

Welcome to ... AP World History!

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What do we do in AP World History? We'll just learn the history of most parts of the world through most of time (we get to leave out the prehistoric parts), with training on writing essays added in. And then we'll make sure we review everything enough for your success on the AP test in May. Can we do it? Sure! Here are the ways to make that happen:

1. Attendance: This shouldn't be a problem in an AP class – but if it is, remember that you can't make up any work missed on an unexcused absence; you're responsible for completing the work you missed on an excused absence; and if you get a total of 11 absences (excused and unexcused) you can be dropped from the class. At 15 absences, you *will* be dropped. School-related absences naturally don't count in that total.
2. Homework deadlines: I don't accept any late work (unless you're making up work from an excused absence). "Late" means you didn't have it ready to turn in when I collected it at the beginning of the hour; you don't get to finish a homework assignment during the class. If you got part of the assignment done, turn in the part you finished; partial credit is always better than a zero.
3. Be ready for a good effort during class. Sometimes that will mean taking notes; sometimes it means participating in activities (individual or pair/group); sometimes it means practicing essays or reviewing test material; sometimes it means paying close attention to video material. As part of this, understand that there will be ...

No cell phones or any electronic devices out during class!

If they're out, I'll gladly take them down to the office where you can pick them up at the end of the day.

4. Be ready to *read*. Your textbook is sometimes interesting, sometimes not quite so interesting – but in any case it's closely aligned with College Board's outline for the AP test, and the reading is essential for doing well on that test. Here's a fact: with so much history of so many places to learn, the average amount of reading is *roughly a chapter a week*. That's a lot. For my part, I'll never just say "Read chapter 1 by Wednesday." You'll always have homework questions and/or a reading guide for each chapter to help you get the main points of the reading. Everything that you'll read, I've read first so that I can figure out how to guide you through it. And for more interesting readings, we plenty of primary sources to look at along the way.

Your main textbook: *World Civilizations: The Global Experience (Fourth Edition)* (Stearns)

Main source of supplemental reading: *Worlds of History: A Comparative Reader* (Reilly)

There are two other websites that are valuable: the companion site for the textbook (www.ablongman.com/stearns4eAP), and the College Board website with details on the AP test (www.collegeboard.com).

Other general guidelines related to testing for this course:

- we'll usually have a multiple-choice unit test for each notes packet
- we'll have an essay with each unit
- we'll do test review for each unit, and we'll also keep track of major things we've already done so it's not as big a burden right before the AP test.

5. AP exam review: Starting soon after Spring Break, I schedule review sessions at various times before school, at lunch, and after school. They're optional, but they have a big benefit in preparing you for the exam. I also schedule two times when you can take the full multiple-choice section of a previous AP exam.

6. What makes AP Academy World History different from other advanced World History courses? Definitely the depth of the material we cover, but also the specific writing training that we do. Just as important is the quality of the discussions and questions in class – a result of the high level of students that are all together in a single class.

The following two sections are from the AP Exam outline; we'll be working on these skills and themes as the year goes on.

Historical Thinking Skills

1. Craft historical arguments from historical evidence: historical argumentation, appropriate use of relevant historical evidence
2. Chronological Reasoning: historical causation, patterns of continuity and change over time, periodization (which means, categorizing events into distinct blocks and identifying turning points)
3. Comparison and Contextualization (which means, evaluate ways in which historical phenomena or processes relate to broader regional, national, or global processes)
4. Historical interpretation and synthesis

The Five Themes of AP World History

Theme 1: Interaction between Humans and the Environment – demography and disease, migration, patterns of settlement, technology

Theme 2: Development and Interaction of Cultures – religions; belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies; science and technology; the arts and architecture

Theme 3: State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict – political structures and forms of governance; empires; nations and nationalism; revolts and revolutions; regional, transregional, and global structures and organizations

Theme 4: Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems – agricultural and pastoral production; trade and commerce; labor systems; industrialization; capitalism and socialism

Theme 5: Development and Transformation of Social Structures – gender roles and relations; family and kinship; racial and ethnic constructions; social and economic classes