

Lee M. Zeisloft

AP World History Syllabus 2021-2021

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Course Description

AP World History is a rigorous, college-level course designed to explore human history from 1200 C.E. to the present. The course is broken up into four time periods with a focus on examining six 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.

AP Exam Format:

Section 1:

- Part A: 55 multiple choice (55 minutes) 40% of Total Exam Score
- Part B: 4 Short Answer Questions (50 minutes) 20% of Total Exam Score

Section 2:

- Part A: DBQ (60 minutes) 25% of Total Exam Score
- Part B: Long Essay Question, 2 options (35 minutes) 15% of Total Exam Score

Primary Text

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources. Robert W. Strayer. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2020.

Primary Sources

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

Supplemental Reading:

This course includes excerpts from sources written by historians or scholars interpreting the past:

Books

- Standage, Tom. A History of the World in 6 Glasses. New York. Walker and Company, 2005

Websites

- *Bridging World History*; multimedia series from the Annenberg Foundation (<http://www.learner.org/courses/worldhistory/>)
- *Internet History Sourcebooks Project*; a collection of public domain and copy permitted historical text for educational use (<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/>)

Themes and Key Topics:

Students in this course must learn to view history thematically. The AP World History course is organized around six 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

Theme 6: Technology and Innovation

- Human adaptation and innovation
- Reshaping of Human Development

Historical Periodization

The course will be organized into six periods from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. Each time period will be explored through the five themes listed above.

	Period Title	Date Range
Period 1:	Regional and Interregional Interactions 1. The Global Tapestry 2. Networks of Exchange	c. 1200 C.E. to 1450 C.E.
Period 2:	Global Interactions 3. Land-Based Empires 4. Trans-Oceanic Interconnections	c. 1450 C.E. to 1750 C.E.
Period 3:	Industrialization and Global Integration 5. Revolutions 6. Consequences of Industrialization	c. 1750 C.E. to 1900 C.E.
Period 4:	Accelerating Global Change & Realignment 7. Global Conflict 8. Cold War and Decolonization 9. Globalization	c. 1900 to Present

Key Concepts:

Wondering what is studied in each of the eras? The key concepts define the most essential course content knowledge particular to a given historical period. They provide a conceptual framework to help teachers and students understand, organize and prioritize historical developments within each designated historical period.

Grading Policy:

Final grades will be determined by the number of points a student earns out of the total points assigned throughout the marking period.

Late Work:

Students can hand in late work for any assignment up to one class after the assignment was due for half credit. After that, the assignment can no longer be handed in, and the student will receive a zero.