



Southern Lehigh School District

High School Syllabus

AP World History 2014-2015

Course Description:

AP World History is a rigorous, college-level course designed to explore human history from 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The course is broken up into six time periods with a focus on examining five themes central to the development of the modern world. There will be an emphasis on the analytical and writing skills necessary for success at the collegiate level. The course devotes considerable time to the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources, analysis of historiography (the principles, theories, or methodology of scholarly historical research and presentation) and inquiry into global connections that have shaped our present world. A special emphasis will be given to preparation for the AP Exam, including historical writing through essay and document-based questions (DBQ) as well as objective evaluations. Students are assessed on their mastery of the course goals when they take the College Board AP World History Exam in May.

Course Content:

Students in this course must learn to view history thematically. The AP World History course is organized around five overarching themes that serve as unifying threads throughout the course, helping students to relate what is particular about each time period or society to a “big picture” of history. The themes also provide a way to organize comparisons and analyze change and continuity over time. Consequently, virtually all study of history in this class will be tied back to these themes by utilizing a “SPICE” acronym.

Theme 1: Social -- Development and Interaction of Cultures

- Religions
- Belief systems, philosophies and ideologies
- Science and technology
- The arts and architecture

Theme 2: Political -- State Building, Expansion and Conflict

- Political structures and forms of governance
- Empires
- Nations and nationalism
- Revolts and revolutions
- Regional, transregional, and global structures and organizations

Theme 3: Interaction Between Humans and the Environment

- Demography and disease
- Migration
- Patterns of settlement
- Technology

Theme 4: Culture -- Development and Transformation of Social Structures

- Gender roles and relations
- Family and kinship
- Racial and ethnic constructions
- Social and economic classes

Theme 5: Economic -- Creation, Expansion and Interaction of Economic Systems

- Agricultural and pastoral production
- Trade and commerce
- Labor systems
- Industrialization
- Capitalism and socialism

Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Primary Text

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources. Robert W. Strayer. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013.

Primary Sources

Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader. (Third Edition) Kevin Reilly. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2009.

Course Requirements:

This course is designed to give students a greater understanding of the forces and events that have played a role in shaping the political, social and economic structure of the world throughout history. Students will be required to work individually as well as with their peers throughout the year to both learn and master the material covered in the course. Their progress will be monitored and assessed through various methods such as in-class work, homework, quizzes, tests, writing assignment and projects. Each student is required to complete all work assigned by the teacher. Failure to do so will affect the student's overall grade.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on a percentage basis, not total points. The quarterly grades will be based off the following percentages:

50% Summative Assessments (Tests/Projects)

20% Quizzes

20% Essay Writing

10% Homework

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The final exam is worth 20% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
Final	20%

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

You will have three parts to your APWH Summer Assignments for the 2014-2015 school year. The first part of your summer assignment is to read chapter one (First Peoples; First Farmers) of your Strayer text. You should define all 20 terms and answer the 5 Big Picture Questions on page 44. There will be an assessment on Chapter 1 on the first day of school.

You will also need to label the geographical regions used to describe different areas of the world – based on APWH terminology. Use a colored pencil to color each region a different color. You can locate a map on my website to assist you in labeling.

Lastly, you will need to answer 8 questions based on the book A History of the World in 6 Glasses by Tom Standage, as well as a timeline of events.