



# George Washington High School

## Course Syllabi



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**Course Name:** World History to 1500 (WH1)  
**Instructor Name:** Dr. S.K. Morris (she/her/hers)  
**Contact Information:** emorris@mail.dps.12.va.us

- Room location: 0-24 A-wing
- Email address: **emorris@mail.dps.k12.va.us**
- Planning Period/ Office Hours: 9:30-10:20am M-F

### Course Description:

World History to 1500 (WH1) engages students in the historical development of people, places, events, and patterns of life from ancient times through 1500 AD (CE). Students will be exposed to a variety of resources that will broaden their perspective and strengthen their understanding of world history. World History to 1500 is designed to prepare students to be college and/or career-ready through the development of geography skills, timeline examination, and the analysis of primary and secondary sources.

### THIS IS A VIRGINIA GRADUATION REQUIREMENT + SOL

### Course Structure:

World History 1 is divided into 7 broad units broken down by specific SOL standards. The following is the broad outline of how the course will progress (Note: *dates are tentative and subject to change*).

Unit 0 • Quarter 1 • Think Like a Historian (August 7<sup>th</sup> – August 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Unit 1 • Quarter 1 • Paleolithic and Neolithic Man (August 14<sup>th</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Unit 2 • Quarter 1 • Ancient River Valleys (September 5<sup>th</sup> – October 2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Unit 3 • Quarter 1 • Ancient Civilizations (October 3<sup>rd</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>)  
Unit 4 • Quarters 1 & 2 • Greece, Rome, and the Byzantine Empire (November 13<sup>th</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup>)  
Unit 5 • Quarter 2 • Middle Ages and the Renaissance (February 6<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>)  
Unit 6 • Quarter 2 • Trade Routes, Africa, and Mesoamerica (March 24<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup>)  
Unit 7 • Quarter 2 • Show What You Know (April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup>)

### Student Evaluation:

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|--|-------------|
| • GOLD – Summative assessments (tests), projects, papers, and cumulative assignments | <b>40 %</b> |
| • SILVER – Formative Assessments (quizzes), class assignments                        | <b>35 %</b> |
| • BRONZE – Classwork, homework, daily assignments, bell ringers, and exit tickets    | <b>25 %</b> |

**Attendance Policy:** Effective August 2024, students in grades 9-12 must attend at least 90 percent of the class days to receive course credit. It is important to note that all absences, irrespective of being excused or unexcused, are considered when evaluating attendance. In the event that a student's attendance falls below 90 percent, they will not be eligible to receive credit for the course. However, students can regain their course credit by participating in the division's meaningful engagement options, such as attending Saturday sessions, after-school programs, and/or Summer School. If a student's attendance falls below 90 percent, they will receive an “AF” marking, which is equivalent to a 59% grade (or an F).

### **Grading Scale**

100- 90	<b>A</b>
89 - 80	<b>B</b>
79 - 70	<b>C</b>
69 - 60	<b>D</b>
59/Below	<b>F</b>

*Grades are grades.... They don't make you and they don't break you!*

***Do YOUR best, and never give up or “settle” for anything that isn't your best effort!! Put in the work and real effort, and it will show—that I promise.***

*Most quizzes and tests will be given via canvas, with three opportunities to reach your best possible score! Take advantage of each opportunity, and don't be afraid of success or what it takes to get there!*

### **Required Course Materials:**

- **3-Ring Spiral Notebook with pockets**
- **Loose-Leaf Paper** (to put in 3-ring notebook)
- **Pencils / Pens** (you decide – I recommend lead pencils w/ 0.9 lead)
- **DPS issued Chromebook** (Chromebooks will also be available in class)

### **Class Expectations/Non-Negotiables:**

- Cellphones must be in Yondr pouch and out-of-sight for the duration of class – no exceptions
- Be respectful of each other's differences and use kind words – *absolutely no racist, misogynistic (sexist), anti-LGBTQ+ hate speech or anything taken by Dr. Morris to be demeaning, derogatory, mocking, or flippant*
- Maintain a positive attitude conducive to learning – *embrace a “growth mindset” and “level up”*
- Stay seated in your assigned seat
- Keep your hands to yourself
- Raise your hand to ask questions
- Be quiet and respectful during classroom instruction
- 10/10 Rule: No one leaves the classroom for the first/last 10 minutes of class

### **Course Requirements:**

- Students come to class on time, prepared, and ready to learn
- Students pay attention during instruction
- Students complete course assignments on time
- Students participate in class activities and discussions
- Students follow class expectations and practice appropriate classroom etiquette

**Enthusiasm  
Action  
Good  
Leadership  
Excellence**



**Personal  
Responsibility  
Integrity  
Determination  
Every day!!**