WORLD HISTORY

Course Expectations

Teacher: Mr. Vidoli
E-mail: jdvidoli@interact.ccsd.net
Website: http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/JVidoli/index.cfm
Room: 406

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This one-year survey course will examine World History through the disciplines that compromise the humanities: the arts, philosophy, literature, history, political institutions, and religion. It explores the great ideas and actions of humankind that have shaped life. The course will focus on the major civilizations; their similarities, differences and how their developments and interactions have shaped the course of history.

COURSE OUTLINE

As you might expect, a survey World History course is extremely broad in its scope and content. As such it will be impossible to devote the necessary time to each era and culture. Using the text and CCSD curriculum guides as an outline, the following areas will be addressed in some detail:

Semester 1

1. Early Civilizations (3 weeks)
2. Empires of the Ancient World (5 weeks)
3. Regional Civilizations (6 weeks)
4. World Religions (2 weeks)

Semester 2

1. Early Modern Times (4 weeks)
2. Enlightenment and Revolution (4 weeks)
3. Industrialism and the New Global Age (4 weeks)
4. World Wars and Revolutions (4 weeks)
5. The World Today/Review (4 weeks)

Just as your personal history influences the person you are today, so too, the events and people that comprise our common past have influenced the thinking, culture & politics of nations. It is the goal of this course to enable you to see and draw these connections to gain a greater understanding of the world in which you live.

MATERIALS

The textbook for the course is entitled *World History: Connections to Today* by Prentice Hall Publishers. Additionally, the publisher provides worksheets, maps, transparencies, and suggested activities. School district approved videos will also be in support of the material. Outside readings and current events will be included in helping to provide an understanding of our world and its interrelationships today.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Instruction in the above mentioned areas will be achieved through a variety of methods including:

- Readings, films & slides, lectures/note-taking, discussions, class activities and presentations, guided reading worksheets, maps and regularly scheduled quizzes.
- **Textbook and a three-ring binder will be required daily.**

MANDATORY SUPPLIES

The student will be responsible for the following items:

- a 1 ½" three-ring binder with divisions **(The binder must be used for World History only.)**
- college-ruled filler paper
- a spiral notebooks (100 pages minimum)
- colored pencils (for geography maps)
- pencils/pens (blue or black ink)
- glue stick
- a flash drive
- **a good attitude**

GRADING/STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

The grading will be based on the following standard percentage approach:

A= 90%+ ; B= 80-89% ; C= 70-79% ; D= 60-69% ; F= Below 60%

CONFIGURATION OF QUARTER GRADE

- **Tests** will account for 10% of total quarter grade. Tests will be given following the completion of each chapter.
- **Homework** will account for 20% of total quarter grade. Homework will be given approximately 3-4 times a week. Occasionally, there will be time to complete much of the homework in class. Students are expected to read 10 to 15 pages a week.
- **Quizzes** will account for 20% of total quarter grade. Quizzes will be given after assigned readings on a consistent basis, 2-3 times a week
- **Classwork** will account for 30% of grade. Assessment in this area will include participation, time on task, overall product and cooperation. You will be informed which class activities will be assessed prior to starting the activity. This could include note-taking, discussion, group and individual work. 200 points are assigned for participation each quarter.
- **Projects/Reports** will account for 20% of the total quarter grade. Students are expected to write two to three essays per quarter.

CONFIGURATION OF SEMESTER GRADE

The semester grade will be a combination of the quarter grades and a comprehensive semester exam.

- 1st quarter—45%
- 2nd quarter—45%
- Semester Exam—10%

Common Expectations for Mr. Vidoli's Classes

CHS Common Classroom Expectations apply to all courses at CHS! Please refer to attached and/or the student handbook. In addition …

Experience has taught me to be very forthright in explaining what my expectations are to my students on the first day of class. This allows us to avoid unpleasant misunderstandings and focus on the purpose of our being together…Learning.

To make sure that you have all the resources you need to be successful I maintain a comprehensive website: http://www.myteacherpages.com/webpages/JVidoli/index.cfm. (Bookmark it for easy access.) Here you will find class notes, worksheets, practice quizzes and tests, a blog and a variety of other resources. I update Parentlink daily. Using my website's homework calendar and Parentlink, you will be able to make up missing or late assignment.

Beginning Class on Time: As I am ready and prepared to begin class on time, I expect the same from you. This means being seated, attentive and having notebooks out ready to start the first activity.

If you are late, sign the Late Log, wait at the door until I can collect your late pass. You understand that coming to class late can be disruptive to the planned activities. Should you have difficulty in coming to class on time consistently, we will find a way to help you improve this deficiency.

In-class Behavior: Listed below are some ground rules for my classes. They are fair, they are consistently reinforced and they will not be changed.

1. **When I am speaking**, everyone is listening. **When you are speaking**, everyone else will be listening. There are no "private" conversations in a classroom. Since we will be holding discussion as a critical aspect of learning, I request that you respect each and every contributor, not just me as your teacher, but your fellow classmates as well.
2. Please do not disturb class by leaving your seat without first asking me.
3. Please remove your hats and/or sunglasses when you enter the classroom.
4. Although this really goes without needing to be said, I shall respect you and I expect that respect to be returned. Additionally, I expect all students in my classes will demonstrate that same level of respect to one another.
5. I expect you to bring your text (covered), notebook with paper, and appropriate writing tools to each class.

6. **Please turn off cell phones, ipods** and other electronic devices not related to the lesson. **Cell phones and ipods are distractions in class. On the first occasion I see the phone, I will confiscate it and keep it locked in my desk until the end of the day. On the second, and subsequent occasions, I will turn it in to the Deans' Office by the end of the day on which the device was confiscated. If you refuse to turn over your electronic device, I will refer you to the Dean's.**
7. **No gum, food or colored or sugary drinks** (sodas, juices, etc.) allowed in class. Water is permitted and encouraged.
8. Please leave the desks and classroom as you found them. This means, that if you bring food into the classroom, you will expected to pick up after yourself … and if you do bring food to class, be sure to bring enough for everyone. Also you will be expected to clean up messes that might occur … remember your responsibility, (I love this phrase): "*Your mother doesn't work here!*"

Absences: If you have been absent: Please bring your blue admit slip so that I can see that your absence was either excused or unexcused. Many students, I have found, fail to appreciate the fact that class goes on even when they happen to absent. It is your responsibility to make up all work missed, take any assessments that were given and be responsible for any assignments due. I will not be reminding you, I expect as a young adult that you will come to me and ask! We can negotiate any reasonable compromise as to when missed work will be due.

Compromises: What is a compromise? A compromise is an agreement reached between two parties where each leaves a little unhappy! In our case you will leave just a bit more unhappy than me. My motto is… "If you care, I care more…. If you don't care, …. Well I am sure you can understand how I feel!"

Homework Assignments: Assignments are designed to enhance your learning. I do not feel that the more work I assign you, the more you will learn. In fact, 24 years of being a student myself never convinced me that more is better. However, the assignments I give will be, in my judgment, positive, useful, and meaningful. I think it is wise to share that I am **easily offended** by work that is dashed off just prior to the deadline. Please pay very close attention to what I am about to say…

Late Work/Make-up Work: Assignments are due on the date I assign them to be due on. Work not handed in will receive a grade of "zero". I have no intention of accepting or evaluating work that comes in late without you first having asked for an extension. This may seem harsh, it isn't! It will help you evolve an adult-like attention to deadlines and will create strong time management skills. For every day an assignment is not handed in, **1** letter grade will be deducted. After just a few days you will be receiving an F regardless of the assignments quality.

Now, before one considers that to be too harsh, an "F" beats a "zero" by a considerable mathematical margin when computing averages…try it out some time (I sure did in school!). I will negotiate a grade of 69 for a late assignment handed in with my permission if you care enough to approach me. So, do your work well, and hand it in on time. I will be happy, you will be happier!

Requesting an Extension: I respect the fact that all of you have several other classes, play sports, have jobs and family lives. I also expect that you may find yourself in need of an extension for an assignment. Here is what you do…

a) See me before the due date (preferably several days).
b) Request an extension
c) I will normally ask how long you will need
d) You and I will compromise as to when your assignment will be handed in. Please see the definition of a compromise explained earlier. No extension will be granted on the due date.

Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism or misrepresentation in any way of another's ideas, arguments, or facts is not acceptable. Sentences, phrases, or ideas of another's must be acknowledged. The use of a part or full paper from the Internet, presented, as a student's individual work is plagiarism. Students will be subject to academic and disciplinary consequences if they choose to plagiarize. Aside from all the harsh language, if you cheat, you undermine the whole idea of getting an education! Have confidence in yourself and your ability to express what you have learned. If you are not feeling confident about how to express or demonstrate your learning and knowledge, come and see me—I can help!

To help you avoid plagiarism I have a link to a website that allows you to scan you essay for possible plagiarism prior to submitting it.

Cheating: If you are caught cheating in anyway, consequences range from doing the assignment again for partial credit, receiving an automatic zero on the assignment, and you may also be given a dean's referral.

Communication: As the teacher, I am responsible for teaching and managing the learning that takes place in the classroom. In order to ensure you are getting a quality educational program from me, there must be contact between school and home. We will also have to opportunity to talk at Parent Conferences. The school sends progress reports and report cards home each quarter. In addition, I will update your grades on-line weekly. These are two ways that teachers and parents can communicate. If you have any questions or concerns at other times during the school year, please feel free to contact me at jdvidoli@interact.ccsd.net or 799-6800, ext 3406.

Additional Comments and Advice: The comments and "advice" shared below are intended to stimulate both thought and reflection. Please feel free to comment either after class or at a mutually convenient time.

Class Discussions: Normally students are happy to allow their teacher(s) to assess the degree to which they have mastered any body of material assigned for them to contemplate or read. It is very much like playing defense…"don't let on what you know…you always appear knowledgeable until you open up your mouth, so to speak" However, in this class you must be on the offense (that does not mean being offensive ☺). What I am saying is that I consider it your responsibility to actively participate and thereby demonstrate the degree to which you have prepared. Don't be caught by surprise by this philosophy. You literally cannot afford to sit quietly. I will see that no one monopolizes the discussions…you, on the other hand, must enter class prepared or it will show.

Last, But Certainly Not Least: Please, please, come and see me **if you need extra help**! I believe that all students have the ability to succeed. However, I can't help you if you don't let me know! There are times when you may feel overburdened with work in other classes in addition to mine. I am aware time is precious, however I will be available after class. If this is not convenient, I will work with you to arrange a mutually satisfactory time. I sometimes have other after school obligations and meetings which will make meetings after class impossible.

CLASS DISCIPLINE

Students will be expected to behave themselves. Respect works three ways; from teacher to student; from student to teacher, and between students themselves. The class discipline plan will be as follows:

- 1st incident — verbal warning (a brief conversation after class)
- 2nd incident — loss of participation points and possibly a teacher detention
- 3rd incident — phone call home
- 4th incident — Dean's referral

The severity and circumstance of an incident could result in skipping steps in this progressive discipline plan. For example, not being prepared could result in an automatic teacher's detention.

WORLD HISTORY ASSIGNMENTS – SOME GUIDELINES

Expectations:

- All assignments will be typed or word-processed, or handwritten in blue or black ink.*
- All assignments will be completed with no sections missing or incomplete.
- All assignments will be spell-checked and proofed.
- All responses will be in complete sentences.
- All assignments will be submitted on white, standard-sized paper.
- All assignments that you would like to be graded **must** be typed or in blue or black ink.

Requests:

- ❖ Do not repeat the question as part of your response. It is unnecessary.
- ❖ Remember the procedure to follow if you miss a due date.
- ❖ Remember that homework is graded.
- ❖ **Remember that something is always more than nothing.**

No student can expect to receive a passing grade in this class if they do not do their assignments. This is not negotiable. Nor can so called "extra credit" make up for not meeting the responsibility of doing one's assignments. You will think me harsh in this regard, but I try hard to make assignments meaningful and worthwhile. I personally "hated" busy work. But, please, make no mistake, my assignments are important and those who do not respect that will, unfortunately and inevitably, receive the commensurate grade.

Projects: Various projects will be given throughout the year. You will be given ample time outside of school to complete each project. Specifics, such as grading criterion will be discussed before assignment is given.

Extra Credit: There will be occasional opportunities to earn additional credit. These could include, but are not limited to, writing a book summary or critical analysis of certain historical films. However, please not the comment above regarding extra-credit and your success in this class.

Spelling and Grammar: While writing will be assessed on content and structure, poor writing mechanics will negatively affect all writing assignments.

Prearranged Absences: When you know beforehand that you will be absent, it is strongly suggested you prearrange your absence by collecting any work assigned or due during the length of your absence. Due to the nature of this course and the abundance of material that is covered, keeping pace with the class may help improve your ability of receiving a satisfactory grade.

Please review the course expectations with your child. They can be found on my website. Return the signed sheet. It will count as a homework grade.

Student's name _____ (print please)

Return this page. It's recommended the you keep the course expectations in your notebook or refer to it on line.

Read and sign please

I _____ (student) have read and understand the World History expectations and agree to abide by the rules stated therein.

I _____ (parent/guardian) have read and understand the World History expectations and agree to abide by the rules stated therein.

Comments for Mr. Vidoli:

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There will be certain times throughout the year that it will be useful and appropriate, in accordance with the CCSD approved curriculum, to show a movie with a rating of PG. Please sign your name on either line below.

I _____ (print parent's name) give permission for my child to watch a movie with a rating of PG.

_____ (Signature)

I_____ (print parent's name) do not give permission for my child to watch a movie with a rating of PG.

_____ (Signature)

Parent/Guardian Phone Number/Email: _____

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Best Time/Way to reach you: _____