

Course Syllabus 25-26

Advanced Placement

World History Modern

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What is World History AP?

World history AP Modern is a new AP class that focuses on only 4 periods of history. In Addition, the course centers on 5 regions of the world: Asia, Africa, Latin America, Middle East, and Europe. Each region takes up roughly 20% of the class time. Our focus will be on the recurring themes in history, so that we can see patterns happening over and over, and hopefully, with that knowledge help to put an end to the destructive ones. This knowledge could enable us to predict the future and possibly head off wars and future suffering. Yes, we will need to know some dates, events, and people, but that is not the focus for the course. The focus is big ideas.

Now, Before anyone tells me that they are, “not good at history,” I want to say if you wonder how our world got to be the way it is today, if you believe that empathy is an important soft skill to practice, and if you like to talk, argue, and think, you will be a good history student. The successful AP history student is willing to learn a ton of new things, practice skills they will need for college, put forth effort, and ask questions when they are confused. That’s it!!

Course Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to learn World History and practice the skills that are needed for both college and the AP Exam on May 7th, 2026. In other words, my job as the teacher is to prepare students to take, pass, and even excel on the exam. The test is composed of 55 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ’s), 3 Short Answer Questions (SAQ’s), 1 Document Based Essay Questions (DBQ), and 1 Long Essay Question (LEQ). In addition, I hope that you find the class interesting, have a chance to explore some of your own interests, and understand the importance of studying history.

Basic Course Expectations

- I expect you to be in class as often as humanly possible. Class attendance is linked to grades almost always.
- I expect you to keep up on your work, and if you are struggling, to advocate for yourself and ask for help. I will help you and see this help as part of my job!!
- I expect you to see yourself as a learner, and to be willing to be open minded to learn about other people in the world, but also be willing to learn new skills. High School is only a place to practice skills so that you are ready for the next phase of your life.
- So, my last expectation is to not give up when the work is challenging. Just know that challenges and learning new things always take time and effort!

Evaluation and Grading:

You will be graded on many types of assignments throughout the year. Many of these assignments will be done during class time. There will be times that you will need to go home to finish an assignment that you didn't or weren't able to complete during class time. The pandemic has taught us all many things about life, but it has specifically taught me as a teacher that additional homework is not always necessary. Having said that, there will be some homework for this AP class. The idea is that we will work hard during class giving you some time after school for mental health pursuits like sports, general exercise, helping parents with chores, interacting with family members, or just having a peaceful rest without as many worries. Lastly, when you are absent, you are still responsible for the work.

On Synergy, the Grades will be weighted with the following values:**Classwork: 30%**

Classwork will include: do-nows, projects, study questions, current events, and other work completed mostly during class time.

Tests/quizzes: 20%

These will vary in size to quick checking for understanding to larger tests that we have prepared for in advance. There will also be quick checking for understanding quizzes.

Written assignments (essays and short answers): 30%

You will be practicing your writing skills with SAQ's, DBQ's, and LEQ's. Do not be nervous about this. Remember we are engaged in a productive struggle to learn new skills and be prepared for college. I will be there to help you.

Homework: 10%

These assignments will be stand alone work that is started and completed at home on your own time. Generally no class time will be given to complete this work.

Participation: 10%

Your participation in class will directly affect what and how much you learn and improve your skills. You will get an A for at least 6 unprompted additions to class discussion: questions, answers, or comments.

Percentages for grades are standard:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

Units of Study and Skills to demonstrate that you know the material!

The Content is composed of 9 units of study spanning 4 time periods.

Period 1 = 1200-1450

Unit 1: The Global Tapestry (8-10% of the exam)

Unit 2: Networks of Exchange (8-10%)

Period 2 = 1450-1750

Unit 3: Land-Based Empires (12-15%)

Unit 4: Transoceanic Interconnections (12-15%)

Period 3 = 1750-1900

Unit 5: Revolutions (12-15%)

Unit 6: Consequences of Industrialization

Period 4 = 1900-2020...

Unit 7: Global Conflict (8-10%)

Unit 8: Cold War and Decolonization (8-10%)

Unit 9: Globalization (8-10%)

The Skills that we will practice all year so that you can prove that you know the content:

- Historical Thinking Skills/Critical Thinking
- Reading
- Writing both the SAQs and Essays
- Geography
- Speaking/discussion and Debate
- Current events
- Multiple choice strategies
- Vocabulary development

Excused Absences and Academic responsibilities:

If you are absent, go to the attendance office to get a re-admit slip. Bring the re-admit slip to class for each of your teachers to mark your absence as “excused”. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent for sports or other school events, your work is still due that day, so take a minute to drop off your work.

It is your academic responsibility to not cheat/copy! Do struggle with the assignment, ask for help (from a friend or a teacher or a parent), and complete it to the best of your ability. The work is not supposed to be “easy”, that is not what high school is about. The work is supposed to teach and challenge you to learn new things that will slowly prepare you for college.

So, don’t copy, or use chat gpt, but work hard in a productive struggle to do better. Ask for help and/or additional time to work on the assignment. For sure, learn something new.

Let's Get Organized

For this class you will need a 1 and ½ inch binder

And a composition notebook.

You will also need to either purchase or let me know that you can't purchase the

Princeton Review: Cracking the AP World History Modern Exam.

Dividers for the binder should be labeled:

- Business & HTS
- Readings
- Content notes/graphic organizers
- MCQ
- SAQ
- DBQ and LEQ
- Geography/Current Events
- Projects/Tests/returned work

Dear Students:

I want to let you know that I am available to you. I will usually answer email within a day at dillsa@sfsusd.edu. In addition I will give you my phone number in a couple of months, so that you can text me but please mostly questions about history or an essay. The thing I like best about my job is that all of my students are different people who have different skills and learn differently. This is also the most challenging part of being a teacher with 140 students. I see all of my students as equally intelligent. Some students work harder and some are better at memorizing material, but all are intelligent. Having said that, I realize that I may have to explain something in a variety of ways for all students to understand. If you don't understand something, ask me to explain it again. For some of you, your parents taught you to not ask questions, that it is not polite. Others think that if you don't understand something, it's because of your intellect, but that is not correct. You are all very intelligent people, SO ask questions and let's learn a ton of history and new skills, and continue to improve on skills you already have!!

I look forward to getting to know you better!

Sincerely,

Ms. Dills