

# 10th Grade Modern World History (Honors)

## 2014-15

1

Ms. Bal

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### **Course Description:**

Welcome to your second 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 key events and themes of the last two hundred years. We will build on the skills you developed in 9th grade as well—skills necessary to become both expert historians and successful students. Over the course of the year you will become experienced in writing analytically, reading and listening critically, and presenting your ideas convincingly in many forms. Many challenges lay ahead—but so do many achievements!

The broad themes/periods that we will be dealing with this year include:

- ▶ The French Revolution, Nationalism, and Industrialism
- ▶ From Western Dominance to Western Crisis
- ▶ Cold War, Decolonization and the path to the 21st Century

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

- ▶ What does it mean to be modern?
- ▶ Why did some parts of the world come to have such great influence over others?
- ▶ What are the roots, causes, and nature of war and society?
- ▶ What is the relationship between the individual and society?
- ▶ How has technology and industrialization changed the nature of warfare, politics, society, economics and cultural identity?

### **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 (80%)

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

Homework (10%)

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.

**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.

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.

### **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)

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