Ancient History Course Syllabus

School Year: 2025–2026
Course Length: One Semester
Instructor: Kristen Gunter
Room Number: 76
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Course Description

Ancient History explores the foundations of world civilizations from prehistory through the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Aligned to the Tennessee State Standards, this course uses a variety of lenses—social, political, economic, cultural, technological, historical, and geographic—to investigate major civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, Greece, Rome, and more. Students will use primary and secondary sources to analyze historical events and trends and will complete a Capstone Project that synthesizes their learning.

Required Student Supplies

- Composition notebook
- Pens and/or pencils
- Charged Chromebook (daily)

Classroom Supplies *(Donations Welcome Throughout the Semester)*

- Kleenex
- Jolly Ranchers
- Tootsie Rolls
- Expo markers

Student Progress, Assessment, and Grading

Grading will be based on a weighted category system to ensure a well-rounded evaluation of each student's performance.
Category Weights:

- 60% – Quizzes, Projects, Writing Assignments, Classwork, Homework
- 40% – Exams (Unit Tests & Final Exam)
- Capstone Project – A required final project that demonstrates students' understanding of ancient civilizations and historical thinking skills.
- Rubrics – All major written assignments and projects will be assessed using clear rubrics provided in advance.

Course Policies and Expectations

✅ Things to Do

Be present
Be responsible
Be organized
Be respectful

🚫 Things NOT to Do

Waste others' time
Take someone's peace
Cause me to do paperwork

🔞 Non-Negotiables

No phones
No earbuds

🍿 Negotiables

Food and drinks are allowed as long as they are not distracting or messy.
Respect shared spaces and clean up after yourself.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism—including copying text, ideas, or work from others without proper citation—will not be tolerated. This includes homework, essays, presentations, and digital submissions.

Violations may result in:
- A zero for the assignment
- Parent/guardian contact
- Referral to administration if repeated

Original thinking and honest effort are always expected and appreciated.

Use of AI Tools & Academic Honesty Policy

Artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or others) may be used only when explicitly allowed by the teacher. Examples of acceptable use may include:
- Brainstorming ideas
- Organizing outlines
- Checking grammar

Unacceptable use includes:
- Copying answers or full essays
- Submitting AI-generated content as your own without modification

Misuse of AI will be treated as academic dishonesty. When in doubt—ask first.

Communication & Support

Please check Google Classroom and your school email regularly for updates, assignments, and feedback. If you are struggling with content, workload, or time management, talk to me early—I'm here to help!

Course Units Overview (Tennessee Standards-Aligned)

1. Human Origins & Historical Thinking
2. River Valley Civilizations
3. Early Religions & Cultural Traditions
4. Early Civilizations Around the World
5. Classical Civilizations of Greece and Rome
6. Post-Classical Civilizations (300-1000 CE)
7. Medieval Europe and Crusades
8. Regional Interactions and the Renaissance

Let's make this a great semester by staying curious, working hard, and respecting one another. Welcome to Ancient History!

The Syllabus is subject to change for various reasons depending on teacher, admin, and student feedback throughout the course.