

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: European History

Level: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grade (s): 12

Course Description:

This course is an intensive study of European History from 1450 to the present. Students will use college texts and primary and secondary source materials. Students will write responses to document based questions, research papers and analytical papers, and learn strategies for taking the AP European History Examination.

Links to Student Expectations:

1. All students will develop skills to utilize technology to gather, to evaluate, to assimilate, and to present information.
2. All students will utilize critical thinking by using skills to identify and to provide resources to solve a problem.
3. All students will learn to communicate critically, persuasively, and personally in both oral and written expression.
4. All students will develop skills to promote a sense of confidence in tackling the rigors of standardized tests such as the required MCAS and optional AP, SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ European Art, music, film, science, and technology
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ Political Science

Essential Concepts:

AP European history identifies some of the principal themes in modern European History such as:

- ✓ The rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms
- ✓ Major trends in literature and the arts
- ✓ The Development of new political and economic theories
- ✓ Changes in popular culture, such as the development of new attitudes toward religion, the family, work, and ritual
- ✓ The impact of global expansion on European culture
- ✓ The growth and changing forms of nationalism
- ✓ Forms of political protest, reform, and revolution
- ✓ Relations between Europe and other parts of the world
- ✓ The changing distribution of wealth and poverty
- ✓ Gender roles and their influence on work, social structure, family structure, and interest group formation
- ✓ Crime and resistance to social norms

Wachusett Regional High School

Student Objectives:

1. Students will master a broad body of historical knowledge.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of historical chronology.
3. Students will use historical data to support an argument or position.
4. Students will differentiate between historiographical schools of thought.
5. Students will interpret and apply data from original documents, including cartoons, graphs, letters, newspapers, speeches, etc.
6. Students will effectively use analytical skills of evaluation, cause and effect, compare and contrast.
7. Students will approach history from the perspective of multiple disciplines and viewpoints, including literature, geography, folklore, economics, and political science.
8. Students will work effectively with others to solve problems and produce original academic work.
9. Students will prepare for the European History Advanced Placement Exam.

Suggestions for Instruction:

Students will read primary and secondary texts:

- ✓ A History of the Modern World. McGraw Hill, 1995.
ISBN 0-07-040826-2
- ✓ A Study Guide for A History of the Modern World. McGraw Hill, 1995.
ISBN 0-07-040828-9
- ✓ The Other Side of Western Civilization. Harcourt Brace, 2000.
ISBN 0-15-507850-X
- ✓ Taking Sides: Clashing Views on World Civilizations. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill 2000.
ISBN 1094-7582

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Document-based essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Analytical essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Comparative essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Multiple-choice quizzes for details and analysis
- ✓ Written and oral projects of various types with rubrics

Curriculum:

- ✓ A Few Words on Geography
- ✓ The Rise of Europe
- ✓ The Upheaval in Christendom, 1300 -1560
- ✓ Economic Renewal and Wars of Religion, 1560 - 1648
- ✓ The Establishment of West European Leadership
- ✓ The Transformation of Eastern Europe, 1648 -1740
- ✓ The Struggle for Wealth and Empire
- ✓ The Scientific View of the World
- ✓ The Age of Enlightenment

Wachusett Regional High School

Curriculum continued

- ✓ The French Revolution
- ✓ Napoleonic Europe
- ✓ Reaction Versus Progress, 1815-1848
- ✓ Revolution and Re-imposition of Order, 1848-1870
- ✓ The Consolidation of Large Nation States, 1859 -1871
- ✓ European Civilization, 1871 - 1914.
- ✓ Europe's World Supremacy
- ✓ The First World War
- ✓ The Russian Revolution and the Soviet Union
- ✓ The Apparent Victory of Democracy
- ✓ Democracy and Dictatorship
- ✓ The Second World War
- ✓ The Post War Era: The Age of the Superpowers
- ✓ Empires into Nations: The Developing World
- ✓ A World Endangered: The Cold War
- ✓ A World Transformed

Lesson Extensions:

1. Required Summer Reading varies, but last year it was Cod: Biography of the Fish that Changed the World, and a written evaluation of this thought provoking book.
2. Students will also read and evaluate an additional book (fiction or non-fiction) during the course of the year.
3. Students will write and present an original research paper related to a recent development in European history to their peers.