

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Story of Ancient Times**

### **Required Texts**

- Bauer, Susan Wise. *The Story of the World, Volume 1: Ancient Times*, revised edition. Charles City, Va.: Peace Hill Press, 2006.
- *The Kingfisher History Encyclopedia*, 3rd ed. New York: Kingfisher, 2012 (ISBN 978-0753468753).

### **Course Description**

Story of Ancient Times introduces students to the study of history, beginning from the earliest written records to the final Roman Emperor. This course is particularly helpful for young, logic stage (5th and 6th grade) students taking up the formal study of history for the first time. Ancient Times meets for an hour, once a week, with a focus on interactive discussions among students and with the instructor.

Writing assignments introduce students to historical analysis, research, and organization of study materials. In particular, students work on critical thinking skills by analyzing primary sources and using evidence from those sources to answer questions and draw logical conclusions. In longer writing assignments, students organize their thoughts and/or evidence into outlines or charts prior to writing papers. To prepare students for test-taking, students take weekly open-book quizzes so they are familiar with the questions they'll have on a closed-book test. Finally, "engagement assignments," where students complete hands-on projects, are given several times per quarter.

### **Assignments:**

- *Weekly Assignment*: Nearly every week, students will be assigned a weekly assignment. This will take the form of a discussion question, comprehension quiz, multimodal assignment, or special topic assignment. Discussion questions will allow students to reply to a topic of interest in a short paragraph, and to read and respond to the views of their classmates. Comprehension quizzes will be open book and may include map identification, multiple choice, or open-ended questions. Multimodal assignments may ask students to create an assignment in a form other than typical essay structure, perhaps by drawing or responding creatively to a text. Special topics assignments will be developed in consultation with students, and could take many forms!
- *Historical Summary (one per semester)*: 1-2 page (300-500 word) summary of information about a historical event or person (chosen by the student, but pre-approved by the instructor), using at least one source from outside class materials. Summaries must be typed and submitted as a Word or PDF document in Blackboard.
- *Primary Source Assessment (one per semester)*: Completed evaluation of a primary source assigned in class, in which students will respond to the following five questions:
  - What does this source say? (content)
  - Who is the author?
  - What is the writer's purpose?
  - What events led to this piece of writing?
  - What happened as a result of this writing?
- *Fall Exam*: Blackboard-based examination on material covered since the beginning of the course. Identifications, short answers, and one brief essay question.
- *Spring Exam*: Blackboard-based examination on material covered since the fall exam. Identifications, short answers, and one brief essay question.

- *Final Project:* A 2-4 page (500-1000 word summary) of information about a historical event or person (chosen by the student, but pre-approved by the instructor), using at least *two sources* from outside class materials. Students are encouraged to use illustrations, student-created hands-on projects, or other non-written materials to support the project. All material must be electronically recorded (photographed, videoed, etc) and the recording uploaded into Blackboard.

Course Work	Percentage
Weekly Assignments	30
Primary Source Assessments	10
Historical Summaries	10
Fall Exam	15
Spring Exam	15
Final History Project	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Schedule:

Week	Chapters	Topic
0	--	Orientation
1	Intro.	What is History? What is Archaeology?
2	1	The Earliest People
3	2, 4	Ancient Egypt
4	3	Early Writing
5	5, 6	Mesopotamia
6	7	Hammurabi
7	8	Assyria
8	9	Ancient India
9	10	Ancient China
10	11	Ancient Africa
11	12, 13, 14	Middle & New Kingdoms of Egypt
12	12, 13, 14	Middle & New Kingdoms of Egypt
13	15	Phoenicia
14	16, 17	Assyria vs. Babylon
15	18	Crete
16	19	Early Greece
<b>17</b>		<b>No lecture</b>
18	20	The Greece of Homer
19	21	The Medes & Persians
20	22, 23	Sparta & Athens
21	24	The Greek Wars
22	25	Alexander the Great
23	23	The Ancient Americas
24	27, 28, 29	Early Rome

25	27, 28, 29	Early Rome
26	30, 31	Aryan & Mauryan India
27	32, 33	Confucian China
28	34, 35	Rome and the Caesars
29	36, 37	Rome and the Caesars
30	38	Rome and the Caesars
31	39,	The Decline and Fall of Rome
32	40, 41	The Decline and Fall of Rome
33	42	The Decline and Fall of Rome
<b>34</b>		<b>No lecture</b>