



Course Syllabus Ancient History 7th Grade

Instructor: Ms. Sells

Website: <https://sites.google.com/scottsdaleprep.org/spa-msells/home>

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Course Overview

In this course, we will cover four major eras in ancient history. We will explore the critical ideas, events, and people that have shaped the beginnings of Western civilization. The content of the course is listed below:

Quarter 1

Near East/Mesopotamia

Quarter 2

Egypt

Quarter 3

Greece

Quarter 4

Rome

Course Objectives

- The student should understand the basic principles of each aforementioned ancient civilization including the factors that led to their rise and fall; they should also be able to identify key people, events, and conflicts that are central to the history of each civilization
- The student should mature their note-taking habits, being able to quickly and concisely take notes during lectures and on reading material (both secondary and primary sources)
- The student should master the appropriate behavior during seminar discussions and historical debates within a classroom setting
- The student should be able to formulate evidence-based opinions based on information they have read in primary and secondary sources; they should also be able to articulate their opinion – with appropriate evidence – either verbally or in writing

Course Materials

- One spiral notebook dedicated to history. Another should be procured post haste if the previous notebook becomes filled, and loose leaf paper should be brought with the student in the interim
- The 7th Grade SPA Ancient History Course Reader
- Multiple writing utensils. Pens must be **dark blue or black ink only**; student work in other colors of ink will not be accepted. Pencils should have adequate erasers and back-up lead
- A few highlighters
- One solid cover pocket folder or small binder dedicated to history (to store handouts and homework)

To keep in locker, unless otherwise instructed by Ms. Sells:

- One set of colored pencils

Required Readings: *The World in Ancient Times* textbook series (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome)

Supplemental Readings / References: As needed in class by teacher discretion

Course Expectations

I expect much from you, because I know you are capable of amazing achievements. I will not tolerate distractions from learning. In order to be respectful of me, your fellow classmates and ultimately yourself, several things must happen:

Take your academic progress seriously. We both want you to advance not only your historical knowledge this year, but also your reading, writing, note-taking, speaking, and critical thinking skills. In order to do this, it is necessary to follow in-class directions, participate during class time, and complete your homework. If you do this, you will succeed in increasing your academic growth. If you ever have a question or need extra help, please talk to me. My door is always open to you.

Come to class ready to learn. Arrive on time with all required materials in hand, personal conversations paused, restroom business completed, and with enough calories and hydration to power you through the period. When you step over the classroom threshold, conversations with peers must end, and you should silently prepare yourself for the exciting history class ahead by sitting down and beginning the tasks on the agenda board. Homework is to be completed outside of class and should be ready to turn in at the beginning of each period. Only water bottles are allowed in the classroom and must be stored on the floor under your desk. Food, candy, or other beverages are never allowed in the classroom.

Allow others to learn. Follow the Scottsdale Preparatory Academy Behavior Code. Remember that you are not the only one to use school property. Treat it with care. Keep your hands and objects to yourself. Respect others trying to learn. There will be a time when you do not know what a word means or do not know the answer to a question. In school, we *learn* – we are not supposed to know everything; otherwise we wouldn't be here. Finally, I will not tolerate name-calling or fighting in my class. I accept no excuses for such behavior.

Consequences. If you have chosen not to live up to these expectations, you will first be given notice and you can expect a loss of participation points for the week (up to teacher discretion on amount). If your misbehavior is serious, or continues, you have shown me that you need further guidance and time for reflection. You will receive a detention. You may also be required to write an apology to me and to others you've disrespected, and/or be required to complete additional tasks to make our classroom a more welcoming environment.

Rewards. On the other hand, I am eager to spot excellent work and/or workers. I have been known to celebrate student success when I observe regular excellence, and I plan on doing a lot of class recognition this year. Learning is a huge reward in itself, but outstanding behavior and achievement deserves praise. My class has the potential to be very exciting and I have structured it so there are many opportunities for group or partner work. Just remember, these opportunities must be earned by good behavior which demonstrates to me you're mature enough to handle them.

About religion: One cannot be a great student of ancient history without understanding the impact that religion has made, therefore, we will learn about religion in this class. However, any teaching on religion will be taught in the historical or literary context. These discussions are meant to better learn about the people and what they believed in their time and should in no way shape or form be misconstrued that the teacher's beliefs are being pushed on a student. In addition, everyone understands religious beliefs and stories differently. There are many perspectives on the same topics, and the stories and viewpoints presented in this class represent just one interpretation. Students are always made aware and reminded that multiple viewpoints exist.

About sensitive topics: We will be talking about sensitive topics at times pertaining to religion, morality, justice, politics, and values. At these times, students must remain mature and never get into heated

arguments that attack other people's views or beliefs. We can have discussions on these topics, and we should, but they cannot be taken personally or should not be an attempt to attack other students. Any attempt to attack another student will result in disciplinary measures.

A Note on Academic Dishonesty:

I expect the work you turn in is your own work. Plagiarism and cheating of any sort WILL NOT be tolerated in this classroom or at this school. If you are caught looking at another student's work for answers, duplicating the work of another student, using your own notes at inappropriate times, or copying work from the Internet, AI, or another source, you will receive a zero for that test or assignment and be sent to the Deans for disciplinary actions. In addition, if you are caught with a cellphone, smart watch, earphones, or any other electronic device in the classroom during a test or quiz you will receive a zero and be sent to the Deans for disciplinary actions. If you are talking, whispering, mouthing words, making hand gestures, or communicating with peers in any way during a test or quiz, I will assume you are cheating and you will receive a zero and be sent to the Deans for disciplinary actions.

Tutoring Hours

Tutoring will be offered in room 207 during Lyceum.

Participation

I expect students to come to class ready to learn; good participation is essential to learn in this course and it will therefore be part of my criteria for evaluating each student. Participation points will be lost if the below guidelines are not adhered to (amount is up to teacher discretion). Good participation in my classroom looks like the following:

- Student demonstrates that he or she is engaged in material each day
- Student contributes relevant and insightful comments and questions during discussions
- Student maintains a scholarly posture which exemplifies respect for classroom environment
- Student brings all necessary materials to class each day
- Students who are in need of extra attention demonstrates his or her willingness to learn by attending tutoring sessions
- Student follows all directions and classroom expectations
- Student keeps their area clean and tidy
- Student remains seated unless given permission to move about the room
- Student refrains from side conversations, pop culture references, or non relevant topics when in the classroom

Quizzes

Students will be taking short reading quizzes nearly every class period as soon as they enter the classroom. These quizzes are not designed to be particularly difficult and will ensure me that the student is completing the nightly reading requirement. The student may also take reading notes while they read the night before and can use their notes on the quiz while they take it – it is an open note quiz for students who want to do the required work to ensure that they get a good score.

Tests

Students will be taking two or three tests per quarter, as well as two semester final exams. They will have the entire class period to complete these tests. The tests will consist of different types of questions and will include map portions, multiple choice questions, matching questions, fill in the blank portions, short answer questions, definition questions, and long answer questions.

Homework

Homework will be assigned and checked throughout this course. Due dates will be posted on the white board (write in your planner!) and the class website. Most homework will probably consist of reading assignments and coming to class prepared to answer simple questions relating to it (so take notes!).

Turning in Assignments

Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified beforehand. If your assignment is not given to me while I am collecting work for the class as a whole, it is considered late- no exceptions.

Late Assignment Policy

I expect you to complete all assignments by their clearly posted due date. However, I will accept late work for partial credit; I will accept late work at half credit (50%) *the day after* it is due. I am not responsible for asking students for late or missed homework, students must be responsible for remembering to show me makeup work upon their return. If there are extreme circumstances, email me and I will do my best to accommodate you.

Makeup Test Policy

This year, makeup exams will be held in room 215 after school on Mondays and Thursdays with Mrs. Walters. There will be absolutely no excuses accepted for not taking a makeup exam by the expected date. If the makeup exam is not taken within the allotted timeframe outlined in the SPA family handbook, the student will receive a zero.

Course Grading

You will receive both a letter grade in this course and, at the end of each quarter, an in-depth report that evaluates your understanding of content, participation and effort, spirit of inquiry, and other factors in your course performance. More information on Scottsdale Preparatory Academy's grading and evaluation policies can be found in your family handbook.

In determining your letter grade, I will weigh course components in the following manner:

Course Work	Percentage
Participation	25.00%
Tests	30.00%
Quizzes	20.00%
Homework/Classwork	25.00%
TOTAL	100%

Academic Policies and Institutional Resources

Academic Policies and Procedures:

All student work (tests, quizzes, homework, projects) will be returned within one week of submission, with minor exceptions. Essays will be returned within two weeks of submission. Please refer to Scottsdale Prep's Family Handbook pp. 26-38 for more information on the academy's policies.

Additional Course-Level Specific Information

STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

Please complete, detach from the syllabus, and return to school

Student's Name _____
(please print)

I have fully read and understand the 7th Grade Ancient History syllabus.

I understand the course expectations and aim to exceed them.

I will follow the spirit and letter of the outlined procedures to contribute positively to class progress.

Student's Signature _____
(please sign)

Parent's Name _____
(please print)

I have fully read and understand the 7th Grade Ancient History syllabus.

Parent's Signature _____
(please sign)