

STEM Humanities – World History Syllabus

Mrs. Adkins Contact Information: adkinsah@spart6students.org
2015-2016 Website: www.mrsadkinsdhs.weebly.com

“I think the perception of there being a deep gulf between science and the humanities is false.”

– Clifford Geertz, influential 20th century anthropologist

What are the Humanities?

The term defined: The humanities are subjects that study the human condition. The word comes from the Latin *humanus*, which can mean pertaining to man, humane, cultured, or refined. The humanities are the stories, the ideas, and the words that help us make sense of our lives and our world. The humanities introduce us to people we have never met, places we have never visited, and ideas that may have never crossed our minds.

Subjects included: The humanities include ancient and modern languages and linguistics, literature, history, philosophy, religion, law, anthropology and visual and performing arts such as music and theatre. All of these subjects have as their goal the exploration and explanation of human experience.

What is studied: In most disciplines in the humanities, written texts are extremely important, especially in history, philosophy, and literature. These texts can be both primary (first-hand, from the time period accounts) and secondary (written accounts from a second-hand source or after the time period).

What will be taught in STEM Humanities – World History?

This course covers world civilizations, historical themes and global developments ranging from prehistory to present. You will be challenged to use critical and interpretive skills, as well as to examine and analyze historical issues from many perspectives. Some themes covered in the course include social, economic and cultural trends; issues of gender and ethnic identity; interrelationships and exchanges among various civilizations; and the ability to compare different historical eras and societies.

Course Basics

Grading: Your grades in this course will be gained through periodic multiple-choice comprehension quizzes, science in the news reports, primary source analyses, class discussion participation, DBQ essays, and project work toward a final presentation. Each assignment will be given a point value and your grade will be determined by the amount of points attained out of the amount of points possible. All of these assignments will be discussed further at a later time.

Texts: You will be provided an e-textbook called *The Student’s Friend: World History and Geography*, as well as excerpts from various primary source manuals. If you have an eBook reader, laptop/desktop or other smart device, you can download it for free. Just go my website www.mrsadkinsdhs.weebly.com, navigate to the STEM Humanities page, and download the PDF files for your computer or other smart device. Save a tree – download for free! If you need a printed copy, please request one at the beginning of each unit. The files will also be available on it’sLearning. I will supplement the text with numerous primary and secondary sources throughout the course.

Materials Needed Daily:

- 1 ½ inch 3 ring binder – **not a spiral bound notebook**; this is to keep primary source and assignment handouts, and class notes handy
- Pens/pencils and paper – always come prepared with them

Class Policies – See Cell Phone/Device Policy Separately

1. Be respectful of others – remember the golden rule which can be found across all cultures.
2. Be on time – multiple tardies will result in phone calls home and disciplinary referrals.
3. Turn in all work on time – late work will result in a varying points-per-day penalty, depending on the assignment.
4. Bring all class materials daily.
5. Keep the room clean – throw away or recycle any wrappers, paper, etc. in the proper places.

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;*

*Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.*

*Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.*

– Excerpt from “A Psalm of Life” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What kind of footprint will you leave?