

West Linn–Wilsonville School District
Social Studies Department – Course Statement

Advanced Placement (AP) World History

Length of Course: Year
Number of Credits: 2
Grade Level: 11, 12
Prerequisites: World History, Modern US History, Instructor Approval (AP European History and/or AP US History helpful)
CIM Work Samples Offered in Course: None

Date of Description/Revision: February 2006

Course Overview

The purpose of the AP World History course is to develop greater understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts, in interaction with different types of human societies. This understanding is advanced through a combination of selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills. The course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The course emphasizes relevant factual knowledge deployed in conjunction with leading interpretive issues and types of historical evidence. The course builds on an understanding of cultural, institutional, and technological precedents that, along with geography, set the human stage. The division of world history into periods of time forms an organizing principle for dealing with change and continuity. Specific themes/concepts provide further organization to the course, along with the consistent attention to contacts among societies that form the core of world history as a field of study. AP World History has as its chronological frame the period from approximately 8000 B.C.E. to the present, with the period 8000 B.C.E. to 600 C.E. serving as the foundation for the balance of the course.

Essential Questions

Concepts providing focus for student learning

- What patterns of interaction exist among major societies? What are the impacts of these interactions?
- What is the relationship of change and continuity across world history periods?
- What are the impacts of technology and demography on people and the environment?
- What systems of social structure and gender structure are found within societies? What drives change within these structures?
- What cultural and intellectual developments occur within societies? What interactions (within and among societies) result from these developments?
- What changes in functions and structures of states and in attitudes toward states and political identities (political culture) occur in societies? What different types of political organizations emerge as a result of these changes?

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Proficiency Statements	
<p>Upon completion of course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct and evaluate arguments (use evidence to make plausible arguments). • Use documents and other primary data to analyze point of view, context, and bias, and to understand and interpret information. • Assess issues of change and continuity over time. • Handle diversity of interpretations through analysis of context, bias, and frame of reference. • See global patterns over time and space, connect local developments to global ones, and move through levels of generalizations from the global to the particular. • Compare within and among societies, including comparing societies' reactions to global processes. • Assess claims of universal standards remaining aware of human commonalities and differences; put culturally diverse ideas and values in historical context, not suspending judgment but developing understanding. 	
General Course Topics/Units & Timeframes	
<p>A. Unit 1: Foundations (8000 B.C.E. – 600 C.E.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating World History in the Environment and Time • Prehistory and the Neolithic Revolution • Early River Valley Civilizations • Classical Civilizations: The Hebrews, The Greeks, The Romans, Ancient India, Ancient China <p>B. Unit 2: 600 – 1450</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammed and the Rise of Islam • China and Japan • The Americas • Europe in the High Middle Ages, 1100-1300 • Eurasia and the Steppe Peoples • The Later Middle Ages, 1300-1500 <p>C. Unit 3: 1450 – 1750</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Renaissance and Reformation • European Voyages of Discovery • Technology and the Scientific Revolution • Europe and the Old Regime • The World Beyond Europe <p>D. Unit 4: 1750 – 1914</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in Europe • Political and Economic Revolutions • European Hegemony in the 19th Century and the World's Reaction • New Developments, 1860-1914 	

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| <p>E. Unit 5: 1914 to the Present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• World War I, 1914-1918• The World Between the Two World Wars• World War II• The Dissolution of Empires and Decolonization• China After World War II• Modern Times | |
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<p>Resources</p>	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text: <i>The Earth and Its Peoples: A Global History, 3rd Edition</i>, McDougal Littell, 2005 | |
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