

World History/Honors World History
2021-2022 School Year

Dear Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to World History!!! We are about to embark on an incredible journey that I hope will captivate, challenge and excite you! Over the next few months we will be studying cultures from around the globe. It is my goal that you will all leave this course with an understanding and appreciation for how your life today has been shaped by the contributions of many civilizations that came before us and for the way history continues to unfold. I also hope that you will learn skills that will help you think critically and continue your education after leaving my class. I have compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions for your benefit. Please keep this guide with you as a reference throughout the semester. I am looking forward to a great year with each of you!!!

Sincerely,

Steve Harris

Room 206

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Frequently Asked Questions About World History

What materials will I need to succeed in this class?

Once we start in person, you will need to provide a **1 inch binder OR tough folder** that you devote ONLY to this class. You may turn this binder in periodically for a grade! Feel free to decorate the outside of this binder/folder in a way to positively express yourself. You will also need a **spiral notebook (most students need 2)**. This notebook will be used for notes, class activities and journaling and is essential to staying organized. Of course you should come with a **pencil or pen** to every class. I highly recommend keeping **sticky tabs** to help separate your notebook into units.

What is expected of me in Room 206?

Come to class prepared each day.

Each class period, you will need to have something to write with, your textbook and your Psychology binder. Of course I'd love for you to also come with a big smile and an eagerness to learn.

Actively participate in class each day

My interactions with you, and your interactions with your peers are one of the best sources of information for how much you know, vs. what you need help on. Actively participate, try your best, even if you get a wrong answer, that helps you learn!

Plan to be in class for all 50 minutes.

With very few exceptions, you are expected to be present for the entire class. This means you should use the restroom and take care of any other issues prior to the start of class

Respect:

This should be self explanatory. I expect you to respect the classroom, other students and myself, but most of all, respect yourself. I strive to maintain an environment where everyone feels safe sharing their opinion. Therefore negative comments about anyone in the classroom (including you) will not be tolerated.

Focus, and keep your brain thinking about history and our world now.

I cannot always see if your mental focus is entirely on the classwork. Research overwhelmingly shows that students who attempt to multi-task (including checking your phone, or another tab) have more difficulty learning and retaining information. It also shows that the higher your confidence in your ability to multi-task, the worse you actually are at doing so. Focus is a skill, and we will discuss strategies to continue improving it.

Stay awake during class

Cell Phones and other electronic devices: Hang them up in my room or put them away

Research overwhelming shows that people are less focused and more distracted by the presence of phones. Take the steps to ensure that your device is not a distraction to you (or anyone else in the room). Problematic electronic devices will spend their time in Mrs. Devereaux's phone jail.

Practice Academic Honesty (meaning do your own work).

Cheating and Plagiarism hurt your education, regardless of whether you get caught or not. In addition to disciplinary actions, academic dishonesty severely damages trust between you and me, which is difficult, if not impossible to repair. Please don't put yourself in that po

How much homework will I have?

After every class session, you are expected to review your notes. You will also write several review questions over the main ideas and write a summary of the day's material. This will be collected intermittently.

In-person teaching: You should expect formal homework assignments 0-2 nights per week, but this will vary a lot depending on the unit.

How will I be graded?

All World History classes use a Standards Based Grading system. This doesn't change how the course looks, but does change the way your tests are graded.

Summative Assessments will make up 95% of your term grade.

These are usually tests, but projects, current events and readings may be included as well. Summative Assessments may be cumulative, including information from previous units as well as the current topic. Individual standards will be assessed within the summative assessment and scores will be assigned **for each standard tested** (In other words, on one test, you will receive multiple scores).

Formative Assessments and Learning Activities will make up 0% of your term grade.

This includes any daily work, homework, practice or in class activities. We will also periodically take diagnostic assessments which simulate test situations so students will be prepared for the tests. All of these formative assessments and learning activities are designed to give you practice or deepen your knowledge of the day's topic. Students will receive feedback and a score on the 4 point scale described below. This will be visible in the gradebook, but will not affect your course grade. This allows you to make mistakes along the way and have multiple opportunities to learn the material, without risking your grade until the test, at which time you will have had plenty of practice to be successful. This way, only the end result of your learning will be graded, not the bumps along the way.

Academic Responsibility will make up 5% of your term grade.

Academic responsibility is essentially my assessment that you are developing the skills necessary to be successful in my class, but will be helpful throughout your education. This standard includes major components necessary for academic success such as completing homework on a regular basis, taking proper notes and reviewing those notes. A student who develops the skills in this standard should have a solid foundation to be successful in all areas of this class.

Cumulative Semester Exam will make up 30% of your semester grade

All students will take a cumulative final exam at the end of each semester that assesses all standards addressed during the semester. There will be **NO OPPORTUNITY FOR RETAKES** on the semester exam.

Can I redo assignments or retake tests if I do not like my scores?

YES!!! You may resubmit corrected assignments at any time.

You can apply for a test retake for any test except the final exam. This will require a MINIMUM of 2 meetings with Mr. Harris and demonstration that you will be more successful on the retake than the original test. See the retake ticket for more information. You should also be aware that your retake will COMPLETELY REPLACE the original score and that questions will be different from the original test.

What happens if my homework is late?

Since assignments are meant to show that you learned the material, I will not penalize you if you need extra help. However, if you turn in assignments late, you lose the right to expect my feedback as quickly and should expect the burden of having multiple assignments piling up. If you make a habit of not completing assignments or turning assignments in late, you should expect additional consequences including, but not limited to, a lower score on the Academic Responsibility Standard, contacting your parents and/or mandatory time with me after school (aka: Detention) to complete missing work.

Since homework doesn't affect my grade, what happens if I don't do it?

All assigned work has a purpose. If you choose to not complete your homework, you will not do well on tests. If you request a retake, you will have to submit the missing work before the retake anyway. In addition, students who do not complete homework should expect additional consequences including, but not limited to, a lower score on the Academic Responsibility Standard, contacting your parents and/or mandatory time with me after school (aka: Detention) to complete missing work.

How are my tests and assignments scored?

Each assignment and test will be scored on a 4 point scale per standard. Some assignments have only one standard, while major tests may have all of them. Scores for each standard are tracked cumulatively throughout the year and should be looked at in relation to other scores in that standard, NOT other scores on the same assessment.

4 = A: You have total mastery of the content, with few, minor errors. You know it so well that you can apply your knowledge to something we have not directly discussed

3 = B: You understand what you need to. You may not have supported your ideas as well, or you made some errors, but you showed solid understanding of this standard.

2 = C: You understand the main ideas, but may have made some major errors or left out some very important pieces of information.

1 = D-: You have showed very little understanding. You really need to get some help to make sure you keep improving this score

NTY = 0 = F: You have not shown enough understanding of this standard in relation to what was being asked.

NOTE: "3" scores are my target for all students. While it is challenging to earn an "A" in my class, I design assessments so that a student who has been doing everything that they should throughout a unit should consistently be able to earn a "3" score on the tests. If you are not consistently achieving "3's" feel free to have a discussion with Mr. Harris about what you should be doing differently to improve!

What do I do if I miss a class?

Attendance is very important to the study of history. If you happen to miss a class, you are responsible for making up all work missed while you were gone. When you return, turn in any work that was due the day you missed. You will need to get the homework from the appropriate binder and complete it as soon as possible. You will also need to get the class notes from another student. I will be glad to get you caught up if you come see me outside of regular class time. **If you miss a review day, you will still be required to take the test on the day you return. If you miss a test day, you will be required to take the test the day you return during academic advisory or after school.**

What is the difference between Honors World History and World History?

Honors World History is a weighted grade, which means a student's grade in Honors will be one grade point higher than a non-weighted grade (i.e. "B"= 4.0). Because of this my expectations of honors students are higher. Honors tests go more in depth and require more thorough knowledge of the topic. We also spend more time in primary sources and other outside readings than World History.

How can I bring up my grade?

If you didn't do so well on a major assessment, you can always schedule a retake. Start by picking up a retake sheet in class or printing one from my website. Starting the 5th week of each semester, I hold SWAT (students with after school tutoring) each Monday after school. During SWAT, you will receive extra help or work personalized to your situation that will help you increase understanding and raise your grade. Within one week before each test, I hold a review session during which all students are invited to prepare for the test with other conscientious students and myself. **All students are welcome to attend SWAT, but if your grade drops below a 1.4 (low D) you will be required to attend until your grade comes up.**

What we will study this semester?

Each unit will center on several of the following standards and how they relate to the region or theme we are discussing in that unit.

- 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

First Semester: We focus on the interactions of the Medieval and Renaissance civilizations as they are forced to adapt to a rapidly changing, and increasingly inter-connected world. (700s CE – 1453 CE)

Accelerated Exchanges and the World in Transition: 700s CE – 1453 CE

Interactions in the Ancient and Medieval World	
Transitions in Medieval Europe and Asia	Chapters 11-14
Medieval/Renaissance Civilizations Research Project	Chapters 7-17

Global Interactions: The Age of Discovery and Exchange: 1440s – 1600s CE

The Power of New Ideas: Renaissance and Reformation Eras	Chapter 15
European Exploration and Expansion	Chapters 7, 16
New Asian Empires and European Absolutism	Chapters 17-18

Second Semester: We focus on the impacts of new intellectual and technological developments and how they have helped form the world in which we live today.

Global Interactions: The Age of Revolution 1500s – 1900s

Enlightenment and Political Revolution	Chapters 18-20, 23
Industrial Revolution	Chapters 21-22

Global Interactions: The Modern Era 1914 – 2019

Global impacts of Nationalism and Imperialism	Chapters 24-25
World Wars	Chapters 26-28
After the Wars: Cold War	Chapters 29-30
After the Wars: Global Development and Change	Chapters 30-33
Modern Global Issues Project	

What if I still have trouble with something we are learning?

I want each of my students to succeed: in my class, in school and in life. Feel free to come by for help before or after school or during academic advisory. I will always be willing to help you succeed!