Sinaloa Middle School

A California School To Watch

A California Gold Ribbon School

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE: World History 7
TEACHER'S NAME: Juliet Freeman
TEACHER'S E-MAIL: juliet.freeman@simivalleyusd.org
Teacher Website: Google Classroom

Welcome to 7th grade IM World History! I'm Juliet Freeman and this will be my 17th year of teaching World History to secondary school students. I have my master's degree in teaching, with Best Practices as my specialty. My husband and I have three kids; a daughter in college, and two sons in high school! My own kids were students at Sinaloa and were or are currently part of SVUSD. I am excited about this school year and consider it a privilege to work alongside you all.

I. Course Standards/Objectives

A. Educational standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each subject in each grade. In California, the State Board of Education decides on the standards for all students, from kindergarten through high school. Information regarding specific standards can be found at www.cde.ca.gov.

B. This year in History, we will survey world history beginning with the Roman Empire and carrying through the Age of Enlightenment. We will cover thousands of years, a multitude of cultures and religions, as well as touch on nearly all the continents. World religions are taught as part of understanding historical civilizations, cultures, and societies. Instruction is academic and objective; students are not asked to practice, promote, or judge any religion or belief system.

C. Through the California Common Core State Standards (CCSS), students will build strong content knowledge, demonstrate independence, comprehend as well as critique and value evidence, learn to adjust purpose as warranted by a task, use technology and digital media critically and strategically, and come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

D. **International Mindedness** (IM) is a philosophy of teaching that emphasizes real-world learning and collaboration. It highlights connections between world cultures and all subjects. IM is an off-shoot of the International Bacclaureate (IB) program. The goal of IM is to teach students to be:

Inquirers Knowledgeable Thinkers Communicators Principled Reflective Caring Risktakers Balanced Open-minded

This is also an **Honors** level class designed for high-achieving students. It covers the same subject matter as a grade level class but in greater depth, often moving at a faster pace and requiring more critical thinking and collaborative work. Students will challenge themselves with more complex assignments and discussions, preparing them for higher-level coursework.

II. Classroom Rules and Student Responsibilities

A. Sinaloa's behavior expectancies are the foundation of every classroom on our campus. These expectations, along with our standards for citizenship/work habit grades, the school tardy policy, CHAMPS explanation, and the school discipline policies, are included in the school handbook which can be found online at https://sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org.

B. **In this classroom**, students will be expected to:
   1. Respect others, themselves, and property.
   2. Follow directions and the CHAMPS guide for each day for success.
   3. Bring all necessary materials to class each day.
   4. Be on time and ready to learn at the start of class.
   5. Focus on learning by limiting distractions and by giving their best effort.
   6. Actively participate in their learning, by completing assignments and contributing in class.

C. **When rules aren't followed:** Students will be given a warning as well as conference with the teacher if rules are not followed. If the behavior is repetitive or distracting to others, a conference with guardians will be requested. A referral to counseling or administration may also be used. Citizenship grades are directly correlated to classroom behavior.

   SVUSD has a discipline matrix that will be followed for consistency and equity. It is available in the handbook available on our website or in the Agenda books.

D. **When rules are followed or expectations are exceeded:** Students will receive verbal and written affirmations when good choices are made. Students may also receive bonus points for excellent behavior or exceeding expectations. Positive referrals may be issued. Positive student behavior makes games and interactive activities possible. Positively or negatively, citizenship grades are directly correlated to behavior.

E. **Student Responsibilities:** Each student is responsible for:

1. **Work** - Students are expected to complete their own work in class and be productive, contributing members of the classroom environment. Aside from projects, study and review, students should rarely have any history to complete at home. If they do, it is unfinished classwork. If a student's work load seems excessive, please connect with me to investigate the cause.

2. **Participate** - Students are responsible for getting as much out of their education as possible. They need to take an active role in class discussions and contribute to the overall understanding of the material. They should be prepared to ask interesting and relevant questions, answer the questions of others, and be active participants in class discussions and activities. Participation plays a large role in each student's citizenship grade.

3. **Be prepared** - It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for class each day. Student laptops will be available in the classroom and each student will be responsible for following the Acceptable Use Policy signed at the beginning of the year.

   Each student should bring the following to every class:
   - College-ruled paper (full sized, spiral bound notebooks are fine- please avoid composition books)
   - Pencils or black, blue, or dark colored ink pens (easier for me to read)
   - Agenda book (optional, but recommended)

III. **Grading Policy**

A. **Aeries:** Aeries will be updated once a week at a minimum. Students and parents are recommended to check progress each week.

B. **Mastery:** The student's degree of mastery of the California Academic Standards is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by: Classroom assignments, notes and exit tickets, vocabulary, quizzes, tests, document based questions (DBQ), essays, projects, and participation. Feedback is provided on each assignment and students are encouraged to reach out to me with any questions.

C. **Grading:** Students will have a variety of assignments to assess learning and mastery. Grades will be weighted for this course using the following scale.

Grade Weights:

- **Summative scores:** Tests, projects, essays **70%**

- **Formative scores:** Quizzes, daily warm-ups, assignments **30%**

D. **Late work:** All work is due the following school day unless otherwise noted. Due dates will be posted in class on our agenda board and on an agenda posted weekly in Google Classroom. Late work is accepted up to one week after the due date with a 10% grade reduction. After that time, the assignment will no longer be accepted.

E. **Academic Dishonesty:** All work for this class is expected to be each student's original work or properly cited when research is conducted. Any student found plagiarizing, forging, misusing artificial intelligence, cheating or assisting another to cheat will earn a zero on the assignment, as well as a reduction of their citizenship grade. Parents will also be notified and it will be noted in Aeries. At the teacher's discretion, students may have the opportunity to redo the assignment. If there is a second occurrence of academic dishonesty, the academic grade will automatically be a zero and a conference with the student, a parent or guardian, the teacher, and counselors will be scheduled along with the previous consequences to help the student be successful.

F. Intervention: I have designed my classroom with an intentional culture of safety and inclusion. Students are encouraged to seek help and ask questions.

Learning is differentiated and indivualized (for example: students may do test corrections to help mastery of concepts missed the first time). Those who need academic or organizational support beyond the classroom can receive help by coming in for additional help or clarification. Office hours, where students can pop in for support and computer use, is available 30 minutes nearly every day after school and in the mornings (Tuesday through Friday), by appointment. Students may also receive further support during our Flex sessions or by request.

G. Media: Film clips are used to support history standards and provide visual context for course content. All clips are carefully selected and edited for age-appropriate content. The only full-length films shown are Disney's *Mulan* (G) and *The Road to El Dorado* (PG), both used to reinforce historical concepts and encourage students to consider historical accuracy and perspective. All media used is followed by standards-based discussions before and after the media use.

H. **Success:** Every student can succeed! Open communication and hard work will be our best tools for ensuring student success! Thanks for your part in it!

Please sign and return the Class Management Plan for Mrs. Freeman's World History class.

World History

- ☐ I have read and understand the World History Course Policies for this school year.
- ☐ I understand the media policy and give permission for my student to watch the movies that are listed.
- ☐ I am aware that I can access the discipline matrix and student handbook for success on the Sinaloa website: https://sinaloa.simivalleyusd.org/
- ☐ Optional: My student may have access to the classroom library; books will be checked out via Google Form and will be replaced if damaged.
- ☐ Optional: I want to contribute to this class. Please keep me informed when supplies, materials are needed.

We're a team! Please email me@ juliet.freeman@simivalleyusd.org if you have any questions!

Printed student name: _____

History block: _____

Parent Signature: _____