

Honors World History Syllabus (Spring 2025)

BCIT-Medford

Mr. Bodnar

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Course content outline: This course will cover portions of World History primarily from the year 1350 C.E. to the present day. Although we will be generally proceeding chronologically, our units will be focusing on themes/eras (and sometimes geographical regions) in history. That means we may be jumping around the historical timeline. Also, we will be frequently tying the history we study to the current world, trying to understand the causes, effects and origins of cultural practices, historical trends and wars. For example, we will be comparing isolated practices in historical China and Japan to modern North Korea. We'll be looking at the long-term impacts of imperialism on modern-day Africa. And we will be looking at how both religion and history shaped the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Skills outline: History class isn't just about content, it is about learning and developing skills. So we will be focusing on critical thinking, critical reading, argumentation (written and verbal), analyzing sources, using sources to support arguments, summarizing, organization of information, public speaking and presentation, historiography, causation, periodization, etc.

Course workload:

- Since this is an honors class, expect to be challenged. The workload will be greater and the pace faster than a non-honors course. *****NOTE: Expect to have to complete some work outside of the scheduled class time (homework, projects, etc).*****
- There will be weekly current events assignments.
- Most units will include a culminating assessment – such as a test, essay or project. A study guide or rubric will always be provided.
- You will have a larger research project that will be assigned in March and due in May/June. This will be structured differently than in Mr. Bodnar's previous honors history courses. The topic will be related to genocide (you will have a choice of a specific genocide on which to focus). The assumption is that you have done research projects before (either in your honors history courses or English courses), so there will not be a large amount of intermediate steps or explanations of research basics (MLA format, citations, etc.). If you are unfamiliar with writing a research paper, you will get some practice with DBQ essays in this course, but you may need to otherwise brush up with the basics.

Mr. Bodnar's general classroom rules:

1. Be Respectful
2. Be Prepared
3. Be Following School Rules

Grading:

- Marking period grades will be assigned using the following breakdown:
Tests: 25 percent (*Will include essays and projects, as well as in-class examinations*)

Quizzes: 25 percent (*Will include a variety of assignments, including current events; this usually won't include in-class examinations*)

Midterm or final exam: 25 percent (*Will include both an in-class and project portion*)

Participation: 25 percent (*Includes both classwork and homework assignments*)

• All quiz, test grades will be numeric. However, most homework and classwork assignments (since they are designed to facilitate the learning process, rather than assess your skills or knowledge) will be graded using the following scale (which are meant to be less precise, and mostly measure your effort):

√+	= 100 (done completely with full effort)
√	= 85 (about 80-90% done or the equivalent effort)
√-	= 70 (about 2/3 done or the equivalent effort)
√--	= 50 (half done or the equivalent effort)
0	= 0 (less than half done)

• My philosophy on extra credit: it should be supplemental, and a way for someone who has done all the required assignments to improve their grade by learning extra material or demonstrating knowledge in a different way. It is not a way to “make up” missed assignments.

Late Work/Absence Policy:

- No late classwork or homework assignments (including current events) will be accepted.
- 25-point deduction for each day an assignment counting as a quiz or test is turned in late.
- Most assignments will be due at the **START** of the class period on their due date.
- However, some assignments designed to be classwork may be due at the end of a class period.
- Each person in class will get one “break” for the semester, where you will be allowed to turn in something one day late with no penalty. You need to get approval from Mr. Bodnar to use it.
- If you are absent from school, it is **YOUR** responsibility to check Google Classroom for what you missed. If you have any questions about what was assigned, though, feel free to ask Mr. Bodnar.
- Per school policy, if you are absent from school, you will be allowed the number of days you were absent to complete work that was assigned while you were absent. If work was assigned prior to you being absent, you should turn it in when you return.

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty:

- Any student caught plagiarizing or engaging in academic dishonesty (cheating, doing an assignment in a group that should be done individually, using AI to complete an assignment, etc.) will receive a zero for that assignment.

School and classroom rules and procedures:

- Google Classroom is our hub for everything. Assignments will be posted there, supplemental materials and notes will be linked there, and any reminders/communications Mr. Bodnar makes will be announced there.
- If you have a question about an assignment outside of class time, please send Mr. Bodnar an email (don't just leave a Private Comment on Google Classroom). Mr. Bodnar doesn't automatically get notified about those Private Comments, so assume that Mr. Bodnar won't read it until he grades the assignment.
- When class begins, look to the board for your “Do Now” assignment(s). You should be working on that as soon as the bell rings.
- Each day, you should bring your laptop and a writing utensil (pen/pencil) with you.
- **MR. BODNAR'S CELL PHONE AND HEADPHONE POLICY:** All cell phones must be put away (off your desk) and headphones/earbuds should be removed from your ears during class, unless/until Mr. Bodnar tells you otherwise. This is designed to help you and others focus on the instruction in class. There may be times Mr.

Bodnar will allow you to listen to music (but never watch a video) while you are working (if it helps you focus and is not a distraction). There may also be other times cell phones might be used for instructional purposes.

- Since this class is bisected by a 40-minute lunch period, there should not be a regular need to leave the classroom. Please use the bathroom during that time period (or at a different time during the day). We already end up losing a few minutes of class time in the extra transition; we don't want to lose more. (Obviously, there are exceptions for emergencies and other situations).
- No food or drink is allowed in the classroom, except for bottled water. (For safety and allergy reasons)
- Please be mindful of the school dress code.
- Expect class to be a full 80 minutes. Please do not pack up early (either at the end of 3A or 3C); Mr. Bodnar makes it a point to closely watch the clock and finish class a few minutes before the bell.
- Make sure you arrive on time both at the start of 3A and when coming back from lunch. You will be written up the third time you are late to class in the semester. Each subsequent lateness will also result in a write-up.
- Please feel free to see Mr. Bodnar about any questions or concerns, or if you need extra help, or if you have a suggestion to improve our learning experience in this class. (Keep in mind, however, that Mr. Bodnar may not be able to check messages to get back to you outside of school hours - so try to ask your questions and seek out help during class time).