

Course Syllabus for AP World History



Course Description: AP World History is based on a global perspective of the world and human interactions from before the first millennium to present day. Six key themes that outline the course are: relationship of change and continuity, impact of interaction among major societies, impact of technology and demography on people and the environment, systems of social and gender structures, cultural and intellectual developments and interactions, and changes in functions and structures of states. Students will refine analytical skills and habits of mind such as: understanding historical and geographical context, making comparisons across cultures, using documents and other primary sources, and being able to recognize and discuss different interpretations and historical frameworks.

There will be heavy reading and writing throughout the year and the demands upon students are equivalent to a full-year introductory college course. Only students who are highly motivated and have a strong interest in World History should take this course.

Unit I: Formation of Civilizations (Foundations: 8000 BCE-600 CE)

[Term 1]

- A. Historiography/Introduction of Themes for AP World
- B. World Geography
- C. Major Early Civilizations and City-States
- D. Establishment of World Religions

Primary Text Readings:

Spodek, *The World's History*
Introduction, pp. I7-I15, articles on historiography
Early Civilizations and Emergence of Cities (Chapters 2-4)
Major World Religions (Chapters 9-11)

Possible Secondary Readings:

Stearns article on "What is Civilization?"
Creation stories from various civilizations
Hermann Hesse. *Siddhartha*.
Primary Sources from Ebrey on Confucianism, Legalism, Taoism
Articles from Christian texts, Islamic texts, Buddhist texts
Video "It Started with the Greeks" by James Burke
Video: "Rites of Death"

Activities:

Socratic Seminars on readings and chapters
Themes using PERSIA model (Pol., Ec., Rel, Soc., Intel., Art./Cult.)
Power Point Lectures on Cartography, Development of writing, early Chinese art
Possible Field Trip: MFA—Guided Tour on "Exploring Ancient Civilizations" or
"Mythology of the East and West"
"Ancient Chinese Psychotherapy" – Confucianism, Legalism, Taoism