

Advanced Placement World History 2009-2010 Student Contract

Instructions: Complete this contract and return it to Mrs. Soderberg's mailbox in the main office **by Friday, April 3, 2009.**

Applicant's Name: _____ Student I.D. #: _____

This contract is the application, and **MUST** be signed both by you and a legal guardian in order for your application to be complete.

What is AP World History?

This is a comprehensive course equivalent to college freshman World History at the University of Washington or any other reputable college or university. It is a two-semester course, which **surveys World History from 8000 B.C.E. to the present.** The survey includes political, diplomatic, economic, social, cultural and intellectual history. One **goal of the course is to prepare students to successfully take the College Board Advanced Placement Examination in May.** Although it is not a required part of the course, nor is it used in calculating the student's grade, **students enrolled in AP World History are expected to take the AP Exam in May.** Students who earn a score of 3 or higher on this exam may be granted college credits toward graduation, and possibly be able to take a more advanced course once enrolled at the college or university. Be advised that simply taking the course does not guarantee earning a "passing" score on the exam.

In addition to preparing students to take the AP exam, a very important goal is that students **learn about and appreciate World History.** To this end, time will be spent developing skills of historical analysis and synthesis. Students will use primary and secondary sources to research historical questions and use their findings to support a thesis. They will learn strategies to develop better questions as well as **to think like a historian.** They will improve their ability to respond both orally and in writing to historical questions. They will improve their technological skills, for accessing information, evaluating that information and using technology to present information.

What kind of work is required and how much homework will I have?

It is absolutely essential that you be willing and able to read and comprehend a **minimum of seven to ten pages a night,** every night, **throughout the school year** until after the AP exam in May. There is far more content to be considered than there is time in class to discuss. Therefore, **you must take responsibility for learning the material assigned** and for asking for assistance when it is needed. In addition to the textbook, you will be assigned additional reading materials, which include primary source materials, essays, and one or two books.

Some of the skills which you will learn and need to practice include ones for "active reading," note-taking, asking different levels of questions, responding to the Document Based Question in World history, writing effective 40 minute essays and effective oral presentations, etc.

To be successful in this class, **it is important to make effective use of time and get organized.** Many students have numerous extracurricular activities so planning ahead will save much grief later.

Please note: There will be a **summer assignment** consisting of reading a book (440 pages) entitled, Guns, Germs and Steel, by Jared Diamond, and answering in detail about 35 questions. This assignment will be due on the first day of school.

How can I be successful in AP World History?

We will be working in class on **developing effective note-taking strategies** as well as discussing ways to get and stay organized in a class that demands so much of you. We will continue to develop the skills of critical reading, writing and thinking.

It is also **expected that each student will do his or her own work.** Collaboration is encouraged, but when individual work is to be credited, it is expected that each student will do his or her own work on the final piece to be turned in for credit. Those who do not do their own work will find it particularly hard to be successful on the May AP exam and severe penalties (receiving a zero on an assignment/exam and spending time in Study Hall) may be taken as well when it comes to a grade in the class.

Students who set goals and priorities are the most successful, especially if those goals are realistic. Students come into the class with a range of experiences, intelligences and skills. While competition with others is often healthy and pushes one toward higher achievement, it is also important to set personal goals and to strive to improve on past performance and be the best that one can be.

How will I be graded?

The grading system is very simple: the total number of points received divided by the total possible points for those assignments. There are only two opportunities for extra credit (over Holiday Break and over Spring Break).

I have completely read and understand the expectations of this class.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Applicant's Legal Guardian

Date: _____

Date: _____
