

WESTERN WORLD

THE HISTORY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

2003-2004 COURSE OUTLINE

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Overview

Western World is survey course that spans the entire history of Western Civilization. The “West,” as we will use the term, consists of cultures that contributed to the way of life of today’s European nations and their offshoots around the world—including the United States. Studying over 5,000 years of history in one year is a big job, but it is one that will be approached with relevance always in mind. This course functions as an extension and elaboration of the content and themes first introduced in fourth grade, and is coordinated with tenth grade World Cultures, which examines non-Western societies from a cultural perspective.

We will begin with a look at the history of Europe in the 20th century, one in which Europe has been at the center of some of the highest and lowest points in the history of humanity. This will include a study of geography and basic chronology. We will then look at selected periods in European history from a chronological and thematic perspective.

Materials

Our main source in The Western World is *Holt World History: The Human Journey* (HRW, 2003). This new textbook has outstanding accompanying features on the Internet. The publisher’s site is <http://go.hrw.com>, from which the student types a code to access the features for each chapter. These codes will be provided as the curriculum progresses. Textbook features and many other resources may also be accessed on the Social Studies web site at <http://www.geocities.com/socialstudiesjhs>

European culture is best reflected in its literature and art, and we will be reading a variety of works, including Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* and *Night* by Elie Wiesel. Many other shorter primary and secondary source readings will also be assigned within units. All units will be supplemented with a wide range of audio-visual materials, including extensive use of Internet resources and *CNN Student News* to study current events.

Activities & Assessment

Oral and written reports, group and individual projects, paper-and-pencil quizzes and tests, homework, portfolio assessments, and other assignments will assess whether students have met the course outcomes. Five percent of each marking period grade will be made up of the Real World assignment (see separate sheet).

Each assignment is given a point value that determines its weight in relation to other assignments. Every effort will be made to make the grading process as easy to understand as possible, and each marking period will end with a simple calculation of points earned out of points possible.

Course of Study & Methodology

The Western World is divided into chronological, thematic, and cultural units, each being from one to four weeks in length. An outline of outcomes to be mastered and a list of

graded assignments will be handed out at the beginning of each Unit. A preliminary list of units of study to be covered and themes to be explored follows:

Units (tentative)

From Total War to Union: Europe in the Twentieth Century

1. *Night*: The Second World War and the Holocaust (parts of ch. 28, ch. 30)
2. The West Today (ch. 31, 35, parts of 36)

Foundations of Western Civilization

3. The First Civilizations (ch. 1 & 2)
4. Ancient Greece (ch. 5 & 6)
5. Ancient Rome (ch. 7)
6. Faith
 - Judaism (ch. 2.6, others)
 - Christianity (ch. 7.5, others)
 - Islam (parts of ch. 11)

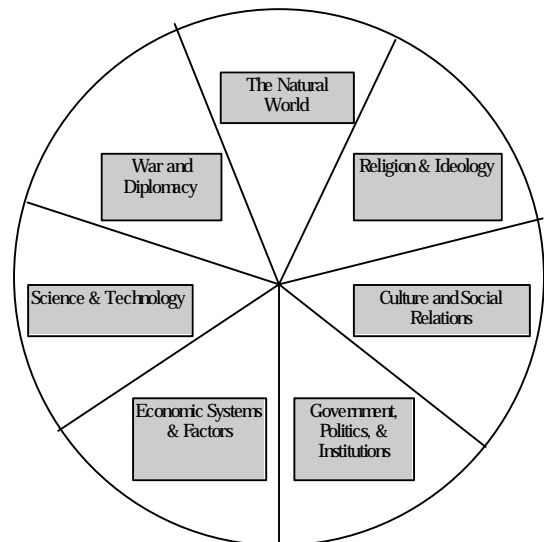
The Birth of Modern Europe

7. The Middle Ages (ch. 13-14)
8. The Renaissance & Reformation (ch. 15, parts of 16)
9. Early Modern Europe (time permitting)

Themes

- I. The Natural World: Nature as a determinant and heir of history
- II. Religion & Ideology: The role of ideas in shaping events and actions
- III. Culture and Social Relations: The way of life of a people, their customs, and daily life
- IV. Government, Politics & Institutions: How the political organization of a society helps drive its history
- V. Economic Systems and Factors: How people earn and distribute their daily bread, and how this affects their relations with others
- VI. Science & Technology: Using science to change how we do our work and live our lives

The Western World



VII. War and Diplomacy: How violence has been used to impose and defend the above