



Pittsburg High

Advanced Placement World History 2017-2018

Mr. Simmons

tsimmons@pittsburg.k12.ca.us

Introduction:

The AP World History course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present. The course has students investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in six historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides five themes (interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; development and transformation of social structures) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places encompassing the five major geographical regions of the globe: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

What is an Advanced Placement course?

- The College Board's Advanced Placement Program enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. AP provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous course work available to them.
- Each AP course is modeled upon a comparable college course. AP teachers help AP students in classrooms around the world develop and apply content knowledge and skills they will need later in college.

- Each AP course concludes with a college-level assessment developed and approved by college and university faculty, as well as experienced AP teachers. AP Exams are an essential part of the AP experience, enabling students to demonstrate their mastery of college-level course work.
- Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States recognize AP in the admissions process and grant students credit, placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores.
- Research consistently shows that students who receive a score of 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher graduation rates than their peers.

AP World History Curriculum

- The AP World History curriculum is organized into five unique thematic learning objectives (themes), including:
 - Interaction Between Humans and the Environment (I)
 - Development and Interaction of Cultures (C)
 - State Building, Expansion, and Conflict (P)
 - Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems (E)
 - Development and Transformation of Social Structures (S)

AP World History Content is also organized into six unique historical periods, including (with weights of content on test):

1. Technological and Environmental Transformations (to 600 BC) – 5%
2. Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies (600 BC – 600 AD) – 15%
3. Regional and Interregional Interactions (600-1450) – 20%
4. Global Interactions (1450-1750) – 20%
5. Industrialization and Global Integration (1750-1900) – 20%
6. Accelerating Global Change and Realignment (1900-Present) – 20%

Overview

With the few exceptions of particularly strong math students, this is the only Advanced Placement courses offered to sophomores at Pittsburg High School. AP World will be especially academically rigorous.

Class expectations:

1. **Reliable Attendance** – Students who miss days at a time for whatever reason, or show up late to class should reconsider taking AP World History. It will be difficult for students to keep up with work if they are frequently absent for extended periods of time. Obviously, life happens. However, if you are someone who takes days off, please reconsider taking this course, which moves at a rapid pace and, in many ways, builds on previously learned content.

2. **Professionalism and Preparedness** – Students taking AP World must enter my classroom daily with their mandatory class resources, learning materials, and work. As the curriculum is so vast and the pace of the course is rapid, it is crucial for students to be organized, attentive, and prepared to learn for the entire class period. Considering the course covers all of human history, it will be unacceptable for students to not be prepared for the very precious class time we have together.

3. **Grit** – AP World History might be one of the most difficult and stressful courses students have taken so far in their school careers. I wholeheartedly believe that most students rise to the occasion when presented with the opportunity and the right environment. However, students who become easily overwhelmed when presented with challenges should reconsider taking AP World. Good AP students do not withdraw or slump when they performed poorly on a test or essay. Good AP students move forward, seek extra help, adapt their study skills, and work to learn from their mistakes.

4. **Interest in History/The Social Studies** – If you do not find any joy or interest in history, do not take this class. AP World is a 9-month marathon of reading about history, reflecting about history, writing about history, researching history, hearing about history, studying history, etc. If history is one of your least favorite subjects, taking an Advanced Placement history course is a bad idea. It will be a long 9 months if you are learning and stressing about a class you don't find at least remotely intriguing.

Materials

The following supplies are required everyday unless other arrangements have been made.

- Textbook
- Large 3 Ring Binder with paper, dividers, folder and notebook
- Ink pens (blue or black)
- Pencils and erasers
- Markers, crayons, or colored

What does an AP World class look like?

- Nightly reading assignments (with exceptions) between 5-10 pages per night. There are few nights that will not include some type of AP World History homework.
- Reading quizzes that measure whether you completed the homework and how much you understood.

- Activities and projects that will force you to analyze primary and secondary sources to better understand the content.
- Lectures, films, slides, debates, presentations, and seminars that seek to cover the material, increase student engagement with the topic, and strengthen the AP-designed Historical Thinking Skills.
- Exams that will prepare you for the mandatory AP World History exam in May 2018 (an exam that can count as college credit in certain colleges and universities).

Grading

A = 88% - 100%

B = 78% - 87%

C = 68% - 77%

D = 58% - 67%

F = 0 – 57%

Quizzes, Tests, Exams, Mid Term and Final Exam = 75% of total grade

Homework, In-Class Assignments/Projects = 25% of total grade

I, (Print Name) _____, have read through the class syllabus and have been made aware of the course expectations.

Student Signature

Parent Signature