

Modern World History (Honors)

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."-Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

2018-2019
Period 6

Office Hours:

Please schedule visits by appointment in person or through email.

RLeonardo@winthrop.k12.ma.us

Textbook:

**World History Connections to Today: The Modern Era*

Publisher: Prentice Hall, ISBN-10: 0-13-434805-2

*A digital copy will be available

Class Overview:

This course focuses on the study of modern world history, per the Massachusetts State Frameworks. The primary focus of the course will be European history but our focus will become more globalized as we move through the year. This course is an in-depth investigation of historical events and periods, including the study of war, totalitarianism, and democracy to name a few concepts. By the end of this course, students should be able to develop a historical perspective about contemporary events in a political, economic, and social framework. Literature, music, art, primary source readings, videos, simulations, and other activities will be used to enhance the subject matter.

Course Objective:

Students will be exposed to a different style of instruction in this class. Rather than emphasizing lecture and note taking, class time will be devoted to in-depth discussion and analysis of historical events, political philosophy, current events, and war studies.

For students to be prepared for such discussions, homework assignments **must** be completed **before** the beginning of class. Unless otherwise stated on a 504 or IEP document, assignments **will not** be accepted after the date in which they are due. There are almost **zero** exceptions to this rule.

The **primary goal** of this class is to improve students' "real world" skill sets including critical thinking, writing, analysis, negotiation, and leadership; history is the vehicle that we use to accomplish this task. The interactive component of class creates the optimal environment for achieving this goal.

Google Classroom:

To access your Google Classroom account, go to classroom.google.com. Make sure you are signed in with your school email address. Click on the plus (+) icon on the top left of the page and enter in the following code:

Grading Policy & Weighting:

Your grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

- *Class Activities & Discussion: 30%
- *Tests: 25%
- *Writing Assignments: 20%
- *Note Reviews: 15%
- *Current Events Quizzes: 10%

***I reserve the right to change the grading category percentages**

Class Activities & Discussion:

Students are graded based on engagement and interaction in the class. Class activities range from group simulations, role-playing, socratic seminars, writing assignments, technological immersion assignments such as WebQuests and Document-Based Questions, or instructor-led discussion of the concepts learned from recent homework assignments.

Tests:

Tests are given at the end of each chapter/topic. Students who complete **authentic** homework and show engagement in class should perform well on all assessments, formal or informal. Formal assessments also give students, who may struggle during class activities but have a good working knowledge of the concepts being discussed, an opportunity to improve their grade.

Writing Assignments:

Students will be asked several times per quarter to draft small papers or projects relating to a discussed topic. The prompts will vary, but they will often ask students to compare a historical event or political philosophy to a similar contemporary event/philosophy.

These assigned papers are usually no more than 2-3 pages (double-spaced) and are completed in a step-by-step format (e.g., brainstorm/research, outline, drafting, & editing). There may be times where a paper is lengthened and counted as a test grade. This change will be at the teacher's discretion.

Note Reviews:

Note reviews are essentially notebook/binder checks. They are usually due every Friday or Monday (depending on our when class meets) throughout the school year. Note reviews are graded based on a rubric that students will receive at the beginning of the school year. Student notebooks should include answers to the textbook questions as well as thorough notes on the lecture videos assigned earlier in the week. Note reviews can be thought of as homework checks.

Homework completion is essential to success in this class. It is necessary to be a full participant in our class activities and discussion. Failing to complete your

homework will also make it almost impossible to achieve a satisfactory score on tests and writing assignments.

Most homework assignments will ask each student to **read** a textbook section while answering several comprehension questions, and then **watch** and **listen** to instructor-recorded or third party lectures. These lectures include a powerpoint presentation as a supplement and students are expected to take notes on these lecture videos.

Current Events Quizzes:

Quizzes are given weekly (Friday or Monday) and are solely based on current events that pertain to domestic & international politics and society. It is imperative that students stay up on the news which no longer requires watching tv or reading the newspaper. Most students receive their news through SnapChat, but it is highly advised that they stay current about topics being discussed on broadcast news networks such as ABC, NBC, and CBS.

Weeks 1-2 To-do List:

1. **Review** the course syllabus
2. **Review** the classroom management plan
3. **Join** the course's Google Classroom
4. **Join** Textbook Companion Website (if applicable)
5. **Create** a Wordpress Account
6. **Design** Student Website/Blog