

# World History

## Course Guidelines

**WELCOME:** I am looking forward to a very successful year learning about world history. This can and will be a positive experience. With some effort everyone can be successful in this class. I encourage everyone to participate in the classroom activities and have fun.

### **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT:**

To explain the expectations and grading procedures for your World History class. You are expected to **share this information with your parents and place this paper in the front of your binder.**

### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

We will study, analyze, and discuss selected themes and topics concerning world history. The period covered in this class will be from the birth of democracy in Athens, Greece in 508 B.C. to the present. The main focus of the course will be on the major turning points in the shaping of the modern world, from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to modern day. We will also discuss current events and examine how they are influenced by history.

As per Saratoga High School's Mission Statement and Student Learning Objectives, you will have ample opportunity to demonstrate that you are academically Self directed learners, Complex thinkers, Effective communicators, Effective and Ethical Citizens, Collaborative workers and Healthy individuals.

### **STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:**

#### **1. RESPECT**

Respect for self, fellow students, and the teacher is necessary in the classroom. Each member of the class is a valuable individual and should be treated as such. Therefore, interrupting or disrespecting fellow class members or the teacher in any form including put-downs, swearing, complaining, and/or class disruptions will NOT be tolerated. A positive attitude is highly conducive to how you learn and how much fun you have in this class.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE/TARDIES**

All students are expected to be on time for class. Being on time means being in your seat before the bell rings. Tardies, unexcused absences, and missing important periods will affect your grade. Please carefully read the school's attendance policy for I will strictly adhere to it.

#### **3. MATERIALS**

All students are expected to come to class prepared. This means each student MUST BRING a pen or pencil, paper, separate binder specific to this class, and the appropriate text to class EVERY day.

#### **4. HOMEWORK/LATE POLICY**

Homework will be assigned daily. It is the student's responsibility to turn in all homework on time in class. Work turned in after the teacher collects it is considered late. Work turned in late as a result of unexcused absences will not earn credit. Late work will be accepted (must not have been unexcused on the day it was due) based on the following criteria:

Late work Policy for Homework: Late work will be accepted but will be docked 50% and the late work must be turned in by the end of the week. (Homework not turned in on Thu. or Fri. may be turned in on the next Monday for half credit.)

Late work Policy for Projects: Late work that is considered a project must be turned in on time or be subjected to a 20% grade reduction each day that it is late.

Work turned in following an excused absence must indicate "Absent- Excused" listing the reason for the absence and have the date of the absence at the top of the paper. If this is not done, the assignment will be considered late. Also, it is important that you understand that major papers and projects are due on the day assigned. Absences are not an excuse. You will need to find a way to get that paper or project to school or it will be considered later.

Remember, due to the nature of some assignments not all work can be made up. (example: missing an important simulation day that cannot be restaged in class)

It will be expected that students download and print assignments from the internet regularly. There will be no excuses accepted for "computer problems". A -in-class computer and computers in the library will be available if students cannot print assignments from home. For these situations, printing in the classroom can only be done before school or after class. These alternatives should only be used if there are computer problems or if the student does not have internet access at home. These alternatives should not be used due to student irresponsibility.

#### 5. Make-up Quizzes/Tests:

If you miss a major quiz or a test due to an excused absence you will have one week to make it up. It is the student's responsibility to come in during the next available tutorial or make an appointment to make it up. If you do not make it up within a week from your absence, you will receive a zero for a grade. Be aware that make-up tests will often be a different version to protect the integrity of the test. (Sometimes I give an essay!) If you miss a pop quiz the next one is worth double. If you miss two in a row the first quiz becomes a zero and so on and so forth.

#### 6. OFFICE HOURS

I am available for help before school, after school, and during my prep periods. I am not available during lunch except for very important matters. It is highly recommended that you notify me before you come. Any other meetings must be must be prearranged with the teacher.

### GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on the accumulation of points from a variety of sources. The final semester grade is determined by your percentage of points possible. The scale is as follows:

A+ = 98 -100%	B+ = 88.0-89.9%	C+ = 78.0-79.9	D+ = 68.0-69.9
A = 93.0-97.9%	B = 83.0-87.9%	C = 73.0-77.9%	D = 63.0-67.9
A- = 90.0-92.9%	B- = 80.0-82.9%	C- = 70.0-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%
	F = 59.9% and below		

#### Points are earned from the following sources:

A) Class Participation (35%)- Just as citizenship and participation are fundamentally important in the democratic process, so is your participation in class. Participation includes social behavior, attendance, punctuality, performance in simulations, quantity and quality of your answers, group work and attitude. This category also includes projects that are worked on and/or presented in class, all classwork and periodic binder checks. An overall participation grade will be given at periodic intervals based on the above criteria. This portion of your grade is often subjective.

B) Exams and Quizzes (40%)- Tests will come at the conclusion of each unit. Major quizzes will be interspersed to make sure you are comprehending the material. **However, pop quizzes will be given without**

warning on material you were given to read for homework. Finally, if you fail a test (not quiz) you can retake it once to raise your grade. However, it is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the teacher within a week of being notified of their grade or the opportunity for a retake will be forfeited. The maximum you can raise your grade to is a C- (70%). This policy does not apply to pop quizzes, quizzes, or the final. It also does not apply to students who took the test late due to being absent on the day of the test.

**C) Homework Assignments (25%)**- Since learning does not stop as soon as you walk outside of the classroom homework will be assigned daily. Homework assignments will assume various forms: section review questions, reading notes from the text, journal writings, and group research projects are a few examples. It is expected that you complete the homework in a neat and timely fashion. (Please use complete sentences, too!) If I cannot read your homework, it will be returned without credit. Failure to keep up with homework assignments is the most common cause of low grades. Please see above regarding the late work policy. Finally, with all assignments, make sure to write your name or you will not receive credit. **NO NAME = NO POINTS! Please note- the lowest homework grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.**

**Cheating Policy:** Cheating within this classroom or with anything having to do with materials from this class will not be tolerated. I will follow the school's academic integrity policy. Examples of cheating include but not exclusive to: 1.) Copying another student's paper or allowing your paper to be copied. This includes papers that are rearranged as well as those that are copied directly; 2.) Giving or receiving aid on a test or quiz; 3.) Plagiarism: taking material directly from another source without footnoting. The object of school should be to develop skills, gain knowledge and to learn to socialize with your peers. Getting a grade at any cost is not an acceptable objective. In addition to school regulations, the following is a list of rules regarding cheating in Mr. Abe's class:

1. A student who cheats will receive no points for that assignment, a referral, and have the offense reported to their parents.
2. A second cheating incident will result in no points for that assignment, a second referral, and a request from the teacher that the student be dropped from the class.

I hereby state that I have read and comprehend the class procedures and expectations listed in "World History: Course Guidelines" for Mr. Abe's World History class.

Student Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### HISTORICAL MOVIE PERMISSION

Throughout the year the class will be viewing movies that I believe have historical value and provide the students with educational enrichment on topics that we are studying in class. Please note that these movies are mostly shown in clips concentrating on historical aspects of topics we are studying. Some of these movies may have an "R" rating and for those movies I need your permission to allow your student to watch them. By signing below you give permission to allow your student to watch these movies in my class. If you don't give permission, your student will be moved to another room and possibly given an alternative assignment.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_