

## Honors Level World History II Syllabus

“History is a race between education and catastrophe.” H.G. Wells

### Course Description

In World History II, students study the significant events that have shaped the world over the past three hundred years. They are asked to trace the evolution and impacts of socio-political ideas, cultural practices, value systems, and innovations from the Age of Revolution to the Cold War Era. This class requires students to contextualize and determine the importance of historical events, make connections across time and place, recognize patterns, and analyze cause and effect relationships. To access information and learn multiple perspectives, students read informative and narrative primary and secondary sources. Critical reading and thinking skills are reinforced throughout the course. Students are required to read and research topics independently.

This course is directly aligned with the traits defined in the *Portrait of the Crusader*. Through the study of history, students observe the impacts of injustice and oppression versus justice and freedom, and they are encouraged to value and respect the rights and dignity of all people. This class encourages students to be inspired learners, faithful citizens, and honorable souls.

### Assessment Practices

Student knowledge and skills are measured in a variety of ways throughout the course, which may include the following:

- Written assessments that include terminology, short answers, and constructed responses to assess content knowledge and make connections.
- Essays that ask students to research, analyze and respond with sound reasoning and thoughtful insight.
- A project that may include a presentation or performative component.
- A creative connection assessment which asks students to put themselves into an historic situation and create a memoir, journal, or letters.
- A Socratic Seminar or other form of debate.

### Essential Questions

- How does the study of history change us?
- How did the Enlightenment influence the Age of Revolution?
- How did industrialization and urbanization set the course for modern life?
- What are the effects of imperialism?
- How does a totalitarian government take hold?
- How does a world war happen?
- What impact did communism have on the world?
- Is nuclear capability still the defining factor in defining a country's power?

## Course Curriculum

### Unit 1 - The Enlightenment and the French Revolution

Pacing: 5 -8 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- What were the foundational concepts of the Enlightenment?
- How did the Enlightenment take the scientific method and apply it to society and government?
- How did the 17<sup>th</sup> century socio-political philosophers influence the modern world?
- What factors led to the start and end of the French Revolution?
- What impact did the French Revolution have on the rest of Europe?
- To what extent were the goals of the French revolution realized?
- What effect did the Napoleonic Code have? Was it a step backwards?
- How did Europe create peace after Napoleon's empire fell?

#### Concepts/Skills:

- Explain foundational concepts related to the Enlightenment, including the power of human reason and natural rights.
- Analyze how the Enlightenment took scientific reasoning and applied it to socio-political thought.
- Determine the role of significant individuals in advancing the concepts of the Enlightenment, including Francis Bacon, Renee Descartes, John Locke, Frederick the Great, Voltaire, Rousseau, Hume.
- Analyze how the Enlightenment contributed to the French Revolution.
- Describe the estate structure and associated taxation of the Third Estate.
- Explain the role of Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI in allowing the French Revolution to happen.
- Describe the causes and effects of the Reign of Terror.
- Analyze the rise and fall of Napoleon's empire and the impact of Napoleon on Europe, Africa and Latin America.
- Analyze the Napoleonic Code and debate why a people would choose security and efficiency over liberty, equality and fraternity
- Describe how the Congress of Vienna reconfigured Europe after the fall of Napoleon's empire.

### Unit 2 - The Industrial Revolution

Pacing: 5 -8 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- What were the factors that led to the Industrial Revolution?
- What was the impact of rapid urbanization?
- How did the Industrial Revolution change class structure?
- How did the Industrial Revolution facilitate capitalism and a free market?
- What advances led to the Second Industrial Revolution?
- What were long-term impacts of the Second Industrial Revolution?

Concepts/Skills:

- Explain the essential factors that led to industrialization and describe why Britain was an ideal place for the revolution to thrive.
- Describe the process of industrialization using textiles as a model.
- Analyze the process and challenges of urbanization during the time period.
- Analyze how the Industrial Revolution impacted social class structure.
- Describe the conditions of factory life on men women and children and how these challenges led to reform.
- Evaluate the long-term impacts of the Second Industrial Revolution.
- Describe how the Second Industrial Revolution changed both workers and businesses.
- Compare and contrast the goals and methods of capitalism, socialism, and communism.

**Unit 3 - Unification of Germany and Italy**

Pacing: 5 -8 Classes

Focus Questions:

- What steps did Otto von Bismarck take in the unification of Germany?
- Why did Germany become such a dominant force in Europe after unification?
- How did Italy become unified? What challenges did Italy face after unification?
- Explain how the unification of both Germany and Italy influenced the power structure in Europe.
- What role did nationalism play in the unification of each country?
- In hindsight, how does nationalism set the stage for future wars?

Concepts/Skills:

- Explain how multinational empires led to a general desire for the creation of nation states.
- Describe how Otto von Bismarck expanded Prussia into the new German state.
- Describe the factors that enabled Germany to industrialize so rapidly and analyze the impact of this industrialization.
- Identify the main architects of Italian unification and the roles that they played.
- Explain the regional, political, and economic issues that plagued the new unified Italian nation.

**Unit 4 - The Age of Imperialism**

Pacing: 5 -8 Classes

Focus Questions:

- How did Industrialization lead to Imperialism?
- How did European nations make Imperialism look appealing to their domestic populations?
- What abuses were inherent in European Imperialism?
- What reactions did vulnerable nations have when Imperialism happened within or nearby them?

Concepts/Skills:

- Explain how the Berlin Conference led to the European scramble for African land.
- Describe how competition after 1870 contributed to New Imperialism and increasing militarism.
- Analyze the benefits of colonization to the powerful country.
- Describe the resources that were gained/taken from colonized countries.
- Analyze the immediate and long-term effects of New Imperialism on the colonized people.

- Trace how rule over India changed hands from the British East India Company to the British Raj.
- Explain the relationship between East Asia and the West during the time period, including trade with China.
- Explain the sequence of events that led to the Opium Wars.
- Explain how Japan was able to modernize so quickly during the Meiji Restoration.

### **Unit 5 - World War I And the Russian Revolution**

Pacing: 6 -10 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- How did the values and practices of nationalism, imperialism and militarism serve as catalysts for WWI?
- What sequence of events led to World War I?
- How did Industrialization change how World War I was fought?
- Why did World War I become a stalemate, and how was it broken?
- How did European nations rebuild their economies after World War I?
- What led to the Russian Revolution?

#### Concepts/Skills:

- Explain how the assassination of Franz Ferdinand led to World War I.
- Explain how new military technology led to trench warfare.
- Analyze how the colonies and their resources impacted WWI.
- Explain how total war affected citizens not directly involved in the fighting.
- Describe US involvement in the war and how it led to the end of the war.
- Explain the impact of WWI on the Austrian and Ottoman empires.
- Analyze the effectiveness of the Treaty of Versailles and other post-war restructuring efforts.
- Explain the preconditions and causes of the Russian Revolution.
- Describe the new Soviet Union under Lenin.

### **Unit 6 - The World Between the Wars**

Pacing: 6 -10 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- What are the causes and effects of the Mexican Revolution?
- What actions did Gandhi take in order to peacefully encourage Independence for India?
- What was the impact of the Japanese invasion of China on both nations?
- How did the Western democracies survive after World War I?
- What conditions led to the rise of totalitarian states in the interwar period?
- How did a culture of nationalism contribute to the rise of totalitarianism?
- Why was fascism seen by some as a better solution than democracy?

#### Concepts/Skills:

- Describe the impact of nationalism on Latin America.
- Explain the repercussions of Gandhi's time in England on his actions to further Indian independence.
- Analyze how events in China and Japan paved the way for extreme nationalism.

- Describe the social changes and perspectives that pervaded the West after World War I.
- Explain how the problems that existed after Italian unification lead to Mussolini's rise to power. Describe the fascist state under Mussolini.
- Explain how Stalin rose to power; compare Stalin's Soviet Union with Lenin's; describe the number of people killed by Stalin.
- Analyze the tactics used by Hitler to exploit a sense of nationalism.
- Explain how Hitler was able to create a fascist state in Germany.

### **Unit 7 - Topic 18 - World War II**

Pacing: 6 -10 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- Why did appeasement seem like a reasonable idea at the time?
- What factors led to Hitler's early successes in Europe?
- What was the Holocaust? What social and political factors lead to genocide?
- Why did a Japanese attack lead to the U.S. entering the war in Europe?
- What factors helped to defeat the Nazis and bring an end to World War II?
- Why did the U.S. drop two atomic bombs on Japan?
- How did peacekeeping efforts change after World War II?

#### Concepts/Skills:

- Compare and contrast the strength of the economies of the Western Democracies to the Axis powers.
- Describe the steps that led to Hitler and the Fascists taking all of mainland Europe.
- Analyze how the Holocaust happened and evaluate whether this could happen again.
- Explain the impact that the United States had on the war against the Nazis.
- Explain the positive and negative aspects of the decision to use nuclear weapons on Japan, specifically the second attack on Nagasaki.
- Describe the purpose and power structure of the United Nations.

### **Unit 8 - Topic 19 - The Cold War Era**

Pacing: 6 -10 Classes

#### Focus Questions:

- How did agreements during and after WWII lead to the Cold War?
- How did the ideologies of the U.S. and the Soviet Union differ?
- Which countries were able to rebuild after the war? Why?
- How did communism develop in China and North Korea?
- What is the impact of propaganda and censorship on a population?
- What were the causes of the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War?
- How did political and economic forces lead to the collapse of the Eastern Bloc and USSR?
- What was the era of decolonization? What was the impact?

#### Concepts/Skills:

- Describe how specific agreements after WWII contributed to the Cold War.
- Contrast the political and economic systems of communist and democratic countries.

- Explain the progress of specific countries after WWII: Britain, West Germany, U.S., and Japan's economic miracle. Analyze how this growth supported the progress of democratic/capitalist ideology.
- Explain the concept of an arm's race and the theory of how this serves as a deterrent to hostile interactions.
- Explain how the Chinese Communists defeat the Chinese Nationalists.
- Analyze the rise of Mao Zedong in China, the impact of the Cultural War and the methods of terror and propaganda used by Mao Zedong.
- Describe the move to communism in North Korea under Kim Il Sung.
- Describe the causes of the Korean Conflict and how an armistice was reached.
- Explain the U.S.'s involvement in the Vietnam War.
- Analyze the factors that led to the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War.
- Explain the causes and effects of the era of decolonization.
- Debate the enduring impacts of decolonization and the Cold War on the world.

### Resources

- Textbook – *Pearson World History*. Ellis, Elisabeth Gaynor., and Anthony Esler. Boston, MA: Pearson, 2016. An E-book is available for the text and is typically used.
- <https://www.history.com/topics>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/> (Resources for WWI, II, and the Cold War from a global perspective)
- <https://www.ushmm.org/teach>
- <https://www.ushmm.org/teach/teaching-materials/holocaust> Holocaust Museum on-line learning
- <https://hnh.org/education/resources/> A collection of on-line sites and lesson to teach about the Holocaust

### Grading

The grading policy is:

- 50% - Mastery: Summative assessments that test knowledge of content and topic questions.
- 20% - Formative: Assignments that help develop knowledge and understanding between summative assessments.
- 15% - Student Preparation: Assignments typically include work completed to prepare for class.
- 15% - Participation: Participation in class and participation in assignments and group projects

Please refer to the Absence Make Up Policy in the student handbook