COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description:
A more rigorous version of World History that meets the same requirements but focuses heavily on primary source reading, historical research, and written analysis. Writing assignments will be an integral part of the student’s grade. The topics will be similar to those in World History, but will be covered more in-depth and at a faster pace.

Note: 1) Application required, 2) The student scores in the top 30% of their class and on the Stanford Test, 3) a 3.0 or better in other courses in the same subject, and 4) teacher/administrative recommendation (Level 1 Course)

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

✓ Distinguish, analyze, evaluate, and summarize both primary and secondary sources for historical analysis.
✓ Illustrate and interpret the main features and beliefs surrounding major world religions. (Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, etc.)
✓ Organize research and personal analysis of a historical topic into well-written narratives.
✓ Examine and appreciate the achievements and challenges of the Muslim World, both past and present.
✓ Connect world wide movements in history, such as the Enlightenment, Renaissance, and Reformation, to basic elements of British and American literature.
✓ Identify the strengths and weaknesses of leaders repeatedly seen throughout history.
✓ Describe how revolutions spread throughout the world in the 18th and 19th centuries.
✓ Understand the global impact of 20th century events, specifically the Great Depression, WWI, and WWII.
✓ Analyze the causes and effects of genocide.
✓ Interpret and appreciate history for both factual content and personal reflection.

Required Class Materials:
✓ Textbook
✓ Notes
✓ Pen or pencil
✓ Notebook Paper
✓ Student Tracker

Text:
World History: Patterns of Interaction (McDougall Littell)
www.classzone.com

Other readings:
Because of Romek: A Holocaust Survivor’s Memoir (David Faber)
The Prince (Niccolo Machiavelli) (excerpts only)

A Farewell to Arms (Ernest Hemingway) (excerpts only)

Course Outline:

(Subject to change due to time constraints, class population, and individual preference)

- Ancient River Valley Civilizations (August)
- World Religions, Empires, Greece vs. Rome, India (September)
- Muslim Culture; Empires in East Asia (China and Japan) (October)
- Middle Ages (October/November)
- Formation of Western Europe (November/December)
- Aztecs and Incas; Renaissance and Reformation (December)
- Age of Explorations and Isolation; Absolute Monarchs (January)
- Enlightenment and American Revolution (January/February)
- French Revolution and Napoleon (February)
- Industrial Revolution; Self Rule and Expansion (February/March)
- Imperialism; World War One (March/April)
- Nationalism and Totalitarianism (April)
- Postwar Uncertainty; World Depression; Rise of Fascism (April/May)
- World War Two (May)

Major Assignments:

- Research and create World Religions Book (September)
- Samurai Project (October)
- Feudalism Songwriting (Chivalrous themes) (November)
- Shrovetide Festival (using the Foods’ Room) (January)
- Philosophy of Enlightenment Paper (February)
- WWI Biographies (1st person writing style) (March/April)
- World Wars Propaganda (April)
- Because of Romek Paper (May)

Grading:

- World History Honors grades are based on an accumulation of points throughout the semester.
- The point value for assignments will vary.
- Honors World History is a “weighted course.” It is a Level One course. (See Handbook)
- Grading Scale – as stated in the Handbook: 92-100 A, 85-91 B, 77-84 C, 70-76 D, below 70 F.
- The semester breakdown is that 85% of your final grade is your quarter grade and 15% of your final grade is your exam grade. Out of the quarter grade, about 75% of the points are from major assignments and quizzes.
- Grades are updated at least once a week. Parents and students can monitor their grades via Skyward.

Class Policies & Procedures:

- It is up to the students to take care of any missing or late homework. The CHS late work and absent work policies (as stated in the Handbook) will be enforced. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF LATE WORK AND ABSENT WORK.
✓ Pre-arranged absences can be tricky. Please be aware of the guidelines stated in the Handbook regarding pre-arranged absences, as they will be followed in this course. Unless it is an emergency situation, students are expected to turn in any work they will be missing AHEAD of time. If you have any questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me.

✓ Quizzes will be announced ahead of time (usually two class periods before) and students will receive a list of assignments and due dates with each unit. You are allowed to take notes ahead of time for the quizzes. However, you are expected to turn your notes in with the quiz.

✓ Tests will be a combination of objective multiple choice and matching as well in essay form. Typically, three essay questions will be released ahead of time and two of the essay questions will be randomly assigned to each student.

✓ The best way to alleviate any of these absence issues regarding homework and missing grades is to simply come to school!

✓ The class policies and procedures are best stated with three simple guidelines:
  o Please do not “pack up” when I am still teaching and/or other students are discussing. It is rude and distracting to all.
  o Please do not leave trash in the room (i.e. empty water bottles and gum wrappers).
  o Please be respectful to your classmates, your teacher, and yourself at all times.

Miscellaneous:

World History Honors is one of the first weighted course opportunities at Central high school. It can be a difficult transition for some students, especially those who are used to “not studying” and still getting A’s. The best advice I can give you is to utilize the list of assignments and due dates. For instance, if you know you have a game or have to work on Wednesday night, and you have a quiz on Thursday, take the notes ahead of time. It is assumed that as honors students, you can handle the responsibilities of added course work and expectations. The way to yield the best results is simply time management (which is not so simple for most of us!)

Instructor Contact:

✓ The best way to get a hold of me is through email (rswigert@cusd4.org) as I check it multiple times throughout the day.

✓ I am also available before school (7:45am – 8:10am) and during my prep periods (see below) by appointment or a phone call (815-694-2321).
  o 1st Semester Prep Periods: A Days, 8:15 – 9:45am, B Days, 8:15 – 9:45am
  o 2nd Semester Prep Periods: A Days, 9:50 – 11:15am, B Days, 1:30 – 3:00pm