



Wachusett Regional High School

World History CPA

Mrs. Finney

2025-2026 Class Syllabus

WRHS Mission Statement, Core Values, & Learning Expectations

"Wachusett Regional High School is committed to an educational process that fosters independence and responsibility in our students. By offering diverse, challenging, academic programs and rich co-curricular activities, WRHS strives to provide students with the skills and knowledge to achieve their potential as life-long learners."

We work toward achieving this mission by promoting our CORE VALUES of:

- Citizenship and Responsibility
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation

WRHS Learning Expectations

While mastering individual course content, it is expected WRHS students will:

- exercise responsible citizenship
- communicate effectively in written forms
- communicate effectively in spoken forms
- think critically and solve problems
- think creatively
- collaborate and learn actively
- use technology effectively

Course Description

World History is a thematic course that introduces students to an inquiry approach to studying history in high school. Students focus on developing skills utilized by historians such as creating research questions, analyzing and organizing information from primary and secondary sources, evaluating the credibility of sources, and forming arguments supported by evidence. Students will investigate a variety of topics connected to themes including, but not limited to, nation states, exploration, imperialism, conflict, and nationalism. Additionally, students will be introduced to history from around the world and across the centuries, encompassing events that have shaped our modern world.

Course Texts

Holt McDougal's Modern World History: Patterns of Interactions, 2012

[OER 1200 World History Curriculum](#)

Course Objectives

Students will be using evidence throughout world history (outlined in the Massachusetts History and Social Science Framework) to answer major historical questions and take a more active role in their study of history. Students will be taught the skills they need to think like historians and come to their own conclusions. These skills will include:

- demonstrating civic knowledge,
- developing focused questions,
- organizing information and data from multiple primary and secondary sources,
- analyzing the purpose and point of view of each source; distinguishing opinion from fact,
- evaluating the credibility, accuracy, and relevance of each source,
- arguing or explaining conclusions using valid reasoning and evidence
- determining next steps and taking informed action, as appropriate.

Grading

A total points system will be used for grading and can be calculated by adding up all points the student earned divided by the total points possible for the term. The following chart breaks down the point ranges for major assignments and assessments:

Major Assignment/Assessment	Point Range
Test	75-150
Quiz	25-75
Homework/Classwork	5-10
Participation (weekly)	8-10
Unit Project	75-150

Homework

The following is the Wachusett Regional High School Department of Social Studies homework policy:
Homework in Social Studies will:

1. Reinforce critical reading and writing skills.
2. Support and expand on information presented in class.
3. Involve studying material central to the understanding of social studies concepts.

Homework will be assigned regularly in all social studies classes. Social studies teachers expect homework to be neat, on time, original, and complete.

Homework will be assigned regularly and students will be expected to complete assignments on time (at the start of our scheduled class period) to receive full credit. Homework and due dates will be posted with advance notice on Google Classroom. **Most homework assignments will be accepted the following day for HALF CREDIT.** Exceptions to this rule include: work for major projects, additional readings, or class work that was not completed during the period.

Major Assessments and Projects

A test or project will be given at the end of each unit and will include any primary or secondary sources covered in class. This also includes formal notes (PowerPoints, textbook notes) and informal notes (class discussions, debates, etc.) taken in class. Students will be given a tentative test date at the start of the unit for all major assessments and projects.

Projects will be both individual and group assignments and will require students to work throughout the unit to complete. Projects will be discussed during class time and students will be given at least one full class period to work on them. These projects can range from presentations, posters, and research papers, to performances and skits.

Late projects are unacceptable and a full letter grade will be deducted (10-15 points) for each day they are late, including days school is not in session.

Quizzes

Quizzes, **both announced and unannounced**, will be given at various times throughout the year. Quizzes will generally be open response and include information from both homework and class notes. Quizzes will be used to check students' understanding of readings and homework assignments.

Participation

Participation grades will be given weekly and will range from 8-10 points depending on the work done in the class period. Students will be graded on the following:

Classwork: Each class we will engage in some form of activity to expand upon the major topics and concepts in the unit. This will include group work, pair work, or individual work. All students are expected to complete all assignments given during the class period effectively and efficiently.

Attitude: Every student is expected to come to class with a positive attitude. This includes listening to other students and treating others with respect. Students are also expected to listen to teacher directions, control outbursts, and follow all classroom and school rules.

Vocal Participation: All students are highly encouraged to participate in all class discussions. This kind of involvement in the form of questions, reflections, input, and opinion, benefits you and your classmates. If any student is particularly shy or anxious about speaking in class, please see me and we can discuss how you can gain this participation point.

Extra Credit

Students will not be allowed to earn extra credit by request. Any extra credit opportunities will be assigned on a whole class basis.

Plagiarism/Cheating

Students will rarely be required to use outside sources, but if a student chooses to use an outside source the information must be cited. Any work that is not cited is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a ZERO and the student will not be allowed to make up the work. The incident will be reported to the administration and the student's parents will receive notice of the incident.

Sharing work or working together will not be allowed on any individual assignment and will result in a ZERO. This includes homework, classwork, and major projects.

Using AI technology to write all or portions of an assignment is plagiarism if not properly cited.

Tardiness

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for class. Any student who is late for class without a pass will receive a Teacher's Detention. If a student is late on more than three occasions they will be referred to administration.

Class Absences

Please refer to the student handbook for any information regarding Wachusett's makeup work policies. It is your responsibility to see me for any makeup work. If you have been absent for more than one class session you must see me either after or before school to receive any makeup work. If you have missed a test or quiz it is your responsibility to arrange a time to make up the assessment. Students who are absent on the test date will not take the same exam as their classmates. Makeup tests can be more challenging for students than the original test because it will include primarily open response questions. Students must also note that some activities done in class cannot be replicated and it is their responsibility to find notes on such activities or PowerPoint presentations from another student.

Extra Help

I am available after scheduled school hours on Mondays and Wednesdays. If a student wishes to meet with me for an extended period of time he or she must make an appointment either in person or by email (nicole_finney@wrsd.net).

Google Classroom

Our Google Classroom will be a great tool for students to keep up with major assignments and due dates and retrieve any missed work or assignments while absent from school.

Students must sign up for our class in Google Classroom. Instructions will be given in class.