

September 5, 2007

Dear World History Students and Parents:

This is a brief letter to introduce the course and myself. My name is Jessica Bylo Chacón, and I will be teaching three sections of tenth grade World History this year at American High School in room 902. My education background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in History at the University of California at Santa Barbara, a secondary social science CLAD teaching credential at San José State University, and I will be completing a Master of Arts degree this fall, also at San José State, in World History since 1750 with an emphasis in teaching history. This is my eighth year teaching for Fremont Unified School District, and my fifth here at American High. I am the Junior Varsity Swimming coach and the Amnesty International club advisor. In addition, this year I was selected to be a Museum Teacher Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.

History is the study of human experience, both successes and failures. We are going to approach the huge topic of modern global history with an eye towards not only learning the major political and military actions of the time, but also attempting to understand the experiences of average people who benefited from and were hurt by the times. In addition, throughout the year we will be examining the topic of human rights, specifically discovering what they are, when in history they have been violated and upheld, and figuring out possible paths to protect them in the future.

This year should be a great opportunity for students to find out a little more about the world around them, especially about relatively recent (since 1750) changes in global power structures and culture as well as the roots of current world “hot spots”. Teaching methods will be of several different types in order to ensure that everyone gets to do something they enjoy at some point. As a student, be prepared to be participating actively in class every day and expect to have homework most nights for an average of thirty minutes. I highly suggest that you do your best to find a quiet, clean place to work with school supplies readily available. The school library will be open at 6:30 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon Mondays through Thursdays in order to help you with this. To know more specifics about this class, including supplies that are needed, please refer to the course syllabus.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at xxx-xxxx ext. xxxxx, or by e-mail at bylochacon@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bylo Chacón