

Advanced Placement World History – 2020-2021

Mr. Jonathon Williams
Jwilliams@xavierprep.org

Introduction:

The AP World History course focuses on developing students' understanding of world history from approximately 1200 C.E. to the present. The course has students investigate the content of world history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine units, 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 covers these themes and units in 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 coursework 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 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 six unique thematic learning objectives (themes), including:

- humans and the environment
- cultural developments and interactions
- governance,
- economic systems,
- social interactions and organization,
- technology and innovation

Units	Chronological Period*	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: The Global Tapestry	c. 1200 to c. 1450	8–10%
Unit 2: Networks of Exchange		8–10%
Unit 3: Land-Based Empires	c. 1450 to c. 1750	12–15%
Unit 4: Transoceanic Interconnections		12–15%
Unit 5: Revolutions	c. 1750 to c. 1900	12–15%
Unit 6: Consequences of Industrialization		12–15%
Unit 7: Global Conflict	c. 1900 to the present	8–10%
Unit 8: Cold War and Decolonization		8–10%
Unit 9: Globalization		8–10%

Overview

AP World History is one of the most rapidly growing AP courses offered by the College Board. With the few exceptions of particularly strong math students, this is the only Advanced Placement course offered to sophomores at Xavier College Prep. Students can expect AP World History to be academically rigorous.

Class expectations:

1. **Reliable Attendance** – Students who miss weeks at a time for vacations 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 monthly vacations with your family, 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 perform 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 History 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 isn't one of your favorite subjects, taking this course is a bad idea. It will be a long 9 months if you are learning and stressing about a class on a subject you don't find interesting.

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 homework completion and reading comprehension
- 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 2021 (an exam that can count as college credit in certain colleges and universities).

As you begin this assignment, you may have questions. Some of them will be great questions and may suggest that I didn't explain something as clearly as I should have. For this, I apologize in advance. Some of your questions are probably already addressed in this document, so read it carefully. Please know that this is a class that requires advanced thinking skills. So, when you feel like you have a question, try to answer it on your own at first; nevertheless, if you are still having trouble, please feel free to contact me for clarification. My email is jwilliams@xavierprep.org

AP World History – Summer Assignment

As the AP World curriculum covers the entirety of human history, it is necessary for AP World students to complete work over the summer to...

1. Prepare for the strenuous 2020-2021 school year
2. Keep the "history juices flowing" during the summer months

Therefore, each student will be responsible for completing the following work requirements:

1. Buy and read *Non-Violence: The History of a Dangerous Idea* by Mark Kurlansky. The book can be bought off Amazon (starting at around \$2.00 in the used section) and most other major bookstores.
 - a. Visit this [Link](#) and read the explanation of the six AP World History Themes.
 - b. Choose 6 examples from *Non-Violence* that match the 6 AP themes. Then, explain in 4-5 sentences (for each theme) how your chosen 5 specific examples are reflections of these themes.
2. Please watch the following YouTube clips and take notes on them (make 5-6 bullet points per video).
 - [Rethinking Civilization](#)
 - [Indus River Valley Civilization](#)
 - [Mesopotamia](#)
 - [Silk Road / Trade](#)

ALL work must be completed by Monday, August 10, 2020.