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Honors World History: Class Policies & Procedures

"History is a cyclic poem written by time upon the memories of man."
-- Percy Bysshe Shelley

Introduction

Studying history is much more than the memorization of dates. Indeed, history is a creative act, involving the careful sifting of evidence, the weighing of competing perspectives, and the creation of original interpretations of the past. History also involves reflection on social values and moral judgments, and consideration of how best to improve society. *Honors World History* is a year-long course focusing on the people and events that shaped Western Civilization, extending from the period of Ancient Greece and Rome, through the late 20th Century. The course aims to spark student curiosity about the critical historical developments that shaped the modern world while fostering *historical empathy* for the challenges and struggles encountered by our ancestors. Coursework emphasizes analytical reading, critical thinking, persuasive writing, and oral presentation.

Evaluation

Student grades are based on a variety of in-class and homework assignments including quick writes, reading questions, reflective and analytical essays, quizzes, multimedia presentations, and individual and collaborative group projects. Classroom discussions and debates are an extremely important part of the coursework; accordingly, **class participation constitutes a significant portion of the final course grade.**

Late work is ordinarily not accepted, but students are encouraged to speak with the instructor in the event that extraordinary circumstances arise.

Required Materials

Students are expected to bring the following items with them to class *everyday*:

- An 8½" x 11" single subject college-ruled spiral bound notebook with a solid colored cover. (This notebook will be left permanently in the classroom for in-class writing assignments).
- A 3 ringed binder with separate sections and at least 1 pocket to store class handouts, readings, returned homework, and other materials.
- A supply of 8½" x 11" filler paper for note taking and classwork.
- Blue or Black Ink Pens.
- A Calendar/Agenda (paper or electronic) to record assignments and due dates.

Websites

Homework assignments and other class announcements may be found at Mr. Kaufman's History website (kaufmanhistory.weebly.com) under the Honors World History tab. Student grades are reported at Jupiter Grades.

Electronic Devices

The use of cellphones is not permitted in class, unless specifically authorized by the instructor. Because these devices have become a great distraction to the learning process, **they will be confiscated from those students who use them inappropriately.**

I am very excited about the year we have in store together and welcome any questions or comments you may have about these policies and procedures.

We have read and discussed the classroom policies and procedures, and the student agrees to make his or her very best effort to honor them. Please sign below and bring this agreement with you to class.

Student Name

Parent/Guardian Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature