

# What is AP World History at FHS?

## Course Objective

The objective of this course is to prepare students for the following:

1. The Advanced Placement Exam in World History
2. A college-level curriculum in World. History
3. Promoting research and writing skills necessary for a college freshman.

## Course Description

This class will focus on the development of world societies as seen through the AP World History themes listed below.

### AP World History Themes

Interaction between humans and the *environment*

Development and interaction of *cultures*

State-building, expansion, and *conflict*

Creation, expansion, and interaction of *economic* systems

Development and transformation of *social* structure

Each theme will be discussed as we progress through periods of time in history as divided thus:

### Pacing and Periodization

Summer Assignments and Weeks 1-2 of School – Technological and Environmental Transformations – Beginning of time to 600 BCE

Marking Period 1 – Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies – 600 BCE to 600 CE

Marking Period 2 – Regional and Transregional Interactions – 600 CE to 1450 CE

Marking Period 3 – Global Interactions – 1450 CE to 1750 CE

Marking Period 4 – Industrialization and Global Integration – 1750 CE to 1900 CE

Marking Period 5 – Accelerating Global Change and Realignment – 1900 CE to Present

Marking Period 6 – Exam Review, Practice Exams, End of Unit Project

Altogether, this is a writing class as much as a reading and history class. This course focuses on World History as it has progressed from the ancient river societies to the present. A variety of supplemental readings are presented and used regularly to assist students in grasping concepts of the course. These readings, along with the textbook, are designed for the college student's typical lexicon.

## **Summer Assignments**

There will be reading assignments in addition to quizzes taken on Moodle during the summer months. These assignments will be explained to you prior to the end of this school year. These assignments are necessary for course pacing to be essentially complete by the beginning of May when students are tested on their knowledge.

## **The National Exam**

The AP test is given nationally at the same time on the same day in May and costs \$80+. The test materials must be ordered ahead of time, at your expense. If you sign up for the test but do not take it, you will be charged. This test is comprehensive and covers the entire year. We will be having one full scale practice exam on a Sunday in April. Final responsibility in preparing for and passing this exam is of course, the student's. There will be occasional timed essay and multiple choice tests throughout the year as well.

The AP World History Exam is 3 hours and 5 minutes long and includes both a 55-minute multiple-choice section and a 130-minute essay section. The multiple-choice section of the examination accounts for half of the student's exam grade, and the essay section for the other half.

The multiple choice section lasts 55 minutes and will comprise 70 multiple choice questions.

In the essay section of the exam, Part A begins with a mandatory 10-minute reading period for the document-based question. Students should answer the document-based question in approximately 40 minutes. In Part B students are asked to answer a question that deals with continuity and change over time (covering at least one of the periods in the periodization list outlined above). Students will have 40 minutes to answer this question, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer. In Part C students are asked to answer a comparative question that will focus on broad issues or themes in world history and deal with at least two societies. Students will have 40 minutes to answer this question, 5 minutes of which should be spent planning and/or outlining the answer.

Students receiving a score of 3-5 MAY receive college credit for their accomplishment. It is YOUR responsibility to know whether or not your prospective college will accept this test as credit and what score you will need to earn in order to achieve their credit. This information can be found on CollegeBoard's website.

## **Grading**

Grades will be compiled using the following weights:

Assessments 70% (Essays, multiple choice exams, chapter reading quizzes, etc.)

Homework 30% (Reading analysis forms, maps, worksheets)

## **Student Commitment**

THIS IS A DEMANDING COURSE. The amount of reading and writing required of AP students is well above that of students taking regular courses. Students should expect at least one hour of preparation time outside of class each day. In order to succeed, students will have to manage their time in order to avoid becoming overwhelmed. In addition, students attempting this course should have high level writing skills. It is important to note that the AP experience is designed to be a college-level, challenging course and that there are no guarantees with regard to grades. Taking AP World History simply to “bump up one’s GPA” will backfire. A student must be dedicated to reading, note-taking, and writing throughout the course of the school year in order to achieve at an A or B level. In addition, doing well throughout the year will not necessarily translate to an amazing score on the AP Exam. It will, however, positively prepare you better for future AP classes and college in general.