

Wachusett Regional High School

Course Name: World History

Level: Advanced Placement (AP)

Grade (s): 10

Course Description:

This course is a comprehensive and challenging study of World History from the beginning of civilization to the present. Using college textbooks and primary and secondary sources, students study world history from multiple points of view in order to draw conclusions about why and how societies have changed over time. Students will prepare to take the AP exam by learning strategies associated with this rigorous exam. Students will be encouraged to take the optional AP exam to earn possible college credit.

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 AACAS and optional AP, SAT.

Interdisciplinary Connections:

- ✓ World Art
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Film
- ✓ Science and Technology
- ✓ Economics
- ✓ Political Science
- ✓ Foreign Languages & Cultures

Essential Concepts:

AP World History is organized along the following six themes:

1. The impact of interaction among major societies (trade, systems, of international exchange, war and diplomacy).
2. The relationship of change and continuity across world history periods covered in this course.
3. The impact of technology and demography on people and the environment (population growth and decline, disease, manufacturing, migrations, agriculture, weaponry).

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Essential Concepts continued

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.

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 World History Advanced Placement Exam.

Suggestions for Instruction:

Students will read primary and secondary texts:

Traditions and Encounters (McGraw Hill, 2000) ISBN 0-07-004923-8
World Civilizations: Sources, Images and Interpretations, vol 1 and vol 2.
(McGraw Hill, 2002) ISBN 0-07-Z41816-8; 0-07-241825-7

Suggestions for Assessment:

- ✓ Document-based essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Change over time essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Comparison essays for critical thinking
- ✓ Multiple-choice quizzes for details and analysis
- ✓ Written and oral projects of various types with rubrics

Curriculum:

The Early Complex Societies, 3500 to 500 B.C.E.

- ✓ Early Societies in Southwest Asia and North Africa
- ✓ Early Societies in South Asia and the Indo-European Migrations
- ✓ Early Societies in East Asia
- ✓ Early Societies in the Americas and Oceania

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Curriculum continued

The Formation of Classical Societies, 500 B.C.E. to 500 C.E.

- ✓ Empires of Persia
- ✓ The Unification of China
- ✓ State, Society, and the Quest for Salvation in India
- ✓ Mediterranean Society: The Greek Phase
- ✓ Mediterranean Society: The Roman Phase
- ✓ Cross-Cultural Exchanges on the Silk Roads

The Postclassical Era, 500 C.E. to 1000 C.E.

- ✓ A Survivor Society: Byzantium
- ✓ A New Society: The Realm of Islam
- ✓ The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia
- ✓ India and the Indian Ocean Basin
- ✓ The Foundations of Christian Society in Western Europe

An Age of Cross-Cultural Interaction, 1000 to 1500 C.E.

- ✓ Nomadic Empires and Eurasian Integration
- ✓ States and Societies of Sub-Saharan Africa
- ✓ Western Europe during the High Middle Ages
- ✓ Worlds Apart: The Americas and Oceania
- ✓ Reaching Out: Cross-Cultural Interactions

The Origins of Global Interdependence, 1500 –1800

- ✓ Transoceanic Encounters and Global Connections
- ✓ The Transformation of Europe
- ✓ New Worlds: The Americas and Oceania
- ✓ Africa and the Atlantic World
- ✓ Tradition and Change in East Asia
- ✓ The Islamic Empires

The Russian Empire in Europe and Asia

- ✓ An Age of Revolution, Industry, and Empire, 1750 - 1914
- ✓ Revolutions and National States in the Atlantic World
- ✓ The Making of Industrial Society
- ✓ The Americas in the Age of Independence
- ✓ Societies at a Crossroads
- ✓ The Building of Global Empires

The Twentieth Century

- ✓ The Great War: The World in Upheaval
- ✓ The Age of Anxiety, 1919-1939
- ✓ New Conflagrations: World War II and the Early Cold War
- ✓ The Retreat from Empire in a Bipolar World
- ✓ Transformation and Crisis in the Contemporary World
- ✓ A World Without Borders

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Lesson Extensions:

- ✓ Required Summer Reading: *Guns, Germs, and Steel* (Norton, 1997) and written evaluation of this thought provoking book.
- ✓ Students will also read and evaluate an additional book (fiction or non-fiction) during the course of the year.
- ✓ Students will write and present an original research paper related to world history to their peers.