

WARNING: This class may prove difficult for the student who is motivated by having an AP course on one's transcript more than a love of history.

Course Description

AP World History is a relatively new course which reflects a recent, growing trend in historical scholarship. This new wave of World History involves viewing the past from a truly global perspective, what is often called "Big Picture" history. Instead of treating the course as European history + African history + Asian history, etc., we will study historical periods across geographic regions, looking for common themes and patterns. As a result, this course is less about memorization of names, dates and events and more about analysis, critical thinking and evaluation. Students will be expected to draw from the text, class notes and outside readings (primary and secondary sources) to formulate well-written, cogent essays.

To make this a manageable task, history scholars on both the university and secondary levels through the Advanced Placement Program have managed to put in place a curriculum that is comprehensive both in its world coverage and time sequence. If you would like to learn more about AP World History, please go to my course website [<http://mrfarshtey.net/whap.html>] and review the 2010-11 AP World History Course Description. This handout contains additional information about the chronological framework of the course, themes, skills and the AP World History Examination.

AP World History is a two semester course designed to give students with high interest and proven ability an opportunity to take a special college-level learning experience that may lead to possible college credits in introductory world history. An AP course will give you the background and preparation that will prove beneficial in a wide range of college courses. By taking the AP exam on Thursday, May 13th of 2010, the college(s) you apply to will be able to recognize that you have learned college-level material and deserve credit of 3 to 6 hours and/or advanced placement for meeting that challenge.

Course Objectives

History is a complex subject that involves the analysis of visual and textual documents. History is also a very synthetic subject. It includes the study of science and mathematics, cultural accommodation and confrontation, and the history of politics. It is not simply a matter of remembering names and dates and other pieces of factual information. In this class, you will develop a number of critical thinking skills as you learn about the various forces and events that have shaped our contemporary world.

The year-long overarching themes of the course are:

CIVILIZATION – COMMUNITY – CHANGE – CONTINUITY – CONTROL

EVALUATION

Tests: Unit tests will be a combination of objective/multiple-choice and essay following the study of each unit in the course. Tests will be prepared in a format similar to the AP Exam's multiple choice and free-response portions. All tests will be timed to familiarize students with AP format.

In-Class Essays: Each unit will feature an in-class timed-essay, 35 minutes. Students will rely on their knowledge of history to prepare a free-response to the question. The essay should have a thesis, significant and applicable historical information and analysis, and sound organization and grammar. These essays will be scored on the 9-point AP rubric.

Document Based Questions: Document based questions are meant to direct students to the major themes of the units of study. Students will analyze the provided documents and rely on their knowledge of history to prepare a formal response to the question. The essay should have a thesis addressing the prompt, significant and applicable historical information and analysis, and sound organization and grammar. These responses will be scored on the 9-point AP rubric. There will be 6-8 document based questions throughout the year. The questions will be designed to prepare students for the document-based question (DBQ) on the AP exam.

TEXTS:

- Robert Strayer. *Ways of the World - A Brief Global History*
- Ethel Wood. *AP World History: An Essential Coursebook*
- Primary resources from various materials (web links and online postings)

OBSERVATIONS / THOUGHTS / RECOMMENDATIONS / SURVIVAL GUIDE:

- To be successful in AP World History, you must begin to understand that reading is not simply looking at words on a page. It is a process of reviewing those words, and analyzing their greater meaning. Often, this requires the material to be read multiple times in order for the larger meaning in the text to “click”. There is no special technique or shortcut in this process. Only through reading and analysis of information on a repeated basis can a person hope to develop this skill. Eventually, our goal will be the ability to read a series of documents, process their meaning, and organize a coherent outline of ideas for an essay in less than 10 minutes.
- DO NOT get behind in the reading → THE TEXTBOOK IS THE LECTURE FOR THE COURSE. This is a college course that happens to be held in a high school classroom. The class sessions will be organized on the assumption that students are keeping up with the reading that has been assigned. This means that there will be times when names and/or events will be referred to in class with the expectation that you are at least familiar with the name, term or concept. Class sessions are designed to NOT repeat what is in the assigned readings: they interpret, they attempt to clarify or amplify, they draw connections among opinions and points of view, they seek to enliven what can be the "dry" study of historical material...BUT they do not repeat the readings. My job is to pull things together for you, make connections, show patterns, and provide the basis for lively class discussion. My job is not to go over the textbook.
- The College Board has outlined a challenging curriculum; the content and materials are mature, reflecting the diversity of culture and historical perspective of the people and events that make up our world history. We will discuss topics that may be new and different. Please keep an open mind. You do not have to agree with what you read and hear, but you will need to be respectful of others, their opinions, and cultural differences. I will not tolerate rudeness or insensitivity.
- In sum, for most of the students in this course, this will be their first experience with an AP class, thus their introduction to a rigorous and rewarding learning opportunity with the potential to earn future college credit. That being the case, many students experience a “culture shock” to AP, with perhaps some initially earning grades lower than what they might have experienced in previous academic settings. To be clear, an AP Course is a college course that happens to be held in a high school classroom – designed to stretch students in ways similar or equivalent to what an entry level college history course would do. BUT the class is truly manageable, AND I am aware that you have 5-6 other classes + extracurricular commitments + a life. Please, if you find yourself struggling, look at it as an opportunity to grow and learn and come see me early on so we can figure out a corrective course of action.

COURSE WEBSITE: <http://mrfarshtey.net/whap.html>

How to reach Mr. Farshtey: If you have a question or concern – first, come by and talk with me; second, email or call me. I will help you all as much as possible, but you have to see me outside of class. Please do not have parents call me until you yourself have tried to resolve a concern. You can expect to find me in my classroom (N-3) by 7:00 each morning, and I am usually on campus pretty late in the afternoon.

My email addresses are: kfarshtey@communityschoolnaples.org (school)

kfarshtey@comcast.net (home)

My phone numbers are: 597-7575, ext. 237 (school)

598-1075 (home)