

World Civilizations I

Mr. Leo Kiralla 2009-2010

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Office Hours:

Office hours will be on Tuesday after school until 3:30 PM. Students are also welcome to schedule an appointment during their lunch hour.

Course Description:

This course is designed to familiarize students with myriad world civilizations ranging from the dawning of civilization to the Renaissance. Students will examine the unique cultural, religious, technological, and political aspects of each of these civilizations. Students will also develop a greater knowledge of geography, art, politics, philosophy, and religion in order to attain a richer perspective on each of these historical civilizations and eras. Class discussion will emphasize critical thinking, examination of source materials, and discussing weekly readings.

Goals and Objectives:

The goals of this course include:

- Foster an appreciation and interest in studying history.
- Understand the importance of historical inquiry and its relevance in addressing modern world issues.
- Comparing and contrasting ancient and pre-modern societies in terms of culture, religion, politics, and legacy.
- Strengthen students' ability to formulate coherent and well-informed theses when discussing, writing about, or debating history.
- Help students understand primary and secondary sources and the means in which modern historical analysis is conducted.
- Raise awareness and concern about issues of social justice, current world politics, globalization, and the use of history in the modern world.

Course Expectations

The most important rule in the classroom is respect. Every student should know that they have the ability and the right to participate and share in class. Students should respect that there are many perspectives and opinions in studying and discussing our world. By respecting various approaches to the material, our class discussions will be much richer and dynamic. Students should also respect themselves by working hard and approaching class with a positive attitude. Students are expected to regularly keep up

with class readings, to take notes on each night's readings, and to keep an organized notebook and journal.

Required Materials

- *World History*. Ellis, Elisabeth G. and Esler, Anthony. Prentice Hall Boston, MA. 2007.
- Full size, large notebook which will be used for class notes and journal
- Black, Blue pens (students must have two different colored pens)

Course Outline

Unit One: The Birth of Civilization – Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China (Ch. 1-3)

Unit Two: Ancient Greece and Rome (Ch. 4-5)

Unit Three: Civilizations of the Americas (Ch. 6)

Unit Four: Feudal Societies and the Medieval World (Ch. 7-8)

Unit Five: The Empires of the East (Ch. 9-10)

Unit Six: Growth and Expansion in Africa and Asia (Ch. 11-12)

Unit Seven: Renaissance and Reformation (Ch. 13)

Grading

Grading will be based on a point system. Point totals will vary between assignments. Generally, weekly quizzes are worth 20 points, tests and projects are 100 points, and homework assignments are 10 points. The final exam will be worth approximately 20% of the student's final grade.

93-100 % = A

92-90 % = A-

89-87 % = B+

86-83 % = B

82-80 % = B-

79-77 % = C+

76-73% = C

72-70 % = C-

69-66 % = D

65- below = F

Absences and Late Work

If a student is absent for an assignment they are expected to stay current by checking on-line or with a classmate to find out what they have missed. Students are expected to turn in missed assignments as soon as they return to school. Late assignments will not be accepted. If a student misses multiple days or misses class on a quiz or test day they must see me the day that they return to discuss how the work can be made up. In extreme circumstances students may be offered make-up or extra work to bring up their grade. I reserve the right to amend and make changes to this syllabus as the year progresses.