

World History

Course Description

World History is a survey course covering major events and developments in the history of the world from the prehistoric era to the present. In the process of studying this history, students will improve their ability to analyze primary sources, participate in class discussion, construct organized essays, and think critically about world history.

Student Course Objectives

1. Know significant terms from World History and analyze their connection to major historical events
You must be able to...
 - define the major terms of the course
 - explain the terms in your own words
 - place the terms in their proper historical context
 - display your understanding of the terms by using them in essays and in class discussion
2. Understand economic changes and their affects on events in World History.
You must be able to...
 - identify the major types of economic systems
 - discuss the advantages and the disadvantages of major economic systems
 - interpret charts and graphs showing economic information
 - distinguish the effects of economic forces on nations, cities, communities, and individuals
 - compare and contrast key economic systems
3. Describe the styles of government and political structures that are exhibited in World History.
You must be able to...
 - discuss advantages and disadvantages of major political systems
 - interpret primary source documents relating to government structures
 - identify significant political leaders in World History
 - evaluate the causes and effects of government policy in World History
 - discuss major philosophies and schools-of-thought that shaped governments in World History.
4. Compare and contrast major developments in social, cultural, and religious history.
You must be able to...
 - analyze art, architecture, technology, and writing systems to trace the spread of culture
 - compare and contrast world religions
 - determine the major types of causes of social and cultural change
 - interpret primary source documents reflecting social, cultural, and religious history

- – illustrate the geographic movement of ideas in World History
- – identify important cultural and religious leaders in World History

5. Discuss important geographical concepts and the role geography plays in World History.

You must be able to...

- – assess the extent to which physical features and ecological systems shape various societies
- – identify architectural features of major societies and explain how they adapted to their settings
- – identify physical and human characteristics that make various locations unique.
- – evaluate the social and environmental consequences of human modifications to the landscape
- – analyze primary sources to determine cultural perceptions of the environment
- – understand physical and political maps of the world

6. Isolate major events from World History and identify their causes and effects.

You must be able to...

- – discuss the links between major historical movements
- – analyze the role of significant individuals and ideas in historical change
- – compare and contrast varying historical perspectives on significant historical events
- – isolate major historical events and list their major causes and effects
- – interpret primary sources to understand how people viewed major historical turning-points

Unit Focus Areas

For each unit, you should focus your studies on the following:

- Economic changes and developments
- Government structures
- Major leaders
- Social and cultural developments
- Religions, philosophies, schools-of-thought
- Geography and its influence on society
- Historical turning points/conflicts and their causes and effects
- Advancements in technology and civilization
- Spread and clash of ideas