

Department of Social Studies

Course Syllabus

2019 - 2020

Course Title/Code: World History & Geography 1: Middle Ages (HC5)

Graduation Unit: One

Instructor: Lynn Moore

Course Description

This course is a study of world history and geography during the medieval and early modern eras. Students will study the development and changes of complex civilizations, identify and explore the similarities and patterns of these civilizations, and analyze ways that concurrently developing civilizations affected each other. Students are guided by inquiries starting with “What happens when cultures collide?” as they learn about the Americas. Students look into “Which is more important, freedom or security in East Asian Empires in the Middle Ages?” In the spread of Islam, students ponder if religion leads to collaboration or conflict and then pivot to West African Empires looking at how trade impacts culture. The Mughal and Ottoman Empires give students a chance to ask “Who should be able to make decisions in a society?” which lays the groundwork for the students to evaluate the Feudal System in Europe in the Middle Ages where they explore “What is the best way to run a kingdom?” The Renaissance affords students the chance to experience what happens when world views change leading to the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment where they look at how new ideas impact society. Finally, students take a critical look at the French Revolution and ask “Why do some ideas work and others fail?”

Our mission is to provide all students the opportunity to thrive in an intellectual environment that will render them successful as historical thinkers. Through inquiry and skills-based instruction, students will analyze and interpret complex sources (primary, secondary, written, and visual) through close reading, whole class discussions, and Socratic seminars. This curriculum is also designed to develop and strengthen historical thinking skills (comparison and contextualization, chronological reasoning, and crafting historical arguments) that will enable them to become life-long learners and engaged global citizens.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance is mandatory. Ten or more unexcused absences per advisory will result in failure.
2. Arriving on time is also mandatory. Warm-up activities cannot be made up if you are late. Warm-up activities are graded.
3. **CELL PHONES** or other electronic devices may not be used or activated during class, unless the teacher makes an exception to this rule.
4. Students are required to take all assessments/exams. Students with excused absences are responsible for scheduling time for any and all missed assessments/exams. Requests to make up assessments will be honored within seven days of missed class.

5. Students must complete all writing assignments (in-class work and homework). Students must use the MLA format for all writing assignments. The writing assignments must be typed and doubled-spaced. Use the font size 12 and the New York Times Roman font style.
6. Homework will be assigned at the beginning of each week. Much of the homework will consist of reading materials in preparation for class discussion during the following class meeting period. Students are also expected to follow current events (local, national, and international) on a regular basis.
7. ASPEN: All students and parent will have an ASPEN account and are expected to access this important tool on a regular basis.

Mandatory Supplies

1. Several pencils and pens (blue or black ONLY)
2. One homework assignment book/organizer
3. Lined notebook paper
4. One medium-size binder

Grading

Advisory grades will be based on warm-up activities, in-class assignments, assessments (exams/quizzes), participation, and homework assignments.

%50 Practice and Application (warm-up, in-class assignments, participation)

%40 Assessments (tests, quizzes, presentations)

%10 Homework

Grades

A = 90-100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 64 – 69

F = 63 and below