

WORLD HISTORY

GRADING SCALE

A	=	100%	-	89%
B	=	88%	-	78%
C	=	77%	-	67%
D	=	66%	-	56%
F	=	55%	-	0%

MATERIALS REQUIRED

1. Spiral Bound Notebook, 200+ pages
- be sure to get wide pages with a durable cover!
2. Pencils & Erasers & Sharpener
3. Black or Blue Pens
4. 2+ Colors of Highlighter
5. Colored Pens/Pencils
6. Glue

GRADING SYSTEM

Quizzes & Exams **35%**

Quizzes, Unit Tests, Cumulative Semester Final Exam

Interactive Notebook **30%**

Notebook Checks

Research, Presentation & Writing Projects **30%**

Graphic organizers, Unit Projects, Class Presentations, Political Cartoons, Research Projects, Writing Assignments, Group work

Attendance, Punctuality & Attitude **5%**

No cuts, less than 3 tardies and respectful behavior at all times

COURSE COMPONENTS

Research, Presentation & Writing Projects

- Projects can be small weekly detailed graphic organizers, cartoons, mini-books, etcetera. Most often they will include the complex instruction group work that is part of most units. They will vary each time, but they serve to critically organize information as well as aid memory for quizzes and tests.
- A major project such as the Human Rights Museum may be included in this category. This project will include a lot of research and will require serious effort.
- Writing is simply a very important skill that needs to be practiced and refined on a continuous basis. The majority of the writing we will do in this class will be quick-write responses and simple essays that argue a historical point. The final drafts of these essays will be due at the end of the unit, usually the day before the test so you will have the night before to study. On more formal writing assignments there will be multiple point-earning steps and drafts throughout each unit before you ever have to turn in your final draft, as well as peer editing class activities and occasional writing conferences with the instructor.

Quizzes & Exams

Testing is a part of school and a part of adult life. In this class, it counts for thirty-five percent of your total grade, slightly more than the value of your interactive notebook. Don't worry if you are test-phobic; if you do well on every other section of the class (B or better) as well as earn at least fifty-percent on all the quizzes, tests and the final, you will pass with a low B or high C. You need to take every quiz, test and exam. I do not drop any scores because you have the opportunity to retake them at pre-scheduled before school appointments. Retakes will be different questions on the same material. Unit Test & Quiz Make-Ups – If you need to make up a quiz or unit test either because of an absence or undesired score, you may do so

only if you make arrangements to retake it with me outside of class time within the next week. If it is a retake, your grade will be the higher of the two scores. There are no opportunities to make-up or retake the final exam, and there are no opportunities to retake a make-up test for a higher grade.

Interactive Notebook

This is one-third of your grade and should be with you in class always! To do well, you need to be actively participating in class and keeping up with your assignments at home. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments need to be in your notebook, and they will be stamped or collected for being on time. If you are asked to turn in a project or other weekly work, it needs to go into your notebook as soon as it is returned to you. Make sure that you keep up with your table of contents and other grade or effort records. There is an additional instruction sheet for how to set up and maintain your interactive notebook. Do not lose your notebook and do not risk loaning it to others – a missing notebook will result in a zero, as I cannot know what work was in it before it was lost.

BASIC CLASSROOM POLICIES

How You Act Matters

This is a necessary part of becoming an adult – it is a major life skill. The number one reason bosses fire employees is not because they are incapable, but because they are late, miss work often, cannot get along with other co-workers, or are disrespectful to their manager. It is not acceptable to be inconsiderate or disrespectful to the instructor or other students, cut class, arrive tardy regularly or be unreasonably late. Disciplinary actions may always be taken if necessary. You need to be consistently adding a positive (or at least neutral) tone to the class at all times.

General Behavior

Everyone is required to be respectful and polite at all times. Kindness and helpfulness are expected. This class must be comfortable, safe place to learn, and any behavior that would make it uncomfortable for anyone to come to school is not allowed.

Effort, Attitude & Participation

These are the three pillars of success for all classes!

Regular Effort

Effort is necessary for success. You can have a photographic memory and ace all the tests, but you will not learn what you need to or earn a good grade unless you regularly challenge yourself in all class activities.

Respectful Attitude

Kindness and respect for yourself and others are requirements for achievement both inside and outside of the high school walls. Rudeness, offhand or discourteous behavior to students or the teacher will hurt your grade!

Consistency of Participation

Be here, be involved, and don't sleep! Do what you are supposed to do in class – never work on stuff for another subject, never put your head down, don't talk at inappropriate times, follow instructions, be respectful of everyone, and jump in with ideas and questions.

Attendance & Punctuality

Coming to class is necessary for success! It is important for your understanding of the class and your grade, so be sure to come all the time.

Excused Absences

More than five absences per semester will be considered excessive and affect your grade.

Tardies & Cuts

For every tardy after the first three normal tardies (less than a minute late), you must serve one before school or brunch ten-minute detention in my room doing a cleaning or organizing chore I assign you. If you don't come, then it turns into a referral. If you do have to enter late, come in quietly and go straight to your seat.

Late Work & Deadlines

Excused Late Work

This must be cleared with attendance office prior to returning to class, and you have the same number of days you were excused absent plus one to turn it in. For example, if you were out sick for three days, you have four days to turn in your missing work. If you were out just one day, you have two days to make it up. It is your responsibility to show me you made up the work.

Unexcused Late Work

If you were just lazy or forgetful, you have until the unit test to turn in the assignment for half credit. You should do this – it helps you learn for the test, and a few scores of 50% are a lot easier on your semester grade than the same number of zeros! However, work cannot be made up if you:

- Were suspended
- Were sent to SRC
- Cut class or had an unexcused absence
- Misbehaved in a way that kept yourself or others from completing the assignment

Negotiating Deadlines

This is a rare opportunity meant only for extenuating circumstances that happen only once or twice a year. A request for a different deadline must be discussed with the teacher at least 24 hours before the assignment is due and may require a parent or doctor note – remember that this privilege will *not* always be granted! There is no negotiation on the deadlines of big projects.

Big Projects

There is no excuse for lateness and no negotiation on deadlines for big projects. The project must be on time even if you aren't. The penalty for late projects is:

- If the project is later than the moment collected but still turned in the same day, minus 5%.
- One day late, minus 10%
- Two days late, minus 20%
- Three days late, minus 30%
- Four days late, minus 40%
- Five to seven days late = half credit
- Not accepted at all after one week late

Cheating

I *hate* cheating. Cheating includes giving or receiving help, claiming credit for work that is not your own (copying or plagiarism), and any number of other forms of dishonesty. Since effort is valued and dishonesty is not tolerated, the following consequences apply: Anyone caught cheating will, at minimum, receive a zero for the assignment. I also reserve the right to drop your semester grade one full letter grade regardless of your class percentage and scores on other assignments. School and district policies will be followed, including failure of the class. In addition, if you have a letter of recommendation from me, I will write a second letter rescinding my recommendation.

Miscellaneous

Hats, Sunglasses & School Dress Code

No hats or sunglasses are allowed in the classroom at any time. School dress code policies always apply.

Electronics

No electronics are allowed out of a zipped backpack at any time – this means no cell phones, video games, pagers, cameras, calculators, or anything else!

Assignment Headings

All assignments in this class need to have the following heading:

- Upper left-hand corner = your name, period, date
- Centered at the top of the paper = Title of the Assignment
- This is the same format that is required in 10th grade English classes