

Advanced Placement Modern World History

2023-2024

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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 coursework. 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 Modern World History is one of the most rapidly growing AP courses offered by the College Board. 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/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 on

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 7-10 pages per night.
- 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 2024 (an exam that can count as college credit in certain colleges and universities).

AP World History – Summer Assignment

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

Right now, you are a blank slate to me as a person and a student. I don't know a single thing about you. You could be a hard worker, someone who tends to procrastinate, or someone who knows they don't work to their full potential in class. Failure to complete summer assignments immediately gives your teachers a bad impression of your work ethic as a student. On the very first day, I already have an impression of you as a student who is unwilling to complete the work necessary to be successful in an Advanced Placement class. Don't let that happen. Start with a positive impression by completing your summer assignments thoroughly and on time. Don't let that blank slate be ruined by poor choices this summer.

Summer Work

Unit 1: The Global Tapestry

- 1.1: *Developments in East Asia*
- 1.2: *Developments in Dar al-Islam*
- 1.3: *Developments in South & Southeast Asia*
- 1.4: *Developments in the Americas*
- 1.5: *Developments in Africa*

Essential Questions:

- *How did development in China and the rest of East Asia between c. 1200 and c. 1450 reflect continuity, innovation, and diversity? & In the period from c. 1200 to c. 1450, how did Islamic states arise, and how did major religious systems shape society?*
- *How did various beliefs and practices in South & Southeast Asia affect society and the development of states?*
- *What states developed in the Americas, and how did they change over time?*
- *How and why did states develop in Africa and change over time?*

There are **TWO** summer assignments. For these assignments, you will need to make your own individual copy. All of these assignments will be turned in to me COMPLETE on the first day of class:

Assignments:

- Read the AMSCO textbook sections [1.1-1.2](#), [1.3 -1.4](#), & [1.5](#)
- Complete the [reading notes packet](#) using the AMSCO textbook
- [Autobiographical Long-Essay-Question \(LEQ\)](#)
 - Both the outline linked above AND your essay should be turned in together