

World History Honors 2025-26 Course
Syllabus and Overview Miss Curtis:
maddisonjcurtis@gmail.com Class meets on
Mondays and Wednesdays

Welcome to an exciting semester of AP World History! My name is Miss Curtis, and I will be your teacher for this course. I am looking forward to our time together to learn and grow as both people and students. History can be very exciting and, at times, evoke a lot of emotion. I ask all of you to keep an open mind and freely share your experiences and opinions.

Course Description: Students in World History study major turning points that shaped the modern world from the late 18th century to the present, including the causes of World War I and World War II. The course traces the rise of democratic ideas and develops an understanding of the historical roots of current world issues, especially in international relations. Students study the chronology of historical events that shaped the modern world and develop an understanding of the geographic, political, economic, and cultural conditions that impacted the history and created current world issues.

Course Goals: Goals of the course will include improving students' analytical skills, enhancing understanding of historical interpretations and documents and improving writing skills. Students will meet these goals through analysis, discussion and debate of required readings, writing assignments, projects and various activities.

Required Materials:

- Note-taking device ******(laptops will be approved in-class unless privileges need to be revoked, but I strongly recommend taking hand-written notes)******
- Binder or folder for notes and assignments
- School issued textbook → Ellis, E. G., & Esler, A. (2016). World History: The Modern Era. Pearson.

Units Assignments:

1. Basic textbook readings--Read the entire book and take notes with identification and significance of key historical concepts, terms, and/or themes highlighted in notes or added to the reading notes; must show evidence of note taking from reading (such as Cornell style notes or an alternate note-taking method or highlighting in text-- must own the textbook to write in it).
2. Free Response Questions (FRQs), Long Essay, and Document Based Question (DBQ) tests and take-home assignments
3. APUSH style multiple choice questions and written response tests for every unit.
4. Examination and evaluation of varying historical viewpoints concerning the historical era of the unit.
5. Analysis of primary source material appropriate for the unit

Units of Study:

1. The Renaissance and Reformation
Aug 27-Sep 10
2. New Global Connections
Sep 15-29
3. Absolutism and Revolution
Oct 20-Nov 5
4. The Industrial Revolution
Nov 10-19
5. Nationalism and the Spread of Democracy
Nov 24-Dec 17
6. The Age of Imperialism
Jan 5-14

MIDTERM FINAL IS ON THE FIRST SIX UNITS—January 20-23
Unit 6 will be completed and tested in the second semester.

7. WWI and the Russian Revolution
Jan 26-Feb 4
8. The World Between the Wars
Feb 9-March 4
9. WWII
March 9-25
10. The Cold War Era
April 13-29
11. New Nations Emerge
May 4-13
12. The World Today
May 18-June 10

Mock AP Exam (Final Exam for Class): Monday, May 4:

This final exam will be modeled after the actual Advanced Placement United States history exam. It will be a comprehensive exam, consisting of multiple choice, short answer, essay, and document-based questions. It will be on **Monday, May 4** and will require about four hours. This test is the final exam for the class and prepares the students to take the Advanced Placement exam.

Advanced Placement Exam: Thursday, May 7

Grading Policy:

Progress report and semester grades will follow the following scale, unless stated otherwise*:

- 93% and above A
- 89% - 92% A-
- 87% - 88% B+
- 83% - 86% B
- 79% - 82% B-
- 77% - 78% C+
- 73% - 76% C
- 69% - 72% C-
- 65% - 68% D+
- 60% - 64% D
- 55% - 59% D-
- 0% - 54% F

Absences/Make Up Work/Homework:

Students are expected to be in class every day. If you are absent, you need to assume you missed work and find out what it was. In other words, it is your responsibility to inquire about missed notes, reading, homework, etc! You may check Canvas or reach out to me directly via email to discuss what was missed. The student will have **as many days as they were absent** to complete missed work, unless other arrangements have been made. If present in class, homework is expected to be completed by the assigned due date. If there are extenuating circumstances and an assignment due date is not feasible, you must communicate with me to create an action plan. If I don't know, I can't help you, and the grade will result in a zero.

Office Hours:

For quick, clarifying questions, you are encouraged to reach out to me directly via email: maddisonjcurtis@gmail.com. Alternatively, for longer discussions, I am available via Zoom by

appointment only. To schedule a Zoom meeting, please email me. I am most often available between 5 and 8pm on weeknights.

Ground Rules/Expectations:

- 1) Be RESPECTFUL, 2) be HONEST, 3) PARTICIPATE. This is a team effort and we all need to work together to get the most out of our lessons. Mutual respect will get us far together. On that note, should anything come up, being honest can only benefit the wellbeing of you and of this class. This includes academic integrity.
- 4) Arrive to class on time. This is part of the respect expectation. You will have one warning, after that, points will be taken from your participation grade each tardy. Continued tardiness will result in a parent/teacher meeting and potential further disciplinary action.
- 5) You are expected to bring all materials necessary for learning, including the right attitude. This is part of the participation expectation.
- 6) Use school appropriate/professional language in the classroom. We are fostering a healthy learning environment in this classroom and that involves keeping our space positive.
- 7) COMMUNICATE. I highly value communication, and this is a skill that will get you far in life. If there's something I should know, another way I can help you, or just something you want to share, you are always invited to communicate with me.

As a whole - No one has the right to interfere with the learning, safety or well-being of others in our classroom. Every person within the school environment has the right to complete their responsibilities without interference from others. Do what is expected of you and do it to the best of your ability.

Cell Phones & Electronic Device:

Cell phones and headphones will be collected at the beginning of each class. Cell phones may potentially be allowed to be used when your assignment(s) for the day is/are complete and submitted, or when the assignment allows for its use.

Academic Integrity:

I expect the work you submit in this class to be yours and for you to be proud of what you turn in! This is part of our honesty expectation. If you need more time on an assignment, talk to me! Don't compromise your academic integrity. *Plagiarism* is a form of cheating which is not allowed. Copying homework or plagiarizing in any form and from any source will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing in any form, you will not earn credit for the assignment.

Academic integrity, in the context of **AI use**, means using AI tools ethically, responsibly, and as intended – to support your learning, not to bypass it. This implies producing work that is primarily your own, and appropriately acknowledging assistance received from AI. Unattributed use of AI-generated content, over-reliance on AI for your work, or using AI to avoid reading or analysis will be considered violations of our academic integrity policy.

Please sign & date (digitally or by hand) and return via email before the first day of school: