



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



AP European History
240

General Information

Credits: N/A
Weighted: N/A
Prerequisite: N/A

Length: Full Year
Format: Meets Daily
Grade: 12

Course Description

The advanced placement program in European History consists of a challenging, college level course that is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in European History from 1450 through to the twenty-first century. The content of the course will be broken down into standard time-periods used by historians, and these time-periods will allow for a close study of the political, intellectual/cultural, social and economic aspects that have evolved over time to form the basis of modern European society. Students will learn to assess historical materials (primary and secondary sources): their relevance to a given problem/topic, their reliability, and their importance while also weighing evidence presented in historical scholarship. The Advanced Placement European History course develops and practices skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of informed judgment and to present ideas clearly and persuasively in both written and oral form. Special attention will be devoted to the Document Based Question and mastering the technique of point of view analysis required by the AP exam.

As much as possible, the AP course is taught following a typical college format, i.e. emphasizing lecture presentations, seminar style discussions/presentations by students and essay examinations. Given the nature of the AP exam, however, each unit of study also includes objective multiple choice questions to test for acquisition of important factual and conceptual information. Lastly, due to the large amount of material to cover, the course must move at a swift pace, something you may not have encountered in other history classes you have taken up to this point. Don't fret! If you are feeling lost, ask for help! I will post times that I am available to work with students as well as my e-mail address.

In addition to providing you with an opportunity to hone your analytical skills in history, the course aims to prepare you to take the AP exam, offered in the beginning of May each year. This AP European course will greatly increase the odds that students will be sufficiently prepared to handle the rigors of a three hour and five minute exam. This course is ideal for the student who has a strong interest in history and enjoys learning in general. The basic texts used in this course are: *A History of Western Society* by McKay, Hill and Buckler 9th edition) and *Aspects of Western Civilization: Problems and Sources in History* edited by Perry M. Rogers. Relevant chapters from numerous other texts will be used and these can be found in the "readings" listed for each unit. I will also provide copies of single documents (speeches, declarations etc.) as needed or direct you to the Internet Modern History Sourcebook maintained at Fordham University (www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook) so that you can download essential documents and get valuable practice marking up and annotating texts.

Course Objectives:

- Students will examine how a fractured past has led to closer European integration in the 21st century.
- Students will explain the rise of individualism and assess individual agency across different time periods in Western History

Common Assessments:

- First Quarter: *Pillars of the Earth* Socratic Seminar
- Second Quarter: Midterm contains 80 multiple choice questions and a thematic essay
- Third Quarter: Italian Unification DBQ
- Fourth Quarter: Final Exam contains 80 multiple choice questions and a thematic essay

Major Units of Study:

- Unit One: European Unity-Temporary or Permanent?
- Unit Two: Early Modern Europe and the Rise of the Individual
- Unit Three: Reformers, Witches, and Religious Wars
- Unit Four: Political Centralization-Absolutism or Constitutionalism?
- Unit Five: Toward A New World View
- Unit Six: Age of Revolutions-Political and Industrial
- Unit Seven: The (Very) Long Nineteenth Century
- Unit Eight: Industrial War and the Death of the Heroic Ideal
- Unit Nine: Roaring Extremism in the 20s and World War II
- Unit Ten: The Cold War, Its Aftermath, and European Unity

Materials & Texts

TEXTS

- *The Western Heritage, Since 1300, Ninth Edition.* Kagan and McCay (textbook)
- *The Western Intellectual Tradition, From Leonardo to Hegel,* J. Bronowski and Bruce Mazlish
- *Aspects of Western Civilization, Volumes I and II.* Rogers, Perry R.
- *Discovering the Western Past: A Look at the Evidence, Volumes I and II.* Wisener, Ruff, & Wheeler.
- *Pillars of the Earth,* Ken Fowlett. (summer reading)

MATERIALS

- *Fordham Internet Medieval Sourcebook* (<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/sbook1y.asp>)
- Yale Professor of History John Merriman's European Civilization lecture series <http://oyc.yale.edu/history/hist-202>
- UC Berkley Professor of History Thomas Lacquer's History 5 lecture series <https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/history-5-001-fall-2010-uc/id391536406?mt=10>
- HistoryTeacher.Net. Susan Pojer, veteran teacher at Horace Greeley High School, posts great powerpoints, document sets, and assessment ideas for AP European History on this website. <http://www.historyteacher.net/>
- PowerPoint Palooza. Susan Pojer's AP European History ppts are posted <http://www.pptpalooza.net/>

Summer Assignment

Pillars of the Earth is one of my personal favorites and I'm looking forward to discussing and analyzing it with you in the fall. You can find it at local bookstores, the library or online (I buy many of my books at half.com at discounted prices). While this book is very long, you will find yourself entranced by the characters, suspense, and themes (like power, human nature, etc). This assignment is a means to introduce students to the basic political, social, and religious structures of the Middle Ages. A focused reading of this novel will give students an array of information and an overview of the most important elements of this period of history in a way that I hope will be interesting and enjoyable. This is a college level class and students are expected to be aware of and to discuss mature issues. This book has violence that reflects the realities of the struggle for power in the Middle Ages. It also has a rape scene that represents in raw form the way society treated women and the role of women during this period. If parents object to this content there is an alternative assignment available (please contact the teacher for details regarding the alternative assignment). This novel will be the subject of the first common assessment for this course.