

9th Grade World History, 500-1815 (210)

Course Overview 2005-06

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Course Description

Beginning with the feudal period, students examine agrarian civilizations, as well as exploration, dynasties, monarchies and revolutions in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. The key themes and topics focus on the major changes that shaped the modern world.

The course focuses on building the skills that are necessary to be an effective historian, such as understanding geography; reading charts, graphs and tables; recognizing and understanding viewpoints; comparing and contrasting information; writing essays; and making presentations. Through these skills, students will examine perspectives such as politics, economics, culture, social life, the impact of science and technology and the role of individuals, which run throughout our history.

Course Outline

SEMESTER I (Terms 1 and 2)

- Fall and Formation of Institutions
 - Fall of Rome
 - Monotheistic religions
 - Byzantine Empire
 - Spread of Islam
 - Middle East
 - Europe in the Middle Ages
 - “Revolution of Ideas”
 - Renaissance
 - Reformation
 - Scientific Revolution
 - Enlightenment
 - Age of Exploration/Apprentice Project
 - Absolutism
- Major Assessment: Five paragraph essay

SEMESTER II (Terms 3 and 4)

- Western Hemisphere – Pre-Columbian America
 - Inuits
 - Iroquois
 - Pueblo/cliff dwellers/mound builders
 - Aztecs
 - Maya
 - Inca
 - Africa
 - North Africa (Kush & Axum)
 - West Africa (Ghana, Mali, Songhai)
 - East Africa and Indian Ocean Trade (Zimbabwe, Kilwa, Mogadishu)
- Major Assessment: Five paragraph essay

- Asia
 - India
 - China
 - Japan
 - Southeast Asia
- Major Assessments: Amazing Race project and History Hall of Fame

What you can expect from me:

1. I will be fair and consistent in enforcing both school rules and my own guidelines.
2. I will be available after school for extra help or make up work. However, please let me know in advance.
3. You will have a voice in this class. You will be given many opportunities to express your point of view.
4. I will not embarrass you in front of the class. Criticism will be made in private.
5. I am human and do make mistakes. I will try to correct them when possible.

What I expect of you:

1. Your best effort. I don't believe that achievement is as much a result of effort as it is of ability.
2. Participation. Your participation grade will reflect your positive, respectful, and timely input during class time.
3. Organization. You must take neat, dated notes in a spiral notebook or three ring binder. All tests, quizzes, homework assignments, and handouts must be saved in a binder or folder. Notebooks/folders will be checked.
4. Homework. On time and complete.
5. Respect. Respect for the class, your classmates, and yourself.

Materials Needed

- *Notebook and folder:* All materials from all terms should be kept throughout the year. Your chapter notes should be outlines of what you read. Use the headings within the chapter to help keep these notes organized. In addition, take notes during class lectures and on any additional assignments.
- *Textbook:* Each student will be given *World History to 1800*, which must be covered and brought to class everyday, unless otherwise instructed. Once issued, textbooks are the responsibility of the student.

Grading

Final grades will be determined through the accumulation of points throughout the term. Each activity, exam, quiz, paper, etc. will have a pre-determined value.

Tests – 50 - 100 points

Quizzes – 5 -50 points

HW - 5 - 20 points

Major writing assignments - 50 – 100 points

Writing Assignments 10 – 50

Class Participation - 100 points

Tests

Each term there will be several chapter tests, which will be announced in advance. These tests may include multiple choice questions, short answer, and/or an essay. Occasionally, a test may include a map or a matching section. The class will be notified of any variation of this format before the test.

Writing Assignments

Throughout the year there will be several writing assignments of various lengths. Two of the major writing assignments include the essays on Absolutism and Africa.

Class Participation

Class participation is an area many students take for granted. It is essential to contribute positively and regularly to the class. Students that are not prepared for class and do not contribute will have points taken off accordingly. Class participation takes into consideration both the positive and negative impact of that participation on the class.

Make-up Work

Students are responsible for all missed work. A homework assignment or quiz must be made up within a day of returning to school. I expect a test or quiz to be taken immediately after returning to school. Homework, quizzes, and tests that are not made up within the appropriate time allowed will automatically receive a "0".

If you miss a test or quiz you must make it up promptly. Make-up tests **will not** be given during class time. Be on time for makeups or you will not be allowed to makeup the work.

Late Assignments

For each day a major assignment is late, a whole grade will be reduced. After four days, the assignment is automatically an F. All assignments must be hand delivered to me and not placed in my front office mailbox, under my door or on my desk. Standard homework assignments will only be accepted one day late at reduced credit.

Honor Code

When completing any class assignment, whether a homework assignment or a unit test, you are prohibited from copying other people's work or ideas. This includes ideas of not only your peers, but also, (on take home assignments) uncited material from published sources. Anyone caught cheating will automatically receive a zero on that assignment. If there has clearly been copying on a homework assignment, both students will receive a zero, regardless of who actually did the work.

Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated!

Attendance and Tardiness

It has been said that: "Eighty percent of success is showing up." I have found that a student's success is often connected to their attendance in class. In regards to tardiness, I would say that, "Eighty percent of success is showing up" **on time!**

Miscellaneous

I may be found usually in the World Language office (Room 207) or the History/English office before and after school.