Welcome to AP World History: Modern!

AP World History: Modern is a fascinating, yet challenging subject. Over the course of the next school year, you will gain a better understanding of how the world operates. We will be examining a variety of thematic elements and balanced global coverage, examining areas such as Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania. You will learn the modern history of these global regions with an intensive focus on the period of 1200-present. Pre-1200 history will still be covered for background/context purposes at the start of the school year. Although the AP exam will not specifically test on this material, it will be important to know the information to understand the historical events that occur between 1200-present.

This may be the first time you will be completing an AP course. You should be aware that the AP curriculum is challenging. This is the equivalent of a first-year/survey history course in college. It is primarily lecture based. There is an exam in May at the end of the year that you will have an opportunity to gain college credit on. You should enter this course with high expectations for yourself and expect to be challenged. You can expect nightly readings from the college textbook and supplementary texts, document source analysis, and writing assignments such as essays. You should be ready to commit around an hour per evening to this course. Be prepared to work hard and put forth your best effort. You will quickly find that anything less will significantly impact your grade.

You should also be aware that this is not your typical history class. We will be studying world history in a thematic and conceptual sense. While it is important to be able to memorize certain facts and dates, it is far more crucial in this class to understand movements, themes, and trends throughout history. Critical thinking, analytical skills, and general historical skills will be crucial for you to build and master throughout the year. Overall, our goal is to understand the “why” behind certain events and understand the process of history.

As my goal is for you to do well enough on this exam, it is important for you to get a feel for the course. The assignments below will give you an introduction to world history and critical thinking, and hopefully spike your interest in the subject. Most of the assignments will be due on the first day back from the summer break.

All assignments will be posted on my class website (linked below) as well as on the school website. I will leave extra hard copies of all the assignments with the counseling department as well.
Assignment #1: AP World Overview. Know this information by Monday, August 19th

It is important to understand the basic features of the course as you are expected to take the exam in May. To introduce you to the basic structure of the AP World course, you are to complete the following:

1. Go to the following links and read over the course details and exam description (these links will be updated with new information by mid-June. Please check the websites at that point since the CollegeBoard is updating the course). Know this information well. This will give you a general feel for the class structure:
   - https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-world-history/course-details
   - https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse/ap-world-history/about-the-exam

2. Go to the following link to my class website:
     - Look over the following handouts:
       - AP World History Themes
         - This handout explains the basic themes of the course in a simple way. You need to know these themes well as we will be examining them throughout the year.
       - AP World Study Skills
         - This handout offers some tips for studying in an AP, honors, or college level class. It should prove helpful throughout the year. It would be a good idea to follow these study tips.
Assignment #2. AP World Geography. Due Monday, August 19th. 20 points.

The AP World course requires you to know some basic geographic knowledge. While you may know most of this already, it is critical in understanding world history. One of the major mistakes many make on the multiple choice and essay sections of the AP World test is a misidentification of world geographic areas. To ensure you are coming in with a good grasp on basic geography, you are to complete the following:

1. Geographic Features Maps (locate and label). Due Monday, August 19th. Worth 20 points.
   - There are a series of maps provided with the summer assignment. There is a world map for reference purposes and a map for each continent. Locate the following features and label/draw them on one of the maps provided (do not try to cram all of these features into one world map)
     - Bodies of Water:
       - Seas and Gulfs
         - Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Arabian Sea, Red Sea, Caribbean Sea, Persian Gulf, Bay of Bengal, East China Sea, Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea
       - Rivers
         - Nile, Congo, Amazon, Mississippi, Indus, Ganges, Danube, Yangtze, Yellow, Tigris, and Euphrates
     - Mountains and Deserts:
       - Mountains:
         - Ural, Caucasus, Alps, Himalayas, Hindu Kush, Andes, and Mount Kilimanjaro
       - Deserts:
         - Sahara, Gobi, and Arabian
     - Other Features:
       - Peninsulas:
         - Balkans, Arabian, and Yucatan
       - Straits:
         - Bosporus, Malacca, and Gibraltar
   - I will collect this to check for accuracy and neatness. Once graded, you will receive it back as a reference guide throughout the year. You should keep it in any course binder or folder.

2. AP World Regions Map (Study this map. It will appear on the summer assignment quiz).
   - The AP World course has various sub-regions that are referred to and used. I expect you and the AP World exam creators expect you to know these. You must learn them.
   - Look over the provided AP World Regions map. You do not have to label or fill anything in, but you must memorize each location. I will have a blank map on the summer assignment quiz (more information about this is on the last page of this handout) that you will need to fill in.

Email: mcwalters@k12.wv.us
Website: http://waltersapworld.weebly.com/
Assignment #3: What is World History? Due Monday, August 19th. 10 points.

The AP World course content is focused on a big picture understanding of history. To get a basic understanding of how historians approach world history, you are to complete the following:

1. Read over the sources on the next two pages. These sources are from various professors and scholars in the field about what exactly world history means.

2. Using the sources and/or your own knowledge, answer the following questions using complete sentences (refer to the short answer question guidelines below):
   a. What are some similarities between these sources? What are some differences?
   b. Heidi Roupp refers to world history as the exploration of global processes. What exactly is a “global process”? What are some examples of global processes?
   c. What creates change in history?

3. Short Answer Question Guidelines:
   a. Type your response. Use 12 font, Times New Roman, and default margins. It does not need to be double spaced for a short answer question response.
   b. Fully explain your answer. I do not need you to write a massive amount, but it should be more than just a single sentence.
   c. Think of ACE for short answer question responses in this class:
      i. Answer the question
      ii. Cite evidence to support your answer
      iii. Explain your answer

I will collect your answers on Monday, August 19th.
“What is World History?” Sources

“We don’t study the history of each separate state to understand American history. Nor do we study the state histories of California, Texas, and Alaska and presume that their population and/or geographic advantage gives us the complete picture. Rather, we study national experiences and developments to understand the history of the U.S. Similarly, in world history, we do not study the national histories of the biggest countries or the developments of the largest civilizations. Rather, we explore the global processes and connections that have shaped the world through time.”

-Heidi Roupp

“World history is developing as a macrohistory ---- a history of the human experience [where] encounters with strangers are the main drive and wheel of social change.”

-William McNeill

“World history is more general than traditional history and emphasizes trends that transcend cultural boundaries. World history stresses the treatment of interaction between societies. In eras where such interaction is limited, it compares different patterns of development around the world. Hence a world history study may involve cultures that actually had contact and influence on one another or cultures that went through various stages of development with little or no outside influence. World history tends to be more superficial and general than local or national histories. This is not meant in a negative way, but in the sense of a comprehensive view of history. The old cliché of not seeing the forest for the trees applies here. World history looks at the forest for the overall, global meaning of history.”

-David Smith

“A world history course should strive not to become a course in great civilizations, a study of various regions of the world, or a global issues course. What it should be is the study of human change and continuity\(^1\) over time.”

-Marilynn Hitchens

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\(^1\) **Continuity:** Something that stays the same over a period of time.
“World history in its contemporary connotation is not a synthesis of known fact or a juxtaposition\(^2\) of the histories of different continents or cultures, arranged in some sort of order of relative importance; rather, it is a search for the links and connections across political and cultural frontiers. It is concerned not so much with development in time or with the goal and meaning of history --- western preoccupations which non-western cultures for the most part do not share --- as with the perennial problems which have assailed mankind everywhere and with the different responses to them. It [world history] has turned them [world historians] away from linear development, from the thread allegedly running through history from its earliest beginnings to the present day, to the comparative study of the institutions, habits, ideas, and assumptions of men in all times and places.”

-Geoffrey Barraclough

“We cannot fully understand the past few millennia without understanding the far longer period of time in which all members of our own species lived as gatherers and hunters, and without understanding the changes that led to the emergence of the earliest agrarian communities and the first urban civilizations. Paleolithic society, in its turn, cannot be fully understood without some idea of the evolution of our own species over several million years. That however requires some grasp of the history of life on earth, and so on (“big history”).”

-David Christian

“The new narrative of world history must have ecological\(^3\) process (instead of development) as its major theme. It must keep human events within the context where they really happen, and that is the ecosystem of the earth. The story of human history, if it is to be balanced and accurate, will inevitably consider the natural environment and the myriad ways in which it has both affected and been affected by human activities.”

-Donald Hughes

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\(^2\) **Juxtaposition:** The act of placing two things together for comparison or contrast purposes

\(^3\) **Ecological:** Relating to or concerned with the relation of living organisms to one another and to their physical surroundings.
Assignment #4: Self Study of Early History (Small Quiz on Friday, August 23 (tentative))

1. Read and study over the handout that covers early human history.
2. Focus on the following elements of early human history:
   a. Development of early humans
   b. Paleolithic age features
   c. Neolithic Revolution and its features
   d. Civilization definition/ features
   e. Know one early civilization from the handout (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Indus River Valley, or Shang Dynasty)
   f. Know any bolded terms
3. You will have a quiz on this material (you will only be quizzed on the topics listed above) and the AP World geographic regions tentatively on Friday, August 23rd. The quiz format will be a mixture of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer.

Suggested Course Materials:

1. Three ring binder. You will want one to keep notes and handouts in.
2. AP review book (please wait before obtaining one. The CollegeBoard has changed the course format and review books have not been published that reflect this update yet). While the exam is a while away, a review book would be a good supplement to anything covered in class. It also doesn’t hurt to start reviewing early as it is unwise to attempt to cram for an AP exam. I cannot stress this enough.

Summer Assignment Checklist:

☐ Read over the AP course information.
☐ Complete the map assignment.
☐ Look over the AP geography regions. Ensure you know these regions.
☐ Complete the short answer questions. Ensure you follow the short answer guidelines.
☐ Read and study over the information on early history.
☐ A quiz on early history and AP geography regions will tentatively occur on Friday, August 23rd.

If you have questions about the assignment or the course in general, feel free to email me at the following address: mcwalters@k12.wv.us I will be checking it regularly throughout the summer. You can also visit my website (listed at the bottom of each page) or the school website for digital copy of this assignment. I will be posting assignments, information updates, and general materials throughout the school year on this site.

I am looking forward to a great year and meeting you all in the fall. Have a great summer!

-Mr. Walters
AP World Regions

While this is not a geography course you must know some basic geography to answer questions on the exam. Below is a map of the AP World regions. This is very specific and you must memorize these regions. A blank world map with numbers for each region will be on the summer assignment quiz. For example, instead of having North America filled in on the map, it will simply have a (1). You will be required to write the name of the region next to each number.