

WESTERN CIVILIZATIONS I

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to Western Civilizations I! This course is designed to introduce you to the rise of European powers. You will study the development and growth of cultures from ancient times through the formation of powerful European nations – a period of covering nearly 2500 years. These civilizations formed the basis for the modern world and it is imperative that we understand how this occurred.

Throughout this year, you will have the opportunity to explore history hands on, through simulations, role-play, interactive readings, a variety of writing assignments, and more. It is very important that you put forth great effort and strive to do your very best – though there is a lot of work, everything that we do in this class will prepare you for future classes and there is no room for anything but your very best.

CLASSROOM POLICIES & PROCEDURES

- Show respect towards classmates, teachers, staff, and all other individuals at all times. Inappropriate behavior will result in disciplinary action. Use common sense when determining what is acceptable and what is not. See the Student Handbook for a complete list of offences and their consequences.
- Class time is valuable, therefore passes will only be given on an emergency basis. You should use the restroom during passing time (check in with me so you aren't marked late). I do not give locker passes during class, so please don't ask.
- Homework must be turned in on time and must be completed before coming to class. I do not accept late homework except in extreme circumstances.
- You are responsible for making up any missed work during excused absences. You will be given one day for each class you miss. It is your responsibility to ask me for your work and to remember to hand it in – I will not track you down looking for missing work. If you know you will be missing class, please see me ahead of time. Due dates for long term assignments are not flexible, regardless of absence.
- Be aware that cheating, copying, and plagiarizing will not be tolerated. This is a serious offence and those caught will receive a zero and an office referral. Assume all work is to be done individually unless told otherwise. See the Student Handbook for the complete RHHS policy.

HONORS LEVEL

Most of you have never taken a leveled social studies class before. Social studies no doubt came very easily to you in middle school and made it a subject you hopefully enjoy. While I hope that you continue to enjoy it this year, I caution that it may not come as easily as it did in the past.

Because this is an honors level class, the level of work that is expected of you daily should be of a high quality. It will be difficult, but not impossible, to achieve an A in this course.

A certain level of independence, individual motivation, ability to prioritize, and personal responsibility is expected of you.

If you find the course too challenging or if you feel you are struggling, it is your responsibility to ask questions and come see me for extra help.

GRADING

You will be graded on all of your work in class. This will include classwork, homework, projects, tests/quizzes, and participation. Grades are based on a point system, with larger assignments worth more points. At the end of the each quarter, all points are added up and divided by the total number of possible points. The result is your grade for that quarter.

Your participation grade is calculated based on your positive contributions and preparation for class during the given week.

Your final grade in the course is made up of the quarterly grades (20% each) and the semester exam grades (10% each).

Extra credit is rare and offered at teacher discretion. It should not be expected and will only be offered to the entire class.

If you have questions regarding the way an assignment is graded, you are encouraged to set up an appointment with me to go over the work.

ATTENDANCE

The RHHS attendance policy allows for 16 absences during a full year class. Absences beyond this may lead to a loss of credit for the course. Regular attendance and on-time arrival to class is essential to learn the material properly and to be a participating member of our classroom. If you know you will be absent in advance, especially for an extended period, please see me ahead of time to obtain alternate make-up assignments.

SUPPLIES

You will need to have the following supplies with you on a daily basis. You will not be allowed to your locker to retrieve forgotten materials and homework

- Binder with lined paper (1.5-2 inch)
- Black or blue pens
- Pencil
- Highlighter
- Assignment Book
- Textbook (covered)