

# Mr. Millhouse's AP World History Syllabus

## Purpose of this Course

The CollegeBoard designed AP World History to challenge highly motivated students to understand the global processes that have shaped human history for the last 10,000 years. Students who work at meeting this challenge will have the opportunity to earn college credit during their high school years. However, the purpose of this class extends beyond an understanding of world history and the possibility for college credit. The nature of this course provides high school students the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills that will form a strong foundation for continuing college preparation courses in high school and survey-level college courses.

## Why take an AP class?

1. The top 2 criteria colleges use for admissions are SAT scores and AP performance (well above class rank, GPA, and extra-curricular activities)
2. More colleges are basing scholarship money on AP performance
3. You want to be prepared for the academic rigors of college
4. You want (or like) an academic challenge

## Course Structure

The AP World History course content is structured around the investigation of five course themes and 19 key concepts in six different chronological periods, from approximately 8000 BCE to the present.

## Five Themes of AP World History

1. Interaction between humans and the environment (Environment)  
Demography & disease; migration; patterns of settlement; technology
2. Development and interaction of cultures (Culture)  
Religions, philosophies, & ideologies; science & technology; arts & architecture
3. State-building, expansion, and conflict (Political)  
Political structures & forms of governance; empires; nations & nationalism; revolts & revolutions; regional, transregional, and global organizations
4. Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems (Economic)  
Agriculture & pastoral production; trade & commerce; labor systems; industrialization; capitalism & socialism
5. Development and transformation of social structures (Social)  
Gender roles & relations; family and kinship; racial & ethnic constructions; social & economic classes

## Historical Periodization

Period	Period Title	Date Range	Weight
1	Technological & Environmental Transformation	c. 8000 BCE to c. 600 BCE	5%
2	Organization & Reorganization of Human Societies	c. 600 BCE to c. 600 CE	15%
3	Regional and Transregional Interactions	c. 600 CE to c. 1450	20%
4	Global Interactions	c. 1450 to c. 1750	20%
5	Industrialization and Global Integration	c. 1750 to c. 1900	20%
6	Accelerating Global Change & Realignment	c. 1900 to the present	20%

### **Four Historical Thinking Skills**

History is a sophisticated quest for meaning about the past that goes beyond the effort of collecting information. Historical analysis requires familiarity with a great deal of information, including names, facts, and events. Without reliable and detailed information, historical analysis is not possible. Yet historical analysis involves much more than the compilation and recall of data; it also requires several distinctive historical thinking skills.

1. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence
  - Historical Argumentation
  - Appropriate Use of Relevant Historical Information
2. Chronological Reasoning
  - Historical Causation
  - Patterns of Continuity and Change Over Time
  - Periodization
3. Comparison and Contextualization
4. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis
  - Interpretation
  - Synthesis

### **AP Exam Information**

The AP World History Examination is approximately three hours and five minutes long and includes both a 55-minute multiple-choice section and 130-minute free-response section. The multiple-choice section accounts for half of the student's examination grade and the free response section for the other half.

#### **Exam Format**

70 multiple-choice questions – 55 minutes

3 essay questions (DBQ, CCOT, and Comparison) – 130 minutes

### **Assessment**

Assessment in class will parallel the tasks required for the AP World History test. Major tests, essays, and projects will count as 70% of the class grade. All other daily assignments will count 30% of the final grade. The semester and final exam will count as 20% of the 9-week grade. These percentages comply with LISD standards for all AP courses.

### **Classroom Rules**

1. There is only one rule: Keep Mr. Millhouse happy.

Suggestions to help you follow the rule:

- Bring required materials and books to class (textbook, pen, paper, notebook, etc.)
- Pick up materials when you enter the classroom
- Maintain classroom behavior that supports learning by others
- Do not whine
- Do not cheat
- Learn my quirks

### **Additional Information**

1. **Utilize my website.** My website contains calendars, assignments, and much more. You can find my website at [teachinginsanity.net/whap](http://teachinginsanity.net/whap)
2. **Tutoring.** Morning and afternoon tutoring is available Monday-Friday.
3. **Contact Info.** If you or your parents have any questions or concerns about the course, the easiest and quickest way to contact me is via e-mail. My e-mail address is [millhouseje@lisd.net](mailto:millhouseje@lisd.net).