



20th Century World History

2 September 2009

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Welcome to 20th Century World History!

Course Objectives

- Think Critically and Objectively
- Formulate Good Questions
- Evaluate Scholarly Material
- Conduct Research
- Communicate Effectively
- Understand How History Is Linked to Our Lives Today

Expectations

1. Be in your seat on time and ready to participate.
2. If you forget something or are not ready to fully participate in the lesson, let me know before class begins; I understand you are all high school freshman and things happen. Otherwise, I will expect everyone to have done the assignment for the day.
3. Be respectful of each other.
4. We end the lesson together. If someone is making a point when time runs out, we will finish the thought and then I will dismiss the class.

Student Responsibilities

1. **Students are solely responsible for making up missed work.**
2. **Homework or other assignments not turned-in due to a missed class are due at the start of the following class. Late work will result in a loss of at least one letter grade per day.**

Homework

Homework will normally require a student to read and take notes from the course text or from material I place on the class webpage. *Taking notes on readings is mandatory and the quality of your work will be graded.* Along with the notes from the readings, students need to take good notes in class and keep them in their student portfolios. Please see the course calendars on the class webpage for additional assignments and due dates.

Plagiarism

Ensure all work that is not completely your own is properly MLA documented.

National History Day

National History Day (NHD) is a highly regarded academic organization for secondary school students designed to strengthen their research, organization, and presentation skills. For over 25 years, NHD has provided students with the opportunity to demonstrate their talents at the local, state, and national level. Participation in NHD is a course requirement. This year's theme is "Innovation in History: Impact and Change."

During the first semester this year students will develop a good thesis, conduct research, and write a 4-5 page research paper. During the second semester, students will transform their research into a project that conforms to NHD guidelines. For more information on NHD, go to www.nhd.org

Grading

Grading Philosophy: I believe grades should reinforce learning objectives and provide the student an opportunity to evaluate their understanding of the course material. Additionally, they provide the teacher with a tool to measure how the class is handling the material. I will post grades weekly. Grades should not be a mystery and I will be happy to go over your progress at any point in the year.

Point Scale (Approximate)

Weekly Quizzes	10%
Class Participation/Projects	10%
The NHD Process	25%
Chapter Tests	40%
Final Examination	15%

Grading Scale:

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59-00

Laptop/Notebook Computers in the Classroom

Laptops/Notebooks are not authorized for use in the classroom. The exception to this policy is for those students with a documented need by Mr. Westby and during projects approved by the instructor.

Special Requirement

Portfolio: Students will be required to create and maintain a portfolio of all work completed during the year. Students are required to have their portfolio with them during all class sessions. The purpose of the portfolio is to provide the student and the instructor with a quick visual reference on the student's progress. The portfolio should show linkages between student preparation and grades earned. The portfolio is best maintained with a three-ring binder and tabbed sections. Tabbed sections will include but are not limited to the following:

- a. Syllabus
- b. Calendars
- c. Homework and Class Notes
 1. Each lesson/class period should have a distinctive entry.
- d. Quizzes
- e. Tests
- f. Essays

**Students will hand-in their portfolios at the beginning of each test and will account for 5% of each test. Failure to submit portfolio for grade will result in the student receiving a zero on that portion of the examination.*

Some Final Thoughts

This is a course where your opinions count; no, it is a class where your opinions are critical. Each source we study this semester offers a different perspective on an event/historical figure. Yet it is up to us to synthesize what we learn in order to formulate an accurate perspective. Remember that we have the luxury of having many more sources to consider than the authors who write what we read. Thus, we actually have a better opportunity to make educated estimates of events than many of the esteemed authors we will study.

I sincerely look forward to learning with each of you this semester.

Nicholas E. Coddington
CWA Upper School History Department