

World Civilizations I – 2009/2010

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Office Hours

Monday afternoon 2:30-3:30. Also available by appointment.

Course Description

This yearlong course is designed to introduce students to the major themes that recur across world civilizations. Students will explore important historical events from various regions and civilizations, while also examining how history has shaped current policies and affairs. In addition, students will investigate issues from multiple perspectives and make global connections and linkages that lead to an in depth understanding of geography, cultural diffusion, migrations, multi-regional empires, belief systems, trade, and conflict. A strong emphasis will be placed on critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. The course also gives practical support for the study and technology skills introduced at the freshmen level.

Course Goals and Objectives

Throughout this course students will...

- Develop an understanding of the purpose of studying history.
- Observe the role of human ideas, ideologies, philosophies, and values in shaping society.
- Analyze the relationship between the ancient and modern world.
- Remember important information and interpret different types of data.
- Examine historical information and express findings through oral and written tasks.
- Recognize our responsibility to assume a socially-just role in the greater global society.

Course Expectations

In order to develop these skills a student must...

- Respect others and maintain an open mind.
- Come to class prepared and on time.
- Follow class procedures and school rules.
- Participate in classroom discussion and activities.
- Approach assignments with motivation, interest, and a commitment to learning.
- Keep abreast of current events.

Required Text and Materials

- The text: *World History*. Ellis, Elisabeth G. and Esler, Anthony. Prentice Hall.
(The text book must be available for class every day.)
- A large notebook separate from other classes.
- A folder or binder to hold handouts, maps, and classwork.
- Blue or black pens and #2 pencils with erasers.
- College-ruled lined paper.
- 3x5 index cards and highlighters.

Course Outline

First Semester Units:

- 1) The Birth of Civilization (pgs. 2 - 24)
- 2) River Valleys of the Middle East and North Africa (pgs. 28 - 62)
- 3) Ancient India and China (pgs. 66 - 108)
- 4) Ancient Greece (pgs. 112 - 144)
- 5) Ancient Rome and the Rise of Byzantium (pgs. 148 - 180, 280 - 288)
- 6) Civilizations of the Americas (pgs. 184 - 206)

Second Semester Units:

- 1) Feudal Societies and the Medieval World (pgs. 212 - 276)
- 2) Islamic Empires in the East and Africa (pgs. 302 - 334)
- 3) Kingdoms and Trading States of Africa (pgs. 338 - 362)
- 4) Societies of Eastern Europe, China, and Mongolia (pgs. 289 - 298, 366 - 382)
- 5) The Far East and Southeast Asia (pgs. 383 - 402)
- 6) Renaissance and Reformation (pgs. 408 - 440)

Grading System and Policies

Grade Calculation

Chosen assignments will be given points according to their purpose, length, and complexity. Your grade for this class will be based on the total points gained during the semester and on the semester exam. Each semester, the final exam will count for 20% of the total grade.

Points will generally fall within the following values:

Classwork: 5 - 30 pts	Test: 75 - 125 pts
Homework: 2 - 10 pts	Essay: 40 - 50 pts
Participation: 5 - 20 pts	General Project: 30 - 50 pts
Quiz: 10 - 30 pts	Sem. Project: 75 - 100 pts

Grading Scale

93% - 100%	A	83% - 86%	B	73% - 76%	C	63% - 66%	D
90% - 92%	A-	80% - 82%	B-	70% - 72%	C-	60% - 62%	D-
87% - 89%	B+	77% - 79%	C+	67% - 69%	D+	0% - 60%	F

Extra Credit

An extra credit opportunity will be available at the end of each semester and will be offered to all students. The additional points earned will be added to the total point value for the semester. There will not be a penalty for students who do not complete the extra credit.

Late Work

Late classwork and homework will not be accepted. Late essays and projects will be accepted; however there will be a 10% reduction of points for each day late. Essays and projects received after class will be considered late. If you are absent on a due date, you can email your assignment as a word document attachment to avoid the late penalty.

Planned Absences

When you know you are going to be absent because of a family situation, school-sponsored activity, or other scheduled event, it is your responsibility to make arrangements prior to your absence. You will be expected to take tests and submit essays before you leave. You will be given your average classwork grade for the first missed class assignment, but additional absences will require a classwork make up assignment.

Unplanned Absences

When absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed during class and what assignments were given. Copies of handouts and maps are to be picked up from the class absent folder. If you were absent for a classwork assignment, you will be given your average classwork grade. Repeated absences will result in reduced points and a parent conference.

The first time you are absent on the day of a quiz, you will receive your average quiz grade for the missed quiz. The second time you will not receive credit for the quiz. If you are absent on the day of a test, a make-up appointment should be scheduled as soon as you return to school. The make-up test will be in essay format, and it must be completed within three days of the absence. If you do not show up to your make-up test appointment, you will not receive any credit for the test. If you are absent the day before a test, you will still be expected to take the test on the scheduled date. It is important that all assignments are recorded in the student planner so that you will be prepared in the case of an absence.

Other Important Policies

Honor Code

As women of great heart and right conscience, honor should and must come before all things. Students are expected to follow the Immaculate Heart honor code as outlined in the student handbook. Discussing assessments outside of class, copying another student's work, sharing homework and plagiarism are all violations of the honor code and will not be tolerated.

Dress Code

The Immaculate Heart dress code is an important component of the school community and is to be followed at all times. Students who are not in proper uniform will face the appropriate penalty as outlined in the student handbook.

Technology

Technology is an important part of the learning experience of the modern classroom. Several assignments throughout the year will incorporate basic and intermediate word processing and presentation skills. In addition, students will submit major writing assignments to turnitin.com. Students who do not have access to a computer with internet at home will be expected to use the school lab as a resource before and after school.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus during the year as deemed necessary.