit Division (2018). Greg Griffin, State Auditor. Leslie McGuire, Director. The state spent \$3 million to partially subsidize AP exams in some subjects, for some students. AP students in Georgia earned scores that qualified them for \$88 million in college credits.

⁶ There is a fee for AP Exams; the cost is based on a formula from the state of Minnesota which partially subsidizes the exam. This year the cost for each exam is \$85. For students receiving educational benefits (additional subsidies from the state) the cost is \$36 per exam.

⁷ In 2023, ~356,000 students took the AP World History Modern exam, with 64.7% earning scores of 3, 4, and 5.