

Advanced Placement World History

Course Syllabus

2014-2015

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www.historyhaven.com



COURSE DESCRIPTION

AP World History is an advanced level course designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam administered by the College Board in May of each year. Final test scores are reported on a 5 point basis; students who score a 3 or better may earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, depending on their college. But more importantly, you are going to learn about your world, your place in it, and learn skills that will help you the rest of your life.

Despite the fact that Forsyth County Schools offer this class primarily to sophomores, this is a **college-level course** and will be treated as such in every respect. Students should be aware that college courses require inordinately more reading, writing, and analytical skills than their high school counterparts. It is impossible to cover all the material for the AP test in the time we have this year. Consequently, you must read all the assigned material. Class discussions and lectures are designed to compliment the text readings, *not* to reinforce them. Please understand that ***I will test you on reading material not covered in class and you will not be successful in this class without reading the assignments.*** One of my goals for this class is to create an atmosphere of relaxed alertness, intellectual freedom and analytic discussions. This cannot be accomplished if you come to class unprepared.

This course will be different than the traditional high school World History or Western Civilization course. In short, the approach will be truly global, analyzing and comparing developments in many different regions through five time periods. To manage the daunting scope of the subject material, this course has been developed around five themes.

Course Themes

- The Interaction between Humans and the Environment
- The Development and Interaction of Cultures
- State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict
- Creation, Expansion, and interaction of Economic Systems
- Development and Transformation of Social Structures

Time Periods and Exam Dates

Chronologically, the course will be broken down into the following time periods with unit exams following each. All of the following dates are tentative except the **May 14** AP Exam.

I&II.	8000 B.C.E. to 600 C.E.	September 23
III.	600-1450	November 14
IV.	1450-1750	January 26
V.	1750-1914	March 17
VI.	1914-the present	May 5
APWH EXAM		May 14

REQUIREMENTS

Supplies

Every student needs a separate **folder** or **notebook** for this class. It should contain notes, handouts from class, this syllabus, and all grading rubrics for the essays. Everyday students will need **something to write with** and **something to write on**. On Unit test days students will need a **pencil** for scan-tron tests. And finally, each student will need a **yellow, blue, and green highlighter** (one of each) for self-assessments on the essays.

Quizzes

The most frequent grade in this class will be quizzes on assigned readings, class notes, discussions, videos, or any other means used to instruct. These will count as formative assessments and will occur on average about once per week.

Essays

Every two or three weeks you will write a timed in-class essay modeled on the essays from the APWH test in May. These will count as summative assessments (75% of total grade).

Exams

The five Unit exams in this class will follow the format of the AP exam you will take in May. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and an essay question. These count as summative assessments (75%).

Review Project

There will be a major review project in during the 5 review days immediately preceding the AP Test in May. This project will not only give each student an opportunity to improve his or her grade, but it will also serve as a much needed review for course content. The grade from this review will count as the students' Final Exam grade.

TEXTBOOKS AND RESOURCES

The primary text for this class is:

Bently, Jerry H., *et al*, Traditions and Encounters, 3rd edition (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003).

The cost of this textbook is \$89.00 and must be paid by the student if lost. There will be other printed and online readings throughout the semester.

Technology

In addition to class notes, my class website (www.historyhaven.com) will be used for essay help and review materials. Also, we will use Angel Learning for homework, discussion forums, and review exercises. To get reminders about assignments via Twitter, you can keep up with my AP World History class by following **@APWorldHistory3**.

GRADING

The semester and quarter grades for this class will be calculated according to the following guidelines:

Summative Assessments	75%
Formative Assessments	25%

Note: Unit Exams will be graded on the College Board guidelines for AP test, *not on an exact percentage*.

Each grading period students will get a participation grade. The default value of this grade is a 100 percent for everyone. Points from that grade are deducted only as students come to class unprepared, excessively tardy, or become disruptive, in compliant, or off task in class. Thus no student will lose participation points for being naturally quiet.

MAKEUP AND LATE WORK

Makeup Work: All missed work and assessments are the responsibility of the student when they are absent from school. A student who is absent on the class day before a regularly scheduled assessment will be responsible for completing the assignment on the regularly scheduled day and time. Students who have been absent more than two consecutive days (including the assessment day) will be given five (5) school days to make up the assessment and/or other assignments. This does not include major projects, research papers, etc., where the deadline has been posted in advance. The teacher has the discretion to grant a longer period of time to make up work if there are extenuating circumstances. Unit Exams and in-class Essays must be made up in at least 5 class days. Although make-up work cannot be done during class time, the Instructional Focus included in this year' schedule is a perfect opportunity for this.

Late Work Policy: Late work from unexcused absences or negligence will drop 25 points per day. If you are late more than 4 days, you still will have to do the work and get it in. If you are sick, the late policy begins after you have been back to school as many days as you have been absent. Because you are enrolled in a college level class the burden of responsibility falls upon you to get it done. I will not chase you down.

If need be, I will work with you on an individual basis, either outside of class or in Instructional Focus, to help you master this class; my goal is your success. But part of that success is learning responsibility. Thus I do not offer gratuitous bonus or extra credit projects to repair your grade from the effects of habitual tardiness or laziness.

Cheating - Parents and Students please note:

Academic integrity is a cornerstone of the educational process at WFHS. Any student caught cheating, which includes any form plagiarism on submitted work or collusion with students in other sections of APWH, will result in a zero on the assignment and an automatic disciplinary referral. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, see me before submitting your work.

Please feel free to contact me for any reason.

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