

**Melrose Veterans Memorial Middle School**  
Social Studies Department  
Course Syllabus

**Course Title:**           **World History I - Grade 7**

**Primary Course Material:**   Human Heritage  
**Secondary Course Material:** History Alive! The Ancient World

**Course Description:**

The course covers the early history of humanity from the dawn of prehistory to the height of the Roman Empire. Topics include the origin of civilization in the river valley societies, the development of written language, the continuity and change of cultures of the Ancient World, as well as Classical Greece and its influence on Rome. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition and mastery of critical reasoning and writing skills as well as an introduction to primary source documents.

**School Wide Learning Expectations:**

- Write effectively using standard English
- Demonstrate the ability to read effectively
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively
- Demonstrate the ability to use technology responsibly and effectively
- Demonstrate the ability to problem solve effectively
- Demonstrate and understanding of art & culture
- Demonstrate behaviors that promote wellness
- Demonstrate good citizenship
- Demonstrate the ability to plan and set goals

**Essential Questions**

How do waterways affect how people live?  
How does religion dictate daily lives?  
How did the environmental changes that shaped the earth effect the advancement of human life?  
How has the development of writing impacted the world today?  
How does geography influence the way people live?  
What causes change? What remains the same?  
How am I connected to people from the past?  
How can I learn from the past?  
What is Ancient History?  
How have ancient inventions/ideas improved our lives?

**Course Specific Goals**

Archaeology  
Human Origins – Prehistory  
Mesopotamia  
Egypt  
Phoenicia  
Ancient Israel  
Greece  
Rome

**Grade 7:  
Ancient and Classical Civilizations in the Mediterranean  
to the Fall of the Roman Empire: Ideas that Shaped History**

Seventh graders study the origins of human beings in Africa and the early civilizations that flourished in the Mediterranean area. They study the religions, governments, trade, philosophies, and art of these civilizations as well as the powerful ideas that arose in the ancient world and profoundly shaped the course of world history. These ideas include monotheism, democracy, the rule of law, individual worth, personal responsibility, the alphabetic principle for a writing system, and scientific reasoning.