

AP World History Syllabus
Legacy Early College High School
2015-2016 School Year

What is AP?

The advanced placement program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. College Board AP courses provide avenues for motivated, college-bound students to access challenging curricula and in many cases, even earn college credit while they are in high school.

What is an AP Exam?

An AP exam is a test taken at the end of an AP course to assess what you have learned. The highest score possible on an AP exam is “5”. A score of “3” is considered average and most colleges and universities will grant credit with this score. The AP World History exam breakdown is below:

Total time: 3 hours and five minutes
50% multiple choice, 50% essays

- 70 multiple choice questions, 55 minutes
- Document Based Essay, 50 minutes
- Change Over Time Essay, 40 minutes
- Compare and Contrast Essay, 40 minutes



Course Description

This class is a rigorous, college-level course designed to explore human history from 8000 B.C.E. to the present day. Due to this expansive content, we will not be going in to great depth in any one civilization or empire, but rather take a broad approach to changes and evolutions that take place across the globe. A priority will be placed on preparation for the AP World History exam, which will take place on May 14th, 2015. Every reading assignment, group activity, quiz, test, or essay will be helping to work towards passing the AP exam. We will read, write, and discuss more than the average high school class and you will improve these skills as the year progresses.

The Four Historical Thinking Skills

1. Crafting Historical Arguments from Historical Evidence
2. Chronological Reasoning
3. Comparison and Contextualization
4. Historical Interpretation and Synthesis

The Five Course Themes

- Theme 1: Interaction Between Humans and the Environment
- Theme 2: Development and Interaction of Cultures
- Theme 3: State-Building, Expansion, and Conflict
- Theme 4: Creation, Expansion, and Interaction of Economic Systems
- Theme 5: Development and Transformation of Social Structures

Historical Periodization

Period	Period Title	Date Range	Weight
1	Technological and Environmental Transformations	To 600 BCE	5%
2	Organization and Reorganization of Human Society	600 BCE to 600 CE	15%
3	Regional and Transregional Interactions	600 to 1450	20%
4	Global Interactions	1450 – 1750	20%
5	Industrialization and Global Integration	1750 – 1900	20%
6	Accelerating Global Change and Realignments	1900 – 2000	20%

Course readings and discussions

Students will be expected to read their textbooks outside of class and come prepared to share and discuss what they learned. Beyond class discussions, there will also be reading quizzes to assess who has read the material and who has not. *You will not be successful in this class if you do not read!*

A note from Mr. Banks

This will be the most difficult course you have taken up to this point in your academic career. This is a college-level class, which means that a lot will be expected of you. However, I am fully committed to helping you be successful and I will do all that I can to ensure that you succeed on the AP exam. I am here to help in any way that I can so please do not hesitate to ask.

Teacher: Mr. Banks
Room: Portable A

Email: bbanks@taylorisd.org
Tutoring/Office Hours: By appointment

Grading Policies

50% Major (Tests, Projects, Essays)
35% Minor (Reading Quizzes, Group Work)
15% Daily (Classwork, Worksheets, Homework)

Late Work/Make-Up Work

Due to the fact that this is an AP course, late work will be heavily penalized. Assignments that are one day late will lose 50% credit and other late work will receive a 0 (but still must be turned in). Tests cannot be retaken for a higher grade. Students who would like to improve their grade may complete test corrections in my room before school, during lunch, or after school. For each question missed, the student must write out (on a blank sheet of paper) the question, the answer choices, at least one sentence explaining why each wrong answer is incorrect, and a short explanation of why the question was missed. The essay portion of tests cannot be corrected.

Classroom Procedures

Entering the Classroom: At Legacy, it is expected that class will start on time without the teacher's verbal direction. Each day when you come in to class there will be a warm-up on the board. The expectation is for you to enter class and start the warm-up.

Tardy Policy: It is the expectation of Legacy Early College High School that students are in class, ready to participate, when class is scheduled to begin. Any student who chooses to be late to class through negligence, lack of preparation or planning, or any other unacceptable reason will be considered tardy and will be required to serve a consequence for each offense. A student is considered tardy if he/she is not in the assigned classroom when class begins. Multiple unexcused tardies will result in disciplinary action.

Question Policy: Students are encouraged to ask relevant questions during class. Do not be afraid to ask any question; it is through questioning that we learn and grow as students and global citizens. If I say something in class that you disagree with, I encourage you to engage me in a discussion on the subject in a respectful and relevant way. In addition, you and your peers will not always see eye to eye but it is imperative that any discussions between students remain courteous and appropriate.

Technology Policy: Cell phones and iPods are to put in the clear plastic bin by the door of the classroom as soon as you walk in the door. They should be turned off/silent. On days that you will be allowed to use your phone or iPod for academic reasons, I will not have the box by the door. Laptops should be kept in bags unless I instruct that you may use them.

Restroom Policy: Students must ask the teacher before going to the restroom. Only two students may be out at a time. Additionally, no student will be permitted to use the restroom during the first or last ten minutes of class.

Ending Class: Class will be dismissed only at the instructor's signal. Mr. Banks' will make sure that the clocks in the room are accurate, there will be no need for you to "remind" him that class is over. Students will only be dismissed once all materials are put away and the tables and chairs are where they need to be.

Student Responsibilities After an Absence: It is the student's responsibility to make up missing work due to an absence. Upon returning to class you should talk with the instructor about what was missed. It is highly recommended to contact the teacher the day of the absence via email or phone to request assignments so you can stay caught up with the class. Students will have three days to make up work assigned on the day(s) absent. If a student is absent the day of a test they are expected to retake the exam the day they return to class.

Code of Conduct: It is an expectation that all Legacy ECHS students follow the rules in the student handbook.

