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ADVANCED PLACEMENT WORLD HISTORY

Purpose of this Course

The CollegeBoard designed AP World History to challenge highly motivated students to understand the global processes that have shaped human history for the last 10,000 years. Students who work at meeting this challenge will have the opportunity to earn college credit during their high school years. However, the purpose of this class extends beyond an understanding of world history and the possibility for college credit. The nature of this course provides high school students the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills that will form a strong foundation for continuing college preparation courses in high school and survey level college courses.

Mr. Millhouse's Objectives

This course is designed to:

- prepare students with the knowledge and skills to succeed in future AP and college classes
- promote a global understanding of human events that have shaped the modern world
- prepare students to pass the AP World History examination on Thursday, May 15, 2008
- meet the objectives for high school graduation in world history in the state of Texas

CollegeBoard's Habits of Mind

In addition to general objectives the AP World History course addresses habits of mind or skills in two categories: those addressed by any rigorous history course, and those addressed by a world history course.

Four *Habits of Mind* are in the first category:

1. Constructing and evaluating arguments: using evidence to make plausible arguments.
2. Using documents and other primary data: developing the skills necessary to analyze point of view, context, and bias, and to understand and interpret information
3. Developing the ability to assess issues of change and continuity over time
4. Enhancing the capacity to handle a diversity of interpretations through analysis of context, bias, and frame of reference

Five *Habits of Mind* are in the second category:

1. Seeing global patterns over time and space while also acquiring the ability to connect local developments to global ones and to move through levels of generalizations from the global to the particular
2. Comparing within and among societies, including comparing societies' reactions to global processes
3. Considering human commonalities and differences
4. Exploring claims of universal standards in relation to culturally diverse ideas
5. Exploring persistent relevance of world history to contemporary developments

Course Structure

This course addresses history chronologically, regionally, and thematically.

The five periods covered in this course are c.8000 BCE to 600 CE, 600 CE to 1450 CE, 1450 CE to 1750 CE, 1750 CE to 1914 CE, and 1914 CE to the present

Themes

The five themes explored in this course are:

1. Interaction between humans and the environment
Demography & disease; migration; patterns of settlement; technology
2. Development and interaction of cultures
Religions, philosophies, & ideologies; science & technology; arts & architecture
3. State-building, expansion, and conflict
Political structures & forms of governance; empires; nations & nationalism; revolts & revolutions; regional, transregional, and global organizations
4. Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems
Agriculture & pastoral production; trade & commerce; labor systems; industrialization; capitalism & socialism
5. Development and transformation of social structures
Gender roles & relations; family and kinship; racial & ethnic constructions; social & economic classes

AP Exam Information

The AP World History Examination is approximately three hours and five minutes long and includes both a 55-minute multiple-choice section and 130-minute free-response section. The multiple-choice section accounts for half of the student's examination grade and the free response section for the other half.

Exam Format

- 70 multiple-choice questions – 55 minutes
- 1 document-based question (DBQ) – 50 minutes
- 1 change-over-time essay – 40 minutes (compares periods studied)
- 1 comparative essay – 40 minutes (compares different regions studied)

Assessment

Assessment in class will parallel the tasks required for the AP World History test. Major tests, essays, and projects will count as 70% of the class grade. All other daily assignments will count 30% of the final grade. The semester and final exam will count as 20% of the 9-week grade. These percentages comply with LISD standards for all AP courses.

Classroom Rules

1. There is only one rule: Keep Mr. Millhouse happy.

Suggestions to help you follow the rule:

- Bring required materials and books to class
Required materials: textbook, pen, paper, notebook
- Be in your seat when the bell rings
- Pick up materials when you enter the classroom
- Maintain classroom behavior that supports learning by others
- Do not whine
- Do not cheat
- Learn my quirks

Additional Information

1. **Utilize my website.** My website contains calendars, assignments, and much more.
2. **Tutoring.** Morning and afternoon tutoring is available Monday-Friday.
3. **Review Sessions.** Students who take this class in the fall and are interested in taking the exam must focus on studying for the exam after the course ends. Spring review sessions will be offered by Mr. Millhouse and Ms. Gray.