

**Department:** Social Studies  
**Course:** AP European History  
**Credits:** 5

**Course Description:** Advanced Placement European History is an intensive course designed for qualified students who wish to complete studies equivalent to college introductory courses in European history. The focus of the class is Europe 1450 to the present and introduces students to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world in which they live. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, the goals of this course are to develop (a) an understanding of some of the principle themes in modern European history, (b) an ability to analyze historical evidence, and (c) an ability to analyze and to express historical understanding in writing. Students in this course must demonstrate the following skills with a minimum of a 70% average.

**Course Content (Major Themes in AP European History – College Board)**

*A. Intellectual and Cultural History*

1. Changes in religious thought and institutions; major trends in literature and the arts; developments in literacy, education, and communication
2. Secularization of learning and culture; the diffusion of new intellectual concepts among different social groups
3. Scientific and technological developments and their relationship to social values and political events
4. Intellectual and cultural developments and their relationship to social values and political events; impact of global expansion on European culture
5. Developments in social, economic, and political thought
6. Changes in elite and popular culture, such as the development of new attitudes toward religion, the family, work, and ritual

*B. Political and Diplomatic History*

1. The rise and functioning of the modern state in its various forms; relations between Europe and other parts of the world: colonialism, imperialism, decolonization, and global interdependence
2. The evolution of political elites and the development of political parties and ideologies
3. The extension and limitation of rights and liberties (personal, civic, economic, and political); majority and minority political persecutions
4. The growth and changing forms of nationalism; forms of political protest, reform, and revolution
5. Relationship between domestic and foreign policies
6. War and civil conflict: origins, developments, technology, and their consequences; efforts to restrain conflict: treaties, balance-of-power diplomacy, and international organizations

*C. Social and Economic History*

1. The character of and changes in agricultural production and organization; the role of urbanization in transforming cultural values and social relationships; the origins, development, and consequences of industrialization
2. The shift in social structures from hierarchical orders to modern social classes: the changing distribution of wealth and poverty
3. The influence of sanitation and health care practices on society; food supply, diet, famine, disease, and their impact
4. The development of commercial practices, patterns of mass production and consumption, and their economic and social impact
5. Changing definitions of and attitudes toward mainstream groups and groups characterized as the "other"
6. Changes in the demographic structure of Europe, their causes and consequences
7. Gender roles and their influence on work, social structure, family structure, and interest group formation; development of racial and ethnic group identities
8. The growth of competition and interdependence in national and world markets; private and state roles in economic activity

## **Skills**

- 1.** The student will demonstrate the ability to analyze historical documents, including graphic representations, and explain their effect on the historical development of Europe.
- 2.** The student will demonstrate the ability to analyze historical studies and present in writing an assessment of their historical and literary quality, their value as historical evidence and their relationship to course content and activities.
- 3.** The student will demonstrate the ability to present effectively, both orally and in writing, a logical argument supported with meaningful historical evidence.
- 4.** The student will demonstrate basic geographic skills relating the importance of resources, climate, terrain, and population, of distinct patterns of political organization, social organization, and geographical physical relationships.