

Advanced Placement World History
Spring 2015

Teacher: Ashley Adkins

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Class Schedule: 1st block: STEM Humanities
2nd block: AP World History
3rd block: Planning
4th block: AP European History

Main Text: Stearns, Peter N. (et. al) 2007. *World Civilizations: the Global Experience*, 5th Edition. New Jersey: Pearson Education

Primary Source Readers:

Sources of World History: Readings for World Civilization, Volumes I and II

The Human Record: Sources of Global History, Volumes I and II

These sources include a variety of written documents such as poems, letters, journals, literary excerpts (etc.), maps, images, charts, graphs, tables, and works of arts to better help you understand each time period studied. You will be reading, analyzing, and comparing these documents in daily activities and blog assignments.

Supplemental Reading:

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies by Jared Diamond

This book provides new perspective about about World History as it relates to the three items in the title. You will complete assignments and participate in discussions about the book periodically throughout the course.

The World That Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy by Pomeranz & Topik

This book provides a perspective of historical scholarship and is a secondary source about World History. You will complete assignments and participate in discussions about the book periodically throughout the course.

Course Description:

The course consists of a thorough study of human civilization from 8000 B.C.E. to the present. It is a college-level course that uses lectures, class discussions, independent studies, readings from primary and secondary sources, and timed writings. In AP World History, students will develop a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contact including interactions over time. The course highlights the nature of changes in the international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The primary intent of the AP World History course is to teach the history of the world from a truly global stance rather than from the dominant perspective of Western civilization. This approach therefore places emphasis on worldwide historical processes and connections among the whole gamut of human societies. Another and equally important intent is for you to take the AP World History Exam in May and be successful!

Course Themes (as identified by the College Board):

1. Interaction Between Humans and the Environment
2. Development and Interaction of Cultures
3. State Building, Expansion and Conflict
4. Creation, Expansion and Interaction of Economic Systems
5. Development and Transformation of Social Structures

These themes will be highlighted daily and you will become comfortable recognizing them during lecture notes and assignments. Each multiple choice question will highlight at least one of these themes.

Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance:** Per district policy, students cannot have more than five unexcused absences and still gain credit. If you are absent, you must make up any missed assignments within five days of your return. It is **your** responsibility to get any missed assignments from me and class notes from a classmate. Because this is such a fast-paced course, attendance is necessary for your success. **DO NOT MISS TEST DAYS!!**
2. **Materials Needed Daily:**
 - Pen or pencil
 - 3-ring notebook with lots of paper (1.5" or larger)
 - SUGGESTED: dividers labeled Class Notes, Handouts/Documents, Review work, Graded Work, DBQ/FRQ Info, etc.
3. **Class Rules:**
 - Be on time.
 - Be prepared.
 - Be respectful.

Course Expectations:

This is a college-level course; therefore, I expect each of you to treat it as such. Attendance and attentiveness are both mandatory for success. There will be a large amount of outside reading as I don't plan to cover every historical detail in class lectures. You can plan on reading each night in preparation of the next day's class as well as completing a document blog once per week. This will be on top of studying for tests and weekly quizzes. You must be willing to put forth the extra effort needed to be successful. Your level of success depends upon your own capabilities, effort, and expectations.

Course Grading Information: I will be following Dorman's designated grading scale as per the student handbook and my grading policy is as follows:

1. Your grade will be determined by a total points system including the following categories: Tests, Historical Writing (DBQs and FRQs), Reading Quizzes, Document Blogs, Class Activities, and a Midterm Exam.
2. We will have about 8 tests this semester.
3. We will have a reading quiz about once per week. You will have the opportunity to drop two of your lowest quiz grades at the end of each quarter. No make-up reading quizzes will be given. If you are absent the date of a reading quiz, that will count as one of your dropped grades.
4. Extra credit is available in the form of flash cards created by you. Points will be awarded on tests.
5. Late assignments are NOT ACCEPTED. See me BEFORE an assignment is due if you have a problem or concern about a due date. If you know you will be out on the day that an assignment is due, make sure it gets to me by another student, email, boat, plane or train!
6. If you know you will be missing a test, you must arrange to take it BEFOREHAND. See me in advance to schedule a time to take the test.

Document Blog Information:

You will have periodic primary source reading assignments about which you will post a blog. Blogs are due by midnight on the assigned day. The blog address is <http://apworldcavalier.blogspot.com>. You will need to provide for me an email account so I can grant you access to the site. On the blog, write a paragraph that answers the following questions, as well as any extra questions I may add.

1. What is the main idea/theme of the reading?
2. What is the point of view or perspective of the author?
3. How does this document show continuity with previous time periods in history?
4. How does this document show change from previous time periods in history?
5. Pose 1 question and respond to 1 of your classmates' questions of your choosing.

Tips for Success

1. Take notes on your reading. Make charts, graphs, graphic organizers, and flashcards. They will help you along the way as well as during the crunch time right before the AP exam.
2. Attend any review session I offer. We will begin review sessions after spring break.
3. Stay organized! If you have your things in order, it makes for a much easier course.
4. Form study groups. Sometimes it helps to have a buddy or two to help you go over the material and keep you on track.
5. And finally, **stay in touch** – drop by to ask a question, discuss an issue, or ask for advice on an assignment. That’s what I’m here for!

A Reading and Assignment Schedule will be updated and issued periodically. This should be kept in your notebook at all times.

(Cut and Return **THIS PORTION ONLY** – keep the rest in your notebook)



I have read the syllabus and understand the course requirements for AP World History.

Parent Signature

Student Name (Please Print)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Student Email Address for AP World Blog
(Please Print Neatly)