

Thomas Jefferson High School
Course Syllabus for World History
1.0 credit Social Studies
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Course Overview: This is a full year class for sophomores. See below for a breakdown of topics covered in class. In addition to the topics, students will be challenged in their reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, working with technology including internet research and various software applications, and communication through presenting and class discussion.

I. First Semester Units

- Review of chronology (time), maps and globes (space) and appreciation of world history
- Review of Prehistory and the Neolithic Revolution
- Review of the first civilizations; emphasis on Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Classical Civilizations of Greece and Rome.
- Byzantine Empire and clash of Islam and Christianity
- Middle Ages and the Crusades
- Renaissance/Reformation/Scientific Revolution
- Overseas exploration and the Columbian Exchange (and effect on indigenous people)
- Enlightenment and French Revolution
- Industrial Revolution

I. Second Semester Units

- Age of Imperialism (Africa & Asia)
- Rise of Nations (Italy & Germany)
- World War I
- The Russian Revolution
- World War II (totalitarianism and holocaust)
- Cold War/Nuclear Age
- The New World Order (breakup of the Soviet Union)

II. Essential Learnings: What students are expected to know and be able to do.

- ❑ Students will understand major themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause and effect relationships.
- ❑ Students will apply the methods of Social Science to investigate and compare interpretations of historical events.
- ❑ Students will understand the origin and impact of ideas and technological developments on history and social change.
- ❑ Students will use maps, charts, and other geographical tools to understand the spatial arrangement of people, places, resources, and environments on Earth's surface.
- ❑ An understanding of geographic themes and conditions that influence history.
- ❑ Examine the features of various cultures and their influence on world history.
- ❑ Promote skills relating to investigation, research, analysis, and synthesis of information.
- ❑ Use a variety of mediums including the textbook and the Internet.
- ❑ Use and understand primary and secondary sources.
- ❑ Identify, analyze, and understand repeating themes throughout history.
- ❑ Utilize software applications, MS Word, Excel, Power Point, and other applications as a medium for demonstrating knowledge of curriculum.

IV. Projects, Assignments, and Homework:

In general, each unit may include a few introductory daily assignments to acquaint the student with the basic ideas of the topic. The bulk of the course will involve the student in a variety of projects, some will take a few days, some may take 1 to 2 weeks. Homework then becomes managing their time to complete the project in a timely manner.

At times, the class may function in more of a traditional classroom, in which a combination of individual, small group, and whole class activities will occur. Reading and writing improvement will be stressed across the content. Lessons will be supplemented with a variety of approaches including; discussion and debate, video and other visual aids, simulations, and group collaborative work.

V. Assessment

Students will be assessed in the following areas for each unit studied. Rubrics will used to evaluate student progress and selected projects/assignments will be kept in a portfolio in the classroom. Oct. 30 and 31 will afford the first opportunity for parents to view student progress and projects in the portfolio.

- 20% Formative Assessment: Consists of daily assignments, quizzes, written reflections, observation.
- 10% Work Habits (attendance, preparation, participation, production, teamwork, responsibility).
- 70% Summative assignments: Consists of unit tests, formal writing assignments, group projects.

As per school policy, grades are determined using the following percentages:

- A=90 to 100% Superior Work
- B=80 to 89% Above Average Work
- C=70 to 79% Average Work
- D/F/Incomplete=0 to 69.9% Work that is unacceptable for credit

In keeping with a standards based approach, summative assignments and tests may be able to be resubmitted or retaken as a way to relearn information or improve skills. This will generally have to be done in class with supervision during tutorial or after school.

VI. Make-Up Policy

If a student misses a test or due date for an assignment due to absence, he or she generally has the same number of days missed to make up their work. Excessively late work may require student to produce the class in the classroom under my supervision. It may also require an alternate and equal assignment. Late work is factored into each student’s work habits assessment.

II. Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary to receive the full benefits of the course.

III. Classroom Rules and Behavior Expectations

Be Prepared: Come to class with necessary materials, including absence notes, I.D. card, etc.

Be Prompt: Be in your seat when the bell rings and ready to begin class.

Be Productive: Use your time in class to the best of your ability.

Be Positive: Use appropriate language, gestures, and volume that are positive and respectful of a learning environment.

Please sign below, tear off and return to class. Keep syllabus for your reference.

IV. Video Permission

The following video, or portions may be shown. By signing below you give permission for your son/daughter to view these in class as part of the curriculum.

- Scenes from Castaway, PG-13, 2000 Time Life’s Lost Civilization Series Return of Ice Man
- Dances with Wolves (buffalo hunt) Scenes from Ben Hur The Vikings Knights and Armor
- David MaCaulay Ancient Civs. Series The Message Luther (2003) The Mission, rated PG, 1986 All
- Quiet on the Western Front, PG, 1979 Modern Times, NR, 1936 (Charlie Chaplin-factory conditions)
- The Shaping of the Western World Video Series A & E Biography: Anne Frank, Anastasia, Columbus, Marie
- Antoinette, Napoleon, The French Revolution Escape From Sobibor, 1987, PG

Student Name _____

Signature _____

Parent Name _____

Signature _____