

Here is a brief overview of my course policies. I encourage you to check out my website for more detailed information, especially in regard to my assessment and grading policies. <http://historyharris.weebly.com>

Required Supplies To be used ONLY for World History

- 2 spiral notebooks (One larger one will also be acceptable)
- 1" binder OR a very tough folder (Most of our assignments and resources will be on Google Classroom, but any that are not must be kept together.)
- Numerous Pencils or Pens (enough to get through the school year)

Additional supplies that may be helpful

- Sticky divider tabs or small sticky notes to separate units in the spiral notebook
- Colored pencils (I do provide these, but bringing your own reduces germ spreading and ensures you have the colors you want)

World History classes use Standards Based Grading

Please note: Standards Based Grading philosophy and reporting are significantly different between VP High School and Middle School.

- Students do not acquire “points.” Individual scores reflect levels of understanding. Term grades reflect cumulative knowledge in reference to each of our 8 course standards.
- Each course standard receives a grade. A single unit test often has multiple grades. This helps me track each student’s strengths and weaknesses in class to more effectively help them. Students also track and analyze their own progress after each assessment.
 - **Infinite Campus does not allow me to divide grades by standards, so you will only see the student’s most up-to-date grade. If you would like a more detailed look, I can email you their progress across the standards at any time during the year.**
- Grades are based almost entirely on tests and projects. These are the best indicators of mastery of a standard. All other work is considered practice. It is still critical to complete and students may suffer disciplinary actions if they make a habit of not completing homework when practice is clearly needed.
- This process is explained in much greater detail on my website: <http://historyharris.weebly.com>

Parent Portal

- **You can view your student’s most current grade at any point during the school year.** Current grades are always updated after every major assessment and will show a clear letter grade.
- All homework, practice or other formative assessments show raw scores on Parent Portal.
 - These are scored on a 4-point scale. Please only pay attention to the score, not the percentage. Percentages on “HWK” coded assignments are not accurate and should be ignored.
 - **4 = A:** Assignment shows strong mastery of this concept
 - **3 = B:** Assignment shows strong understanding, but makes some errors
 - **2 = C:** Assignment shows some understanding, but still needs work to meet standards
 - **1 = D-:** Assignment shows very minimal understanding, and needs significant improvement before major assessment.
 - **0=No Credit:** Assignment was not turned in; OR Assignment was incomplete; OR Assignment did not show enough knowledge to earn a “1”

There is no excuse for not being successful!

- **Exams can be retaken**, although students must go through a retake process to prove increased knowledge.
- SWAT (Students With After school Tutoring) is offered each Monday after school (after the first progress report is sent home. All students are welcome to attend to receive extra help. Students in danger of failing are required to attend.
- Students also have 1-2 Advisory periods each week and may make appointments for alternate times if necessary.
- Textbooks may be checked out to students upon request at any time during the school year. I also have a limited number of CD versions that can be checked out.

World History focuses on 4 main eras

1. Accelerated Exchange and the World in Transition: 700s CE – 1453 CE
Includes a major research project within first month of school
2. Global Interactions: Age of Discovery and Exchange: 1440s CE – 1600s CE
3. Global Interactions: Age of Revolution: 1500s CE – 1900s CE
4. Global Interactions: The Modern Era: 1860s – Today

Core World History Standards

For each unit of study, students will earn a score on EACH of the standards below. Students always have access to the complete breakdown of their scores. Parents may contact me at any time for a detailed score report.

- A. History: Continuity and Change
- B. Governmental Systems and Principles
- C. Geographical Study
- D. Economic Concepts
- E. People, Groups, and Cultures
- F. Literacy Skills
- G. Communication Skills
- H. Academic Responsibility

Please contact me with any questions, concerns or helpful information about your student at any point this year.

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