

Advanced Placement World History

Texts:

World Civilizations: The Global Experience, by Peter N. Stearns et. al., New York: Pearson -Longman ; 4th AP Ed.,2006

World Civilizations; The Global Experience AP Student Review Manual, by Peter N. Stearns, et. al., New York, Pearson Longman, AP 4th ed. 2004

World Civilizations: Sources, Images and Interpretations, Volumes I and II, Denis Sherman, editor, et. al., Boston: McGraw-Hill Publishing; 4th edition, 2006.

Multiple choice and free response questions with DBQ in preparation for the AP World History Examination., Ethel Wood, D&S Marketing; 2004

The purpose of this course is to provide students a survey of world history from pre-literate times to the 21st century. The program emphasizes the contributions of the past to contemporary life, other societies' attempts to answer perplexing questions. Students explore interpretations of history and change through the development of institutions, the meaning of the "good life", myth and reality, growth and decline of civilizations, changing concepts of right and wrong, heroism, relationships between church and state and conflict between social and economic classes. A second purpose of this course is to begin developing the writing, critical thinking and analysis skills that are needed for success in the university setting. This course is equivalent to an introductory college course in world history. The AP World History is an academic, yearlong course with an emphasis on non-western history . The course relies heavily on college level texts, primary source documents, and outside readings. Students will be required to participate in class discussions, and in-group and individual projects. A special emphasis will be given to historical writing through essay and document based questions (DBQ). In addition, objective exams, simulations and integrated computer-technology assignments will also be given.

This course begins with "Foundations" an introduction to the course that focuses on setting the historical and geographical context that form the basis for developments from 600 CE on. For each part of the course there is an outline of major developments that students are expected to know and be able to use in making comparisons across cultures.

General Objectives of the Class:

1. to study world history by using a mixed chronological and thematic approach
2. to understand the influence of geography upon history
3. to see cause and effect relationships over time and across civilizations
4. to understand similarities and differences between and among world civilizations

5. to recognize major turning points in world history
6. to understand the difference between primary and secondary sources
7. to improve thesis development and writing skills
8. to encourage interest and understanding of global lifestyles, views and cultures

Habits of the Mind

The AP World History course addresses habits of mind of skills or social science skills in two categories:

Those addressed by any rigorous history course

- a. Constructing and evaluating arguments: using evidence to make plausible arguments
- b. Using documents and other primary data: developing the skills necessary to analyze point of view, context, and bias, and to understand and interpret information.
- c. Developing the ability to assess issues of change and continuity over time.
- d. Enhancing the capacity to handle diversity of interpretations through analysis of contest, bias and frame of reference.

Those addressed by any world history course

- a. Seeing global patterns over time and space while also acquiring the ability to connect local developments to global ones and to move through levels of generalizations from the global to the particular.
- b. Developing the ability to compare within and among societies, including comparing societies' reactions to global processes.
- c. Developing the ability to assess claims of universal standards yet remaining aware of human commonalities and differences; putting culturally diverse ideas and values in historical context, not suspending judgment but developing understanding.

There are six overarching themes throughout the course :

1. Patterns and impact of interaction among major societies: trade, war, diplomacy and international relations.
2. The relationship of change and continuity across the world history periods covered in this course
3. Impact of technology and demography on people and the environment (population growth and decline, disease, manufacturing, migrations agriculture, weaponry)
4. Systems of social structure and gender structure (comparing major features within and among societies and assessing change.)
5. Cultural and intellectual developments and interactions among and within societies.
6. Changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities , including the emergence of the nation-state

Class Outlines

Foundations: 8000 BCE to 600 CE

Consolidation and Interaction: 600 CE to 1450 CE

The World in Transition : 1450 CE to 1750 CE

The Era of European Dominance: 1750 CE to 1914 CE

Global Conflict and Change: 1914 CE to Present

You will be given an overview of “What students are expected to know: Major developments and major comparisons of the period” at the beginning of each period of study.

Grade Calculation

- a. Daily work and homework quizzes will count as 30% of your grade
- b. Tests will count as 50% of your grade
- c. Essays will count as 20% of your grade