

Welcome to World History!

Welcome to World History! I am excited to have a great semester and hope you are as well! In this course, students will develop and put into practice inquiry skills through investigating historical questions with an emphasis on sourcing, contextualization, corroboration and close reading. Students will evaluate the trustworthiness of multiple perspectives in the context of historical issues and learn to make historical claims backed by documentary evidence. Our primary objective is to fully understand what it means to be a historian. I look forward to working with you this semester!

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mrs. Amber Hall
Room Number: 263
Email: hallamber@pleasval.org
Preferred method of communication: Email

Course Description & Learning Objectives

In this course, students will explore the history of the world from Prehistory - Present. Along the way we will focus upon developing historical thinking skills to allow students to use the skills of the historian to be more critical thinkers.

Fall Semester:

- Prehistory & Early Civilizations
- The Classical Civilizations
- Early Modern Civilizations
- Semester 1 Student Investigation

Spring Semester:

- Age of Exploration
- Revolutionary Era & Nationalism
- Industrialization & Imperialism
- Resistance & Decolonization
- Semester 2 Students Investigation

Classroom Expectations: respect and responsibility are the central theme. Respect the teacher, the space, each other, and yourself.

Respect includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Cell phones will be placed in the Parking Lot from bell to bell. THIS IS A STATE LAW!
- Do not insult or make fun of each other, or treat each other in an otherwise disrespectful way.
- Do not use inappropriate or offensive language in class.
- Raise your hand when you have a question.
- Take care of the physical environment within the classroom (desks, materials, etc.).
- Listen respectfully while others are talking.
- No talking during quizzes and assessments.
- Do not cheat! This means taking someone's answers, work, or ideas and passing it off as your own. Any assignment turned in that has evidence of plagiarism will go through the reporting and punishment process outlined in the PVHS Handbook.
- Accept responsibility for your work and your behavior.
- Focus on history class work while in history class!

Required Materials & Organization

Technology

Please bring your school Chromebook every class. Your Chromebook should be closed and put away unless directed by me to open it. If we are using the Chromebook for a class activity or for note taking, you should not be on any other website! **Any misuse of your Chromebook or being on websites you should not be on will result in you losing**

Chromebook privileges in class and instead will be given a paper copy.

- We will be using Google Classroom. All of our class notes, assignments and activities that we complete in class each day. If you are absent, make sure to check our Google Classroom on our Classwork page to see what you missed and turn in any late/missing assignments.

Schedule & Materials

I have a website that will show everything we will be doing in class. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW MRS. HALL'S WEBSITE](#)

This is a living website and is updated consistently. It is just to give an overview about what the week looks like and what we do on each day. I will post everything we do in our Google Classroom so make sure you are checking Google Classroom regularly.

Breakdown of World History Grading

This class is organized according to a "running total" concept. Your "1st Quarter" grade, therefore, will serve as a "midterm" type of performance assessment **that will not start over at the beginning of the 2nd quarter**. Your final semester grade will be calculated according to the following formula with weighted categories:

- **Reflections of Learning - 65%**
- **Accountability - 20%**
- **Semester Final - 15%**

Reflections of Learning (65%)

All grades will be a true reflection of students' understanding and learning. There will be a variety of ways to show learning. This can range from assignments to an entrance/exit ticket, a Google Classroom reflection question to quizzes, assessments and projects.

Accountability/Late Work Policy (20%)

A key 21st Century Employability Skill within the state of Iowa is the ability to demonstrate productivity and accountability by meeting high expectations. This includes the following criteria:

- Delivering a quality job performance on time.
- Demonstrating accountability for individual performance.

Within World History, we will be working to develop this employability skill with our accountability policy. To hold students accountable for the timely completion of work, we will be tracking the submission of assignments in relation to due dates and the usage of class time in general. Accountability points will be earned throughout the semester that will be worth 20% of your overall grade.

Semester Final Project (15%)

1st Semester Final Project - January

2nd Semester Final Project - June

Missing Assignments

All students are expected to be in class every day. Obviously, this is not always possible. When illness or other unavoidable conflicts arise, and you cannot make it to class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and schedule a time to make it up (if it is a quiz/test). According to the student handbook, you have two days to make up missed work before your responsibility grade is docked.

Course Grading

The following grading scale will be used in this course:

A = 91.5-100%	C = 72.5-76.4%
A- = 89.5-91.4%	C- = 69.5-72.4%
B+ = 86.5-89.4%	D+ = 66.5-69.4%

B = 82.5-86.4%
B- = 79.5-82.4%
C+ = 76.5-79.4%

D = 62.5-66.4%
D- = 59.5-62.4%
F = 0-59%

Reassessment Policy

PVHS Grading Statement: At PVHS, the purpose of grades is to accurately communicate student achievement of clearly articulated priority standards.

We understand that all students learn at varying rates. The purpose of reassessment is to allow the learning process to continue as students work towards proficiency on priority course standards. Any student who is wanting to reassess a SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT is able to, regardless of their score on the first assessment.

What must students do before accessing reassessment?

1. No missing work from the unit.
2. Must complete a handwritten study guide.
3. Initial assessment corrections (for every question missed students must identify the correct answer and explain why that answer is correct).
4. Must meet with the teacher one on one or in a small group at least once.

What is the timeline for reassessment?

Inform the teacher within 48 hours of posted grade (talk/email). Students will have to complete their relearning and reassessment within 2 weeks.

Plagiarism/Cheating Policy

Spartan Way

To ensure a learning environment where all students can succeed, we expect all students to follow the Spartan Way. This will help create a positive, productive classroom community so that all students are safe, respected, and responsible for their learning.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Students are required to consult their teacher before using Generative AI tools for any classroom activities, assignments, or projects, whether in class or at home. If approved by the teacher, students must provide a clear citation that includes the name of the Generative AI system, the specific prompts used, and the generated output. Unauthorized use of Generative AI may result in disciplinary action.

Citing GenAI Use

A broad disclosure statement may suffice for broad or informal use of GenAI for tasks like brainstorming, or tasks unrelated to the learning objective, such as proofreading. Students should always confirm with their teacher that this type of citation is appropriate (see examples below).

Generative AI Citation Format:

I acknowledge the use of [insert AI system(s) and link] to [specific use of generative artificial intelligence]. The prompts used include [list of prompts]. The output from these prompts was used to [explain use].

Example of Generative AI Citation:

I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT 4o by [OpenAI](#) to generate ideas for my essay on To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The prompts used include "Help me with ideas for my essay on how perspective-taking impacts Scout's moral development. Besides Boo Radley, what are some other character interactions that I could explore to help illustrate Scout's growing awareness that other people see the world differently than she does?" The output from these prompts was used to help frame my essay.

More formal use of AI-generated content that is incorporated directly into the document

and/or directly addresses the learning objective of the assignment requires more formal citation according to the teacher's preferred style guide (see examples below).

Sample APA Citation

In-text: Scout's interactions with Atticus lay the foundation for her moral growth throughout the novel. For example, his advice to Scout that she should try and understand Miss Caroline's point of view "plants the seed for Scout's developing empathy. While she doesn't fully grasp it yet, this line becomes a recurring moral guidepost for her throughout the novel" (OpenAI, 2024; see Appendix A for the full chat transcript). We see this idea develop further in her interactions with Calpurnia...

Reference

OpenAI. (2024). GPT 4o (May 13 version) [Large language model].
<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Sample MLA Citation

In-text: Scout's interactions with Atticus lay the foundation for her moral growth throughout the novel. For example, his advice to Scout that she should try and understand Miss Caroline's point of view "plants the seed for Scout's developing empathy. While she doesn't fully grasp it yet, this line becomes a recurring moral guidepost for her throughout the novel" ("Help me with ideas"). We see this idea develop further in her interactions with Calpurnia...

Works Cited List Entry

"Help me with ideas for my essay on how perspective-taking impacts Scout's moral development. Besides Boo Radley, what are some other character interactions that I could explore to help illustrate Scout's growing awareness that other people see the world differently than she does?" prompt. GPT 4o, 13 March version, OpenAI, 20 May 2025, chat.openai.com/chat.

See AI Citation Guidance from [APA](#) and [MLA](#) for detailed guidance and examples.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is crucial to success in school. If you know in advance that you will be absent from class please see me prior to your absence so we can keep you on pace with the rest of the class. If you are absent from class for an unforeseen reason the best way to keep up with the class is to check our Google Classroom. Regardless of the reason for your absence, you are always encouraged to come and speak with me or email me directly about anything that you missed.

Technology Support

If you are experiencing technical difficulties please double check all teacher instructions/resources, if not resolved please communicate with the teacher. If the technology issue persists district technology staff can be reached by email or phone.

Teacher: hallamber@pleasval.org

Jason Koch (Computer Technician): kochjason@pleasval.org or 563-332-5550