AP World History Course Syllabus
2020-2021 Academic School Year

Teacher: Mr. Corral
Course: AP World History
Room: 229
Contact Info:
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http://www.granths.org

Course Description
The AP World History course is an academic, yearlong course with an emphasis on Western and non-Western history. The course relies heavily on college-level texts, primary source documents, and outside readings. Students will be required to participate in class discussions each day. This course is a college level course and requires college level effort. Solid reading and writing skills, along with a willingness to devote considerable time to homework and study, are necessary to succeed. Emphasis is placed on critical and evaluative thinking skills, essay writing, interpretation of original documents, and historiography. A research project is required each semester.

Key Themes: The course is structured both chronologically and thematically. The themes include Humans and the Environment, Cultural Developments and Interactions, Governance, Economic System, Social Interactions and organization, and Technology and innovation. Elements of these themes are included in most unit assignments.

Skills Developed: In each unit, students will practice developing the following content-driven skills: Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence (including Historical Argumentation and Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Evidence), Chronological Reasoning (including Historical Causation, Patterns of Continuity and Change over Time, and Periodization), Comparison and Contextualization, and Historical Interpretation and Synthesis. In addition, class activities and assignments will address the following academic skills: reading for comprehension and recall, improving study skills in preparation for assessments, improving formal writing skills (addressed below), improving public speaking skills in class discussions and activities, and improving skills of map reading and interpretation.

Writing Focus: Historical work at a collegiate level requires students to write proficiently. For this reason, writing is emphasized in every unit of this course. Students receive “essential questions” to frame class discussions; these are often used as writing assignments. Assessment of essays are measured by the following: the degree to which they fully and directly answer the question, the strength of the thesis statement, the level and effectiveness of analysis, the amount and quality of supporting evidence, and the organizational quality. In addition to these standards, DBQs are graded on the basis of the degree to which a significant number of the documents have been used to support the thesis, and the amount and quality of outside information included in the response.

Historical Interpretations: Another key to work at the collegiate level is an understanding of basic historiography. To provide students with an introduction to this aspect of historical study, we will have several units and various reading assignments. The authors from the readings will help students to recognize how historical interpretations change over time and examine how emerging trends can influence the process of historical inquiry.

Primary Source Analysis Activities: To be truly meaningful, the study of history requires primary source analysis. For this reason, most units in this course provide students with the opportunity to read and interpret a diverse selection of primary source materials. The teacher introduces each document, and then students (either alone or in groups) read, interpret, and discuss the document, noting the style, language, intent, and effect. These activities help students become more familiar with primary sources, and develop their abilities to read, understand, and use these sources. As a result, students are better prepared to respond to DBQs on the AP World History exam.

Course Materials
You should always bring to class:
- Textbook, covered
- Student Unit Notebook, 3 ring binder (1½ to 2 inches) with dividers
- 30-40 sheets of paper (College Ruled)
- 2 pens (blue or black)
- 2 pencils with erasers
- 1 set of colored pencils
Makeup policy
Make up
s for a quiz/test must take place on the first class after the weekend with a valid note/excused absence. All projects and presentation due dates are final. Incomplete work will not be graded, and late work will be accepted only with excused absences within 3 days.

- 1 school day late -- still acceptable – loss of 10% off the final grade
- 2 school days late – still acceptable – loss of 20% off the final grade
- 3 school days late – still acceptable – loss of 30% off the final grade
- 4 school days late – not acceptable – grade of Zero

Bathroom Pass (Orange Vest)
Only in cases of an emergency.

Grading Policy:
Your grade is computed using an average of all points earned. Official grades are generated by the school every five weeks; all grades are finalized at the end of each semester. Points are assigned for:

- Unit Tests (20% of final grade): Given at the end of each unit of study.
- Quizzes (15% of final grade): Given at the end of each section of work.
- Projects (20% of final grade): Completed at the end of each unit.
- Classwork (25% of final grade): Done daily and collected at the end of each unit.
- Homework (10% of final grade): Completed at home, online or in the library.
- Work habits/Class participation (10% of final Grade): copying the agenda, completing readings, turning in assignments on time, maintaining regular class attendance.

Grading Scale:
A= 90 – 100%
B= 80 – 89%
C= 70 – 79%
D= 60 – 69%
F= 0 - 59%

Classroom Procedures:
Students are expected to use the restroom, go to their counselor, or speak with another teacher on their own time: before school, between classes, or during nutrition or lunch. In order for students to be successful in this class, they must:

- Come prepared with necessary materials
- Raise their hands if they wish to speak
- Remain in their seats unless they are given permission to get up
- Not use offensive language
- Put away all items unrelated to class

Code of Conduct:
This classroom adheres to all school and district rules. Thus, cell phones, iPods, and other electronics are not to be taken out during class. Students that break this rule will have these items taken away and will need to have them picked up by a parent from the Admissions Office (as per school policy, see Parent-Student Handbook). This classroom also follows the school’s tardy policy; excessive tardies will affect grades in cooperation and work habits.

I can be reached via email at http://www.granths.org/ (see faculty/staff page) or through the main office at (818) 756-2700.

Sincerely, Mr. Corral
I, ___________________________(print first and last name), understand what is expected of me, and I will work to the best of my ability to learn and succeed.
I, ___________________________(parent/guardian signature), will be involved in my child’s education, and will make sure that he/she abides the compact.