**AP European History**

**Course Description**

**Instructor: Mr. Robert Merski**

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**Course Name: Advanced Placement European History**

**Primary Text:**

* **Spielvogel, Jackson J. (2016). *Western Civilization: Since 1300* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.**

**Supplemental Texts:**

* **McKay, John P., Hill, Bennett D., Buckler, John, Crowston, Clare H., Wiesner-Hanks, Merry E.’ Perry, Joe *A History Of Western Society: since 1300 (*11th edition), Bedford/St. Martin’s, Boston, New York, 2014**
* **Perry, Marvin, Peden, Joseph R., Von Laue, T. R., *Sources of the Western Tradition: (Volume II) From the Renaissance to the Present* (fifth edition), Houghton Mifflin Company, 2003.**

**Course Materials: notebook/3-ring binder, “flash drive”, pens (black and blue ink only), pencil, textbook(s), book cover, and supplementary articles (to be assigned).**

**Course Description:**

What are the big problems that face the world and what can I do to help? How do I distinguish between fact and opinion in learning about these issues? What do I believe and why do I believe it? How can I express what I believe and what I have learned in a coherent and persuasive manner? These and many other questions can be at least partially answered by taking a course such as Advanced Placement European History. Remember that you will be acquiring and honing skills of vital importance to succeed in college and in life. At the same time you will be learning about an important piece of the past.

Every person should be equal. Every society is deserving of respect. Furthermore, we should be familiar with the broad outline of all human development and understand the basic beliefs of all large cultures. But Europe has a special place in the creation of the modern, technological society in which we live. Our language and our laws derive directly from the European experience. Philosophy, art, literature, economic theory, etc. are all part of this inheritance. The modern research university, and modern mathematics and science come from Europe. If you wish to understand the good and the bad of American society you must first learn about Europe.

***AP European History*** is a course designed to give the opportunity to earn college credit while you are still in high school. The course is taught in such a way to prepare you for the national AP exam given each May. For the most part, this course is taught much like courses required of college freshmen or sophomores. Expect homework every night. If you do not have a written or reading assignment to complete, you are expected to review the material covered in class.

**To do well in this course you will have to commit yourself to hard work. Only dedication combined with intelligence can win you the highest score on the examination. But enjoy yourself. There is so much wonderful drama, so much grandeur and horror, so much, which is human.**

**Course Outline:**

**Tentative Testing Dates (Week of) 9/18, 10/9, and 10/23**

1. Overview: Please do not expect the stereotypical high school history class routines of worksheets, film festivals, group work, and projects. This is a content course: there are masses of material for which you will be responsible and must be able to interpret, analyze, and use - not just memorize.
2. Notes: Note-taking is your responsibility. Use whatever style you prefer, but stress details and factual support. Use unit outlines for your organization.
3. Primary Text: Your text, Spielvogel’s Western Civilization comes highly recommended by my colleagues and is used by many colleges and AP classes. The text covers political, diplomatic, and intellectual history very well. It also covers cultural and social history, but not as thoroughly as the other themes. We will supplement the weaker areas of the text with outside sources. You are not required to bring the text to class unless requested.
4. Other Readings: You will want to buy a three ring binder (at least one inch rings) to hold supplemental materials. There is a lot if information covered in this class and much of it will be derived from outside sources and primary documents. Bring this folder to class daily.
5. Assignments: Daily assignments are only occasionally given. This is one of those situations where your maturity and time-management skills will be important. Your reading assignments will be pre-assigned. When you read this material is your choice: a) read in advance to keep up with class discussions, or b) cram the night before a test – it is your neck and your grade. I will not harass you on this point, but don’t complain when there is material on a test that only comes from the text that you did not read well enough!
6. Tests: There will be one test per unit. These tests will cover any information related to the current unit as well as information covered in previous units. Tests are all cumulative. Tests may either be multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay. They will reflect the type of questions you will have to answer on the national AP exam at the end of the year.
7. Grades: Grading is done on a cumulative points basis. All essays (DBQ’s and FRQ’s) count as much as your tests (Major Points). Short Answer, homework, class work, and other various assignments are varied, but you’ll learn that each is important. Remember, THE priority is the ability to succeed on tests and write good essays and short answers, not filling out tedious worksheets.

I will not accept late essays without severe penalties (as per the NPCA policy). All homework, class work, and assorted assignments that are late will be as noted. You’ll get your 24 hours – After that, it’s on Y-O-U.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 90-100 | = | You’re doing very well |  |  |  |
| 80-89 | = | Keep up the good work |  |  |  |
| 70-79 | = | Solid, but could be better |  |  |  |
| 65-69 | = | I recommend extra help |  |  |  |
| 0-64 | = | How hard are you really trying? |  |  |  |

My goal is to prepare you as much as I can for the national AP European History exam by following the suggestions given by the College Board. In addition, I will prepare each of you for college work by helping you successfully deal with college-level work at a college-level pace. Even if you do not pass the exam in May, you will acquire knowledge and skills that will aid you when you attend college.

**Content: Major Concepts**

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| *Fall* |  |
| 1. The Renaissance    1. Italian Renaissance    2. Northern Renaissance 2. Reformation and Religious Wars    1. Protestant Reformation    2. Catholic Reformation    3. Religious Wars 3. Commercial Revolution    1. Exploration       1. Columbian Exchange       2. ‘Old Imperialism’    2. Banking and Mercantilism   ------------------------Quarter 1---------------------------   1. Rise of Western Europe    1. The New Monarchies    2. Constitutionalism       1. English Civil War       2. Dutch Republic   C. Absolutism   * + 1. Cardinal Richelieu     2. Age of Louis XIV | V. Rise of Eastern Europe   1. Russia and Westernization 2. Austria 3. German States    1. Science and Enlightenment 4. Copernican Revolution 5. Scientific Advancements 6. Scientific Communities 7. Enlightenment 8. Philosophes 9. Salons   VII. French Revolution and Napoleonic Era   1. French Revolution    1. Old Regime    2. Stages of Revolution 2. Rise and Fall of Napoleon    1. Grand Empire    2. Congress of Vienna   --------------------Quarter 2------------------------- |