

## 9th Grade World History (College Prep) 2014-15

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### Course Description:

Welcome to your first year of World History at Newton North High School! This class will provide you with an exciting opportunity to better understand today's world by tracing the historical roots of modern civilizations. We will learn essential skills as well – skills necessary to become both expert historians and successful students. Over the course of the year, you will become more experienced in writing analytically, reading and listening critically, and presenting your ideas convincingly. We will make sure that you have many opportunities to show your talents and knowledge in many ways this year. Many challenges lay ahead – but so do many achievements!

Some of the key historical periods/units that we will be working with this year include:

- ▶ The Roman Empire and Monotheism
- ▶ The Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam
- ▶ Early and High Middle Ages in Europe
- ▶ Ancient Asian Civilizations
- ▶ African Kingdoms
- ▶ Renaissance and Reformation
- ▶ Early American Civilizations
- ▶ The Columbian Exchange
- ▶ Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment

We will examine these units through various lenses – political, social, economic, and cultural – and try to answer some BIG historical questions:

- ▶ What components make up a “great” civilization?
- ▶ Why do empires rise and fall?
- ▶ What are the qualities of successful leadership/government?
- ▶ What are the common structures of major belief systems?
- ▶ Why did some parts of the world and their peoples come to dominate others?
- ▶ How do civilizations justify inequality?
- ▶ Was the early modern world globalized? In what ways?

### **Class Expectations:**

Below is a list of expectations to help ensure our classroom is an effective and cooperative learning community. We may add to this list if necessary:

- ▶ Always come to class prepared and on time. This means completing the reading and homework and having all of your materials with you. It also means having thoughts and opinions about what you've read!
- ▶ Common courtesy and respect are a requirement of this classroom. Treat your classmates, your classroom, and your teacher with respect.
- ▶ Always take notes when we are discussing relevant material.
- ▶ Don't be afraid to ask questions—our goal is to learn from each other.
- ▶ When you are in this classroom, you must give this class your full attention. All portable electronic devices should be off and away unless alternative directions are given. Unauthorized electronic devices will be confiscated and turned into the house office.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Like all of your other teachers, I follow the standard attendances policies of Newton North:

9 total absences in a quarter=N

9 tardies in a quarter=N

3 unexcused absences in a quarter=N

Regular class attendance is both necessary and expected. If you skip my class or are consistently late, your housemaster will be informed. If you have a concern about getting to class on time, please speak with me about it.

If you are absent, you are responsible for making up all work and should be prepared to complete missed tests, quizzes or hand in papers on the day you return to school (with few exceptions). Missed homework should be completed within 48 hours of your absence. Be sure to have a way to contact a classmate so that you can determine what work you have missed (and you can always check my website). It is your responsibility, not mine, to be sure that you have all the assignments you need.

### **Grading/Assessment:**

Major Assignments (70%)

Major assignments include all tests, quizzes, projects, and essays. This will make up the bulk of your grade.

Homework (20%)

Homework assignments will be graded as 5-10 points each. Late homework is half credit.

Class Participation/Effort (10%)

Class participation includes preparation, attendance, contributions to class discussion, group work, and attentiveness. So talk often, listen closely, and of course, come to class!

**Late Policy:**

Major assignments should be submitted at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Assignments will be considered late if not received at the beginning of class and 1/3 of a grade will be deducted for each day the assignment is late (e.g. an assignment that is due on a Monday that would have received an “A” will receive an “A-” if handed in on Tuesday). It is your responsibility to get me your assignment even if our class does not meet after the due date. Assignments can be brought to my office or, when appropriate, submitted electronically.

**Academic Integrity:**

It is a school wide expectation that you will produce your own work for all of your classes. Here is what the NNHS Student Handbook says about plagiarism/cheating (page 16):

*“No student will use anyone else’s work without proper attribution. Plagiarism is the improper use of, or failure to give credit to, another person’s writing, visual or musical representation, or ideas. It can be an act as subtle as inadvertently neglecting to use quotation marks or references when using another source or as blatant as knowingly copying an entire paper, or parts of a paper, and claiming it as your own.”*

Phones and electronic devices must be kept in bags for the duration of all testing periods and no one will be allowed to leave the room once tests are distributed.

**Communication and E-Mail Policy**

A key element to your success in this class is communication—let me know what is going on! I am here to help and am always willing to meet with you outside of class to discuss your progress and any concerns or worries you might have. The best time to talk to me is during X-Block. If possible, set up an appointment with me ahead of time since I can often become quite booked leading up to a big test or essay. If you cannot make your appointment, however, please let me know. Another student could use that time.

You can also contact me via email in order to set up a face-to-face meeting or to ask a quick question. I will always respond to student emails within 24 hours. If I don’t, talk to me in class, your email may have been lost in the spam folder. You cannot use email to hand in assignments or ask me information already covered in class. For longer questions, an in-person meeting is always preferable.

**Teacher Website**

My website is a useful tool to help you find homework, handouts, notes, and videos if you have missed class. I will also post review materials before major tests and quizzes, so be sure to check it out before a big assignment. You can find my website at:

[www.balworldhistory.weebly.com](http://www.balworldhistory.weebly.com)

**Materials Needed:**

You need to have a separate binder reserved for history class with a plentiful supply of blank paper inside of it (I recommend a 1 inch binder with college-ruled loose leaf paper). It is necessary that you keep an organized binder, so please obtain 5 binder dividers to be labeled as follows: IDs, Notes, Handouts, Maps, and Writing.

To keep your backpack lighter, it may be a good idea to clean out your binder once a quarter. However, you should NOT throw out any of your materials until the end of the year because you will need them for the final in June. Store all old materials in a safe place at home.

**Textbook**

All 9th Graders use the Holt Human Legacy textbook. You should keep your textbook at home unless otherwise instructed since you will need it primarily for homework assignments. If you lose your textbook, it is \$80 to replace.

There is also an online version of your textbook which also includes audio files of the reading as well as study games. You can access it at <http://my.hrw.com/> with either of the following usernames and passwords:

My Username:

General Username: worldhistory65

My Password:

General Password: r8x3w

***I am looking forward to a great year!***