

10th Grade Honors World History Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Jason Richbourg
Classroom: 1st block 2443/ 3rd 2431

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Office Hours: 7:30-3:00 (M-F)

Course Description

This honors course explores the development of human societies and civilizations from prehistory to the present. Emphasis is placed on the cultural, political, economic, and social factors that shaped world history. Students will engage in critical analysis of primary and secondary sources, develop historical arguments, and explore diverse perspectives.

Course Objectives

1. Analyze the development and interactions of early civilizations and empires.
2. Understand the impact of cultural, political, and economic changes from 400-1500 AD/CE.
3. Explore the transformations of the Early Modern World and European imperialism.
4. Investigate the causes and consequences of major 20th-century conflicts and crises.
5. Evaluate the development of global civilizations in the contemporary world.

Required Materials

- 3 Ring Binder, with Notebook Paper
- Writing utensils
- Headphones that connect to their computers.

Course Outline

Unit 1: The First Civilizations and Empires (Prehistory - AD/CE 500)

- Origins of humanity and early societies
- Major ancient civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, China, Mesoamerica
- Classical civilizations: Greece, Rome, Persia, Maurya, Gupta, Han China

Unit 2: New Patterns of Civilizations (400-1500 AD/CE)

- The rise and spread of Christianity and Islam
- Byzantine Empire, Islamic Caliphates, and Medieval Europe
- African empires: Ghana, Mali, Songhai
- Pre-Columbian civilizations: Mayans, Aztecs, Incas

Unit 3: The Early Modern World (1400-1800 AD/CE)

- Renaissance and Reformation
- Age of Exploration and global trade networks
- Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment
- The rise of nation-states and absolutism

Unit 4: An Era of European Imperialism (1800-1914 AD/CE)

- Industrial Revolution and its global impact
- European imperialism in Africa, Asia, and the Americas
- Social and political changes: Nationalism, liberalism, socialism
- Pre-World War I global tensions

Unit 5: The Twentieth Century Crisis (1914-1945 AD/CE)

- World War I and the Russian Revolution
- The interwar period: Economic depression, rise of totalitarianism
- World War II and the Holocaust
- The end of European colonial empires

Unit 6: Towards Global Civilizations (1945-Present)

- The Cold War and the formation of new alliances
 - Decolonization and the rise of new nations
 - Globalization: Economic, cultural, and technological changes
 - Contemporary challenges and issues: Environmental, political, social
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Assessment and Grading

- **Assessments (Tests, Essays, Projects):** 63%
- **Classwork (Participation, Homework, Group Activities, Quizzes):** 27%
- **Final Exam:** 10%

Classroom Expectations

1. **Respect and Responsibility:** Treat everyone with respect and contribute positively to the learning environment.
2. **Active Participation:** Engage in discussions, group work, and activities.
3. **Academic Integrity:** Maintain honesty in all academic work, avoiding plagiarism and cheating.
4. **Preparedness:** Bring required materials and complete assignments on time.
5. **Phone Policies:** Cell phones are not to be used in class.
6. **Dress Code:** Follow the RHHS dress code found in the RHHS student handbook.

Policies

- **Late Work:** Late assignments will incur a penalty unless an extension is granted in advance.
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is crucial. Inform the instructor of absences ahead of time when possible.
- **Academic Honesty:** Any form of cheating or plagiarism will result in disciplinary action.