



PRE-AP WORLD HISTORY

2020- 2021 Syllabus

Discovery Middle School
1304 Hughes Road
Madison, AL 35758

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Course Description: This course is designed to prepare 8th grade students for the transition into Advanced Placement World History in the 9th Grade. The class covers the 8th grade Alabama Course of Study Social Studies Standards, Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards, and is aligned with the high school AP World History class. Students will be exposed to advanced document analysis, essay writing, and independent reading. The class requires a large amount of out of class preparation and follows the same guidelines as AP World History. The goal of the class is for students to learn, develop, and apply the skills necessary to be successful in AP World History, while also transitioning students to the rigor of an AP class.

*This course now includes learning checkpoints administered by College Board throughout the semester.

Course Objectives: Students will analyze the development of government and legal systems. They will examine the history and impact of major religious and philosophical traditions as well as the connections between developments in science and technology and the growth of industrial economics. Students will learn to analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources such as biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, artifacts, poetry, music, and works of art to support this study.

Classroom Expectations: Classroom Rules and Procedures:
This classroom will abide by the policies set forth by the Alabama Department of Education, Madison City Schools, Discovery Middle School, and the following:

- Everyone will be treated with respect.
- Everyone will take responsibility for his or her actions.
- The learning process will be maintained at all times.

Accommodations:

Requests for accommodations for this course or any school event are welcomed from students and parents.

Concerning laptop utilization:

1. Student laptops should not be hard wired to the network or have print capabilities.
2. Use of discs, flash drives, jump drives, or other USB devices will not be allowed on Madison City computers.
3. Neither the teacher, nor the school is responsible for broken, stolen, or lost laptops.
4. Laptops and other electronic devices will be used at the individual discretion of the teacher.

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- Grading Policy:** Test grades will account for 60% of the 9-weeks grade, with the remaining 40% being determined by quiz/daily grades. The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (65-69), and F (below 65). Grades will be a reflection of mastery of the standards. Make sure all absences are excused as class work can be made up and graded for **excused** absences only. Until work has been made up, "NTN" ("not turned in," which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book. This will be updated as soon as work is completed and turned in.
- Late Work:** For unexcused absences and/or late work, the following policy will apply:
- The assignment will drop one LETTER grade for each late school day that passes. For example, if an assignment is turned in one school day late, the highest a student can receive is 89%; two days late, 79%, etc.
 - Once the late assignment has dropped to 59%, a student may receive up to 50% for late work turned in any time within a grading period (9 weeks). *Half credit is always better than no credit!*
- Make-up Test Policy:** It is the student's responsibility to set up a time to make up a missed test. Students may schedule to make up a test before or after school. Tests cannot be made up during class. Until a missed test is made up by the student, "NTN" ("not turned in," which counts as a zero) will be put in the grade book.
- Textbook:** *Discovering Our Past: A History of the World (Early Ages)*
ISBN-13 : 9780076594948
Instructions for accessing the online textbook will be provided the first weeks of school.
- Materials and Supplies Needed:** *Queen Eleanor: Independent Spirit of the Medieval World* (Polly Schoyer Brooks) **must be purchased!** Amazon: <http://a.co/4eF1Hob>
- 1.5 or 2 inch binder
 - Dividers (6)
 - Binder must be divided into the following categories:
(1) Warm-ups, (2) AP Writing, (3) Prehistory/RVCs (River Valley Civilizations),
(4) World Religions, (5) Classical Period (6) Middle Ages
 - Notebook paper
 - Writing utensil
 - Highlighters (various colors)
- Course Outline:**
- Unit 1: Writing Intensive - Intro to AP Writing
 - Unit 2: Historian Skills/Historical Bias (Ch. 1)
 - Unit 3: Prehistory/Neolithic Revolution/Mesopotamia (Ch. 3 & 4)
 - Unit 4: Egypt (Ch. 5)
 - Unit 5: Israelites (Ch. 6)
 - Unit 6: Ancient India (Ch. 9) and Ancient China (Ch. 10)
 - Unit 7: Greece (Ch. 7 & 8)
 - Unit 8: Rome (Ch. 11 & 12)
 - Unit 9: Christianity and Islam (Ch. 13 & 14)
 - Unit 10: Middle Ages (Ch. 17-19)