



## AP WORLD HISTORY

Mrs. Kennedy

**PREFACE:** This course has a summer reading assignment that requires completion by the first day of school. Failure to have these summer readings and assignments will count against you and may necessitate discussion on selecting an alternative Social Studies course. The assignment will be distributed to students before the end of the current school year. In addition, students will prepare for the World History Advanced Placement examination given in May. Taking the exam is a requirement of the course. The exact date of the exam will be announced.

**COURSE OVERVIEW AND DESCRIPTION:** The AP World History course is an academic, year long course. The course is designed to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of:

- emphasis on selective and relevant factual knowledge
- developing appropriate analytical skills
- highlights in the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences
- comparisons among major societies
- interpretations on issues and types of historical evidence.

AP World History builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technical precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage. Periodization forms an organizing principle for dealing with change and continuity throughout the course. Specific themes, as outlined by the College Board, provide for further organization that forms the core of world history as a field of study. The six AP World History Themes are:

- The relationship of change and continuity from 8000 BCE to the present.
- Impact of interaction among and within major societies.
- Impact of technology, economics, and demography on people and the environment.
- Systems of social structure and gender structure.
- Cultural, religious, and intellectual developments.
- Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities, including the emergence of the nation-state.

AP World History relies heavily on World Civilizations: The Global Experience AP Edition. Each test will consist of a multiple choice section and a short essay section. an AP level textbook and Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World History, Volume I and Volume II. A special emphasis will be given to historical writing through essay and document-based questions (DBQ) in order to develop a student's written analytical skills. Towards the spring, as we end the readings in the textbook, review will focus on writing. Besides the DBQ style of writing, other styles of writing will include the comparison and contrast essay and continuity or change over time essay. Students will test weekly at the end of each textbook chapter.

Expect "homework" every night. You must be willing to dedicate about two hours of your time to AP World History EVERY NIGHT—including weekends and holiday breaks. It is pivotal that you read and take notes. A reading schedule for the entire academic year will be distributed. Follow this reading schedule as a guideline. Some changes may be made upon instructor discretion. Random and/or unannounced quizzes can be given to check your reading. Notes will also be collected randomly and/or unannounced. Students will be required to participate in class discussions—this will only strengthen discussion points because different points of view and/or interpretations can be explored. Students are expected to be challenged by the rigorous course of study while maintaining a focus on a student-centered classroom environment.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS and ENVIRONMENT:** The expectation of AP WORLD HISTORY from the instructor point of view is that the course is similar to an introductory freshman college history course. We meet everyday. Regardless of absences, you should keep up with your reading, according to the schedule. It will be pivotal that you keep up with your assignments so that class can run in the following method:

- class will be conducted as an informal discussion, unless otherwise told
- discussion will be student centered
- accountability is held to each individual student through:
  - being the "leader" of specifically appointed sections of the reading
  - participation in the discussion either through asking or answering questions
- the instructor will lead off the academic year through teacher facilitated and led question/answer discussion for the summer assignments

### Texts Used:

*World Civilizations: The Global Experience AP Edition*, by Peter N. Sterns, et. al., New Jersey: Pearson; 4<sup>th</sup> AP ed., 2011

*Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World History; Volume I*, edited by Joseph R. Mitchell and Helen Buss Mitchell. Dubuque: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2005.

*Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World History; Volume II*, edited by Joseph R. Mitchell and Helen Buss Mitchell. Dubuque: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin; 1<sup>st</sup> ed., 2002.

#### Class Times and Beginning Procedure:

Class starts when the bell rings. You are required to have a pass if you are going to be late. Tardiness will be reported to the office. You are expected to have all materials needed for class ready to go so that class can begin.

Please place all book bags, purses, phys. ed. bags, etc. in the indicated spot in the classroom. Have all materials needed for class at your seat. This will help greatly when I need to go around the room to help, check assignments, etc and also for when desks need to be moved for group and/or partner work.

#### Assignments:

All assignments will be given specific due dates. The exception will be homework, which unless otherwise stated will be expected to be completed for the next school day. Late assignments will be accepted the next day for half credit.

You will have plenty of time to complete your assignment(s). Should you have any problems with an assignment and/or group member(s), you need to see me immediately. I can help you with a problem before the due date. Please understand that if you come to me at the very last minute, your options and my options are limited. Therefore, the choices available may not be one in your favor. It is to your advantage to discuss *any* problems with me *immediately*.

Check the school website under the teachers section and then under Mrs. Kennedy for summarized and generalized assignments for the week, if needed.

#### Ink Color:

Tests, quizzes, and all assignments need to be completed in blue or black ink. Pencil is also acceptable. I usually correct in colored ink so compliance to the ink color will make it easier to determine who wrote what.

#### Make-up Work and Missing Class Policies:

Excused absences will be given full credit for assignments turned in. On the day of your return, you will be expected to hand in any work that you had before your absence for full credit. You will be allowed one day to make up work for each day of an excused absence. Any long-term assignments will retain the scheduled due date. If you know you will be missing class, (sports, lessons, family, etc.) schedule a time with me *before or after* (not during class time) school to collect the work that you will need and to hand in any assignments. If you are missing a test and/or major assignment due date for a school sponsored event, you are expected to take the test beforehand or the next school day and you are expected to hand in your work. If you cannot find me, you can always place the assignment in my mailbox in the office.

Ultimately, it is *your responsibility* to make up your work. I recommend that you see me about missed information, including tests *before or after* school. If you cannot meet before or after school, it is *your responsibility* to *set up an alternative time*. Please do not take class time to ask me about your personal make-up needs. I will be able to focus more on your personal requirements when I'm not trying to conduct class. It's also a good idea to check with a classmate to obtain notes, objectives, etc. There is a bulletin board marked "WHAT DID I MISS" in the back of the classroom. You can pick up all missing handouts in the appropriately labeled "day."

Make-ups will not be allowed for unexcused absences.

#### Your Notebook:

You must maintain a notebook to keep your World History notes and handouts. (I recommend you keep a separate a three-ring binder.) Your notebook must be brought to class everyday. You will be expected to take notes from lecture, class discussion, presentations, etc., as well as the daily objectives and the bell ringer. Organization is the key to success. Please keep your notebook clean. There will be occasions where you will receive many handouts. Please place these important papers in your notebook and not on the floor or trash can.

#### Grading Procedure:

Your grade is based upon a cumulative point system. The total number of points you have earned will be divided into the total number of points possible. Grades are given to quizzes, tests, projects, notebook reviews, homework, participation, etc. I do not apply curves to any work. Your final year end grade is a formulated average from the four marking periods and your final project/paper. The final project/paper will count as your final exam grade and as a grade to be a part of the fourth marking period.

#### Extra Credit:

Please do not request extra credit. I do not assign extra credit to individuals. Occasionally, extra credit point(s) can be earned on tests or quizzes. This will be at instructor discretion.

#### Academic Integrity:

Please maintain your academic integrity. Any work observed (by me or someone else) as copied will result in "0" for both the person that copied and the person that allowed the copying to occur. Do not ask your friend to compromise his/her character for a couple of points. You can ALWAYS hand in your work the next day for half credit. Any test or quiz found to be cheated on will result in a "0". You will not be able to make up those points by taking another test. I will also contact your parent/guardian with any concerns that may arise. Academic integrity is of the utmost importance. I will make sure that the fullest academic consequences are followed up on any instances of compromise or violations.

#### Behavior Expectations:

The expectation of your conduct is one of honor and character. Please respect the feelings, opinions, space, and ideas of others. You do not have to agree with others' thoughts but you do have to honor that they have a right to their educational experience. Some topics that we discuss in class will be controversial. In the spirit of academia, the expectation is that you behave and treat others with the respect and dignity that you would want to be treated with. Violations of appropriate behavior can result in but not limited to teacher detention, office referral, and/or contact with a parent/guardian, not necessarily in that order.

You are expected to bring all necessary items to class. This would include but not limited to your textbook, the Taking Sides book when appropriate, notebook, and writing utensil. Needs to go to your locker for forgotten material will be tolerated once a marking period. Everyone forgets; everyone gets one "freebie." The second time will result in a teacher detention. Further actions will be taken if this behavior repeats.

Active participation in this class is expected. Please do so. This enhances your learning experience and allows for the sharing of different ideas and point of view, one of the goals of an AP history course.

#### Last Words of Mrs. Kennedy:

**Just a couple last comments to make our year together great:**

- Be proud of your work. Quality counts. Accuracy counts. Do your best work...perfection is not the goal but putting forth your best effort is.
- Be positive in your comments.
- Be responsible. Try not to blame others. You are ultimately responsible for your own actions and words.

#### Classroom Expectations:

1. Respect EVERYONE in the room.
2. Be on time for class and be prepared for class.

3. Only one person speaks at a time.
4. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
5. Participate in class.
6. Be responsible.
7. Put forth your best effort.

One last thing...

**PLEASE** do not hesitate to speak to me about any concerns. Every effort will be made on my part to help you be successful in this class.

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AP WORLD HISTORY Course Guideline Agreement:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

I have read and understand the course guideline for AP World History given to me.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please make your signature legible.)

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT INFORMATION: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ best time to call \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_