



Advanced Placement European History

Course Description:

The AP European History course is an engaging and rigorous curriculum designed to increase students' understanding of the main themes in modern European history while helping each student succeed on the AP® European History Exam. What sets this course apart from an "honors" course is extensive reading of college level texts, combined with a heavy emphasis upon analytical skills that include forming and substantiating various historical hypotheses. Emphasis is placed on students developing intellectual and academic skills including (1) effective analysis of primary and secondary sources such as documents, maps, statistics, and pictorial and graphic evidence; (2) effective note taking; (3) clear and precise written expression; and (4) the ability to weigh evidence and reach conclusions on the basis of facts.

The curriculum is divided into four periods:

- Period 1: c. 1450 to c. 1648;
- Period 2: c. 1648 to c. 1815;
- Period 3: c. 1815 to c. 1914;
- Period 4: c. 1914 to the present.

Within each period five Major Themes are explored:

- Interaction of Europe and the World (INT)
- Poverty and Prosperity (PP)
- Objective Knowledge and Subjective Visions (OS)
- States and Other Institutions of Power (SP)
- Individual and Society (IS)

In addition, the following Historical Thinking Skills are emphasized throughout the course:

- I. Chronological Reasoning
- II. Comparison and Contextualization
- III. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence
- IV. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis

In summary, the two primary overriding purposes of the course are:

- 1) to provide students with the opportunity to experience an introductory college European History class
- 2) to prepare students to successfully complete the AP Exam.

Units of Study:

- Unit 1. Introduction and the Later Middle Ages
- Unit 2. European Society in the Age of the Renaissance
- Unit 3. The Reformation and Religious Wars
- Unit 4. European Exploration and Conquest
- Unit 5. The Age of Absolutism and Constitutionalism



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Unit 6. Toward a New Worldview
Unit 7. The Expansion of Europe & The Changing Life of the People
Unit 8. The Revolution in Politics - The French Revolution and Napoleonic Era
Unit 9. The Revolution in Energy and Industry - The Industrial Revolution
Unit 10. Ideologies and Upheavals - Politics from 1815 to 1850 and Nineteenth-Century Society
Unit 11. The Age of Nationalism - Unification, the Age of Mass Politics, and Imperialism
Unit 12. The West and the World
Unit 13. War and Revolution - World War I
Unit 14. The Age of Anxiety
Unit 15. The Rise of Dictatorships and World War II
Unit 16. Cold War Conflict and Consensus - 1945 to the Present
Unit 17. Postwar Order and the Age of Globalization
AP Exam Review

Activities

Primary & Secondary Source Analysis
Research
Note taking
Discussions
Essay writing
Group presentations and debate
AP Practice FRQ's & DBQ's
AP Exam Test Review & Practice

Assessments

Homework Assignments
Quizzes
Unit Tests
Projects
Final Exam

Pennsylvania Academic Standards:

8.4.W.A: Evaluate the role groups and individuals played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development throughout world history.
8.4.W.B: Evaluate the importance of historical documents, artifacts, and sites which are critical to world history.
8.4.W.C: Evaluate how continuity and change have impacted the world today.
8.4.W.D: Evaluate how conflict and cooperation among groups and organizations have impacted the development of the world today, including its effects on Pennsylvania.