LINCOLN-WOODSTOCK COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Name: Ancient World Civilizations
Semester: Year-long course
Teacher: Logan Placey

Course Description:
This course explores the history of the world from the beginnings of human civilization right to the fall of the Western Roman Empire in 476 CE. It focuses on the broad themes of ancient world civilizations, including the geography, religion, governments, economic systems, societal structures, and major achievements. Along the way, students practice basic historical skills as they examine some of the causes and effects of major historical events and apply those skills in various assessments. Finally, students make connections between the events and achievements of these ancient civilizations and the world today.

Competencies or Standards Assessed:
SS:WH:1: Political Foundations and Developments: Students will demonstrate an understanding of major events, ideas, and issues pertaining to the history of governance.

SS:WH:2: Contacts, Exchanges & International Relations: Students will demonstrate their understanding of the interactions of people and governments over time.

SS:WH:3: World Views and Value Systems and their Intellectual and Artistic Expressions: Students will demonstrate their understanding of conceptions of reality, ideals, guidelines of behavior, and their forms of expression.

SS:WH:4: Economic Systems & Technology: Students will demonstrate their understanding of the changing forms of production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services over time.

SS:WH:5: Social/Cultural: Students will demonstrate their understanding of the diversity of values, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups over time.

Anchor Texts or Major Curriculum:
Jacobs, Heidi Hayes, LeVasseur, Michal L., et al. *History of Our World: The Early Ages*. Boston, MA: Prentice Hall, 2008.

Various primary and secondary sources, including various artifacts and written texts from the time periods discussed.

Course Outline (major units of study):	
Unit Title	Essential Question or Overarching Understanding
Prehistory	1. How do we understand the past? 2. What is prehistory? How does archaeology help us understand what happened during this time period? 3. Where do human beings come from? What is the archaeological evidence to support the theory of evolution? 4. What was life like for human beings during prehistoric times? 5. What were the causes and effects of the Neolithic Revolution? 6. How and why did the first civilizations develop?
River Valley Civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley Civilization, China	1. What are the characteristics of a civilization? 2. What are the shared characteristics of the River Valley Civilizations? 3. How did the geographic environment affect the development of these civilizations? 4. How did human beings modify their environment to adapt? 5. How and why did religions form? 6. What are the characteristics of a polytheistic religion? How do they apply to the beliefs of the River Valley Civilizations? 7. What type of government did each civilization share? What are the characteristics of these types of government? From where do these rulers get their legitimacy to rule? How does that compare to the US model? 8. What methods did early governments use to control their state? 9. How and why do social class structures form? What were the similarities and differences of social class structures in the River Valley Civilizations? 10. What is trade? Why do people trade? How do the natural environment and available resources affect the economies of groups of people?

	11. What are the major intellectual, scientific, and mathematical achievements of these civilizations? How do these achievements apply to the world today?
Ancient Greece	1. What are the major characteristics of Minoan and Mycenaean civilization? How do these groups connect to Classical Greek civilization? 2. How did Greece's location, climate, and physical geography affect its development? 3. What are the characteristics of the Greek city-states? How and why did Ancient Greece exist as a series of independent cities and not a unified state? 4. What are the similarities and differences of Greek cities? 5. What role did Greek religion play in the lives of its people and their understanding of the world? What is the purpose of mythology in human societies? 6. What were the differences in society, government, and economy between the major cities of Athens and Sparta? 7. How did the differences in these two states lead to conflict? 8. What were the major achievements of Greek civilizations? 9. What were the major achievements of Alexander the Great? How did he spread Greek culture to different parts of the world?
Ancient Rome	1. What is the founding myth of Rome? How does it compare to the archaeological evidence for the founding of the city? 2. How did the geography of Rome affect its development? 3. What does Roman mythology tell us about the beliefs and mindset of the Romans? 4. What are the characteristics of the

	Roman Republic? How does it compare to our American republic? 5. What were the factors that led to the rise in power of the Roman Republic and the creation of its empire? 6. What were the factors that led to the fall of the Roman Republic? 7. How does the Roman Empire represent continuity in Roman civilization? Change? 8. What was daily life like in the Roman Empire and in Pompeii in particular? 9. What factors led to the fall of the Roman Empire?

Portrait of a Learner

Independent Learner
I make thoughtful plans and do my best to reach personal goals using feedback to work through challenges.

Responsible Collaborator
I work with others to achieve shared goals by listening actively, contributing ideas, and managing conflict.

Critical Thinker
I analyze information, ask thoughtful questions, and apply reasoning skills to solve problems and make decisions.

Effective Communicator
I express ideas clearly, adapting strategies based on the audience, setting, and/or purpose.

Global Citizen
I show that I care and take responsibility by helping in my community and the world around me.

Additional Classroom Expectations: