



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Course Name: AP World History (APWH)
Course #

General Information

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

Length: Full Year
Format: Meets Daily
Grade:

Course Description

Advanced Placement World History develops an understanding of the evolution of global processes and contacts including interactions over time. This course highlights the nature of changes in international frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies. The student will make connections by surveying the common threads of humanity—trade, religion, politics, society, and technology—and investigates how each have changed and continued over time. The course traces the human experience from the emergence of Neolithic cultures to the 21st Century, C.E., emphasizing the historical thinking skills, writing skills, and content knowledge characteristic of a college-level world history course. Students will devote considerable time to the critical evaluation of primary and secondary sources, as they write essays, engage in class discussions, and evaluate content knowledge and visual analyses.

After a concentrated study of the foundations of world history, the course focuses primarily on the past thousand years of world history. AP World History offers a balanced coverage of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Course Objectives:

There are five over-arching themes that serve as the year long course objectives and receive approximately equal coverage.

The focus of World History AP is on thematic development, rather than strict memorization of names, dates and places. Students should use the framework below as a “unifying thread” to help make comparisons over time throughout the course.

Themes: Formal Description

1. Interaction between humans and the environment
 - A. Demography and disease
 - B. Migration
 - C. Patterns of settlement
 - D. Technology

2. Development and interaction of cultures
 - A. Religions
 - B. Belief systems, philosophies, and ideologies

Shorthand Description

Human-Environment Interaction

C. Science and technology D. The arts and architecture	Culture
3. State-building, expansion, and conflict A. Political structures and forms of governance B. Empires C. Nations and nationalism D. Revolts and revolution E. Regional, trans-regional, and global structures and Organizations	Politics
4. Creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems A. Agricultural and pastoral production B. Trade and commerce C. Labor Systems D. Industrialization E. Capitalism and socialism	Economics
5. Development and transformation of social structures A. Gender roles and relations B. Family and kinship C. Racial and ethnic constructions D. Social and economic classes	Social

Common Assessments:

Major Units of Study:

Unit 1: Technological and Environmental Transformations, c. 8000 to c. 600 BCE (3 weeks)

Key Concept 1.1 Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth

Key Concept 1.2 The Neolithic Revolution and Early Agricultural Societies

Key Concept 1.3 The Development and Interactions of Early Agricultural, Pastoral, and Urban Societies

Unit 2: Organization and Reorganization of Human Societies, c. 600 BCE to c. 600 CE (4 weeks)

Key Concept 2.1 The Development and Codification of Religious and Cultural Traditions

Key Concept 2.2 The Development of States and Empires

Key Concept 2.3 Emergence of Trans-regional Networks of Communication and Exchange

Unit 3: Regional and Trans-regional Interactions, c. 600 to c. 1450 CE (6 weeks)

Key Concept 3.1 Expansion and Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks

Key Concept 3.2 Continuity & Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions

Key Concept 3.3 Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences

Unit 4: Global Interactions, c. 1450 to c. 1750 (6 weeks)

Key Concept 4.1 Globalizing Networks of Communication and Exchange

Key Concept 4.2 New Forms of Social Organization and Modes of Production

Key Concept 4.3 State Consolidation and Imperial Expansion

Unit 5: Industrialization and Global Integration, c. 1750 to c. 1900 (6 weeks)

Key Concept 5.1 Industrialization and Global Capitalism

Key Concept 5.2 Imperialism and Nation-State Formation

Key Concept 5.3 Nationalism, Revolution, and Reform

Key Concept 5.4 Global Migration

Unit 6: Accelerating Global Change and Realignment, c. 1900 to present (6 weeks)

Key Concept 6.1 Science and the Environment

Key Concept 6.2 Global Conflicts and their Consequences

Key Concept 6.3 New Conceptualizations of Global Economy, Society, & Culture

Materials & Texts

Textbooks:

- Traditions & Encounters, 2nd Ed. by Jerry Bentley & Herbert Ziegler, © 2003, McGraw-Hill. (“Bentley”) This is the “main” textbook, though there are frequent supplements from other texts including:
- Traditions & Encounters, Brief Ed., 2nd Ed. by Jerry Bentley & Herbert Ziegler. © 2010, McGraw-Hill. (“Bentley Brief”) We use this “Brief” version for the beginning of the year. (Pre-1450 C.E. It saves ~200 pages of reading compared to the “regular” edition.)
- Ways of the World, (with sources) 1st Ed. by Robert Strayer. © 2011, Bedford, Freeman, & Worth.
- The World’s History, 4th Ed. by Howard Spodek. © 2010, Pearson.
- The Earth and Its Peoples, 4th Ed. by Richard Bulliet, et al. © 2008, Cengage.

Primary Sources:

- World Civilizations: Sources, Images and Interpretations, vols. 1 & 2, 4th Ed. Dennis Sherman, et al. © 2006, McGraw-Hill.
- Documents in World History, vols 1 & 2. 2nd Ed. by Peter Stearns, et al. © 2000, Longman.

Secondary Sources:

- **Visual:** Most images for analysis will originate from the textbook, readers, and internet. Samples for analysis will include but are not limited to art, political cartoons, and photos; see the course outline below for some specific examples.
- **Quantitative:** Tables and graphs in Maps of Time: An Introduction to Big History, by David Christian.
- **Additional readings are listed in individual units.**

Summer Assignment

- Diamond, Jared. Guns, Germs and Steel. Norton, 1999.
- Quinn, Daniel. Ishmael. Bantam, 1995.
- Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the World (2003)